



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Is Grace Given Equally? — P3

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith” (Romans 12:6).

All Believers are given God’s grace—His support, strength, encouragement, direction, and blessings in the struggles, temptations, difficulties, frustrations, and traumas of the Christian life (we’re not talking about Salvation grace here). But is it given equally to each Believer? NO. Not everyone receives the same grace or the same measure, even in the same circumstances. This doesn’t mean they are any less preferred, loved, or favored by God.

There are many passages in Scripture that say we will be blessed, if we follow God. But there are also many passages telling us that we will experience trials and difficulties in our walk with Him—even leading to martyrdom. We often like the passages in Scripture that tell us “good things” about our prospective future as Believers, and we ignore the difficult passages about persecution and tribulation. Hebrews 11 is a perfect summary of how God’s grace in two different lives doesn’t always equate to the same quality of life or outcome.

Scripture has many examples of men and women *“who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world*

was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground” (Heb. 11:33-38).

Here, we see radically different outcomes for people of faith. Those at the beginning of this passage had very different experiences from those at the end. Yet, they were all men and women of faith, and they all received grace in their lives, but different types of grace and different measures. Unfortunately, in the Church, we have a tendency to think “blessed” Believers are “better” Believers—as if they have merited or earned their blessings by being good Christians. We may get these ideas from Old Testament verses such as: *“Adversity pursues sinners, But the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity”* (Pro. 13:21). We look up to “prospering” people, for God must be “prospering” them because they are more righteous, right? Is that true for Christians? No! Certainly not in this life, but it is true that righteous deeds will be rewarded in eternity. Our righteous deeds are not means to prosperity or physical blessings in this life, as Jesus made clear to Christians: *“in the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world”* (Jn. 16:33b).

In light of this, are the people at the beginning of Hebrews 11 (those who received miracles and blessings) more deserving than those who come later? Did they merit the blessings they received by greater righteousness or faith? No! They experienced grace in their circumstances, and grace IS NOT merited! Similarly, were the people at the end of this chapter (who received different grace, or less grace) any less loved by God than those described earlier? Do they have any less faith? Did they do something wrong in their lives to deserve this? No.

Believers receive different types of grace and different measures of grace in their circumstances. Why? As we’ll examine later, the grace of God is administered for His Glory and our eternal good. Even so, Amen. (Next week we’ll examine some different types and measures of grace that God gives to us).

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