

Be Gracious To You Numbers 6:25

²⁴ *The Lord bless you, and keep you;*

²⁵ *The Lord make His face shine on you,*

And be gracious to you;

²⁶ *The Lord lift up His countenance on you,*

And give you peace.'

God was Gracious to an Ancient Rebellious Nation

Deuteronomy 9:24 – *“You have been rebellious against the Lord from the day I knew you.”*

- Numbers describes the nation’s journey from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab to the border of Canaan
- Israel was wandering in the desert, two years removed from slavery in Egypt
- Sexual Sin - Numbers 5:11-31; Greed - Numbers 11; Gossip/Slander - Numbers 12; Disobedience - Numbers 14:1-19; Anarchy - Numbers 16-17
- *“Be Gracious to You”* was instituted by God to be a blessing repeated over and over again to the people of Israel (Numbers 6:23)
- A Case Study of God’s Grace: Aaron
 - Aaron (the brother of Moses) and his sons were called by God to be the pastors over Israel (Exodus 28)
 - Aaron needed grace (Exodus 32 - Built a golden calf; then lied about it)

God is Gracious to Our Modern Day Rebellious Hearts

Isaiah 53:6 – *“All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.”*

- Isaiah 53:6a - *“All of us like sheep have gone astray”* (Sin Nature)
- Isaiah 53:6b - *“Each of us has turned to his own way”* (Sinful choices)
- Isaiah 53:6c - *“But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him”*
 - Matthew 27 - The Crucifixion of Jesus
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 - *“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Living as Gracious People in a Graceless World

Ephesians 4:32 – *“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

- Grace in our Actions - *“Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification”* (Romans 15:2)
- Grace in our Words *“Words from the mouth of a wise man are gracious, while the lips of a fool consume him”* (Ecclesiastes 10:12)
- Grace to the Poor *“He who despises his neighbor sins, But happy is he who is gracious to the poor.”* (Proverbs 14:21)
 - *“A veterinarian can learn a lot about a dog owner just by observing their dog. What does the world learn about God by watching His followers?”* - Philip Yancey, Author/Theologian
 - *“Grace Notes”* in Music

Digging Deeper

Recommended Book Reading: "What's So Amazing About Grace?" by Philip Yancey

Author Philip Yancey once answered the question, "What is Grace?" by telling this story:

I remember once getting stuck in Los Angeles traffic and arriving 58 minutes late at the Hertz rental desk. I walked up in kind of a bad mood, put the keys down and said, "How much do I owe?" The woman says, "Nothing. You're all clear." I said I was late and she smiled, "Yes, but there's a one-hour grace period." So I asked, "Oh really, what is grace?" And she said, "I don't know. [They must not cover that in Hertz training classes.] I guess what it means is that even though you're supposed to pay, you don't have to." That's a good start to a definition.

Yancey goes on to say,

The French philosopher Simone Weil wrote a book called Gravity and Grace which describes two different ways of approaching grace. The world runs by rules like gravity. As Isaac Newton studied the universe, he came up with fixed rules like "every action deserves an equal and opposite reaction." Athletics runs that way, as does the economy and politics. Stop making your car or house payments, and the bank repossesses them. Bomb my country and we will bomb you back. Against that pattern comes a strikingly different pattern- from God we deserve anger and we get love; we deserve punishment and we get forgiveness.

LifeGroup Discussion *(adapted from philipyancey.com)*

1. How does the Bible define grace?
2. How good are Christians at conveying this message of grace?
3. By emphasizing grace though, isn't there a danger of excusing behavior, of lowering standards and accepting failure? What is the right balance between grace and truth?
4. What areas of your life do you need to accept God's grace?
5. To whom in your life do you need to demonstrate God's grace?

In Response

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.