

The Power of Grace

By Lynn Warner

The word “grace” means several things in the New Testament, such as “unmerited favor,” as we read in Ephesians 1:5: “*He destined us in love to be His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*”(RSV) However, it also describes the power of God, as we read in John 1:12: “*But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.*”

The power to become Children of God is nothing less than the power to create a new thing – a new creation that is alive to God. We are new creatures in Christ, born and sustained by His grace in fullness: “*And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace*” (John 1:16). This new creation believes in the name of God’s Son, Jesus, which means “salvation,” and we are saved from our sins. This new creation is given fellowship with God, as revealed in Jesus as “Emanuel,” which means “God is with us.” What power to have God with us!

When Paul prays for the Saints in Ephesus, he prays that we might know “*the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might*” (Ephesians 1:19). He also prays that we would be “*strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man*” (Ephesians 3:16b). Christ then dwells in our hearts, and here, we are rooted and grounded in His love. God’s amazing grace not only saves us from our sins, but because we are now forgiven, we are actually given power to become the Children of God, and as children, we enjoy His presence and love. For the first time in our lives, we are enabled to believe and receive TRUE love. Those who do not believe are excluded from the Lord’s grace, His presence, and the power of His might, as we read in 2 Thessalonians 1:9: “*They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.*”

How can the words on this page convey the power of His grace? They cannot, but I have found that taking some time to write thanks for the grace and power of God helps me see His spiritual gifts of grace as He helps me grow in them. It reminds me of the mighty power He has displayed in my life. Another good exercise is to write where we feel we are presently weak in a grace. It has helped me by bringing the conviction of the Holy Spirit into my life that I cram with distractions. Have we strapped on the Helmet of Salvation this morning? Do we feel the weight of the Shield of Faith on our arm? Is the Girdle of Truth, the Gospel of Peace (acceptance and fellowship with God), secured tightly around our waist? Is the Breastplate of Righteousness covering us? Do we grip the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, ever-ready in our hand?

Let us always remember what Paul heard Jesus tell him: “*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness*” (2 Corinthians 12:9a).