

The Godly Man as a Disciple

God's Provision For A Disciple

Grace, amazing grace ... this is God's provision for a disciple. Writers down through the ages have tried to describe and illustrate the preciousness of God's grace to the believer. Listen to these words:

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Haldor Lillenas

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin;
How shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost,
By it I have been pardoned, saved to the uttermost.
Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Wonderful grace of Jesus, Reaching the most defiled,
By its transforming power, Making him God's dear child,
Purchasing peace and heaven, for all eternity;
And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

(*Refrain*) Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All sufficient grace for even me.
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
Greater far than all my sin and shame;
O magnify the precious name of Jesus, Praise His name!

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, Who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Grace Greater than Our Sin

Julia H. Johnston

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide;
What can we do to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,
Brighter than snow you may be today.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?

(*Refrain*) Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Teacher, perhaps you would like to start your class today by reading these words to the class. Or, if possible, provide a copy of the words for each one to have. Then ask the men to thank God for some particular aspect of grace mentioned in these songs. You might want to have sentence prayers, inviting each one to pray several times as they meditate on the various facets of God's grace.

A. Object Of The Lesson

1. To identify God's grace as the means of salvation and growth and know how to appropriate it.
2. To recognize the grace of God, properly appreciate it, and respond in love because of it.

B. Discussion Questions

1. In what specific way have you experienced the grace of God?
2. What does the phrase "My grace is sufficient for you" (II Corinthians 12:9) mean to you? (Teacher, have them read it in several translations.) Note: the Lord says "My grace IS sufficient" - that means now, present tense, at the point of need!)
3. What does it mean to "frustrate" the grace of God? (to receive grace but not be gracious; to continue to look at things from your own point of view; to remain a spiritual babe; to not share His grace with others.)
4. In Colossians 2:9,10, what does the word, "complete" mean? (The Living Bible says "So you have everything when you have Christ") Is complete the same as mature? (No - A baby is complete - but not mature. The same is true spiritually. At conversion we are complete in Christ, but we must grow to maturity.)
5. What does "everything" in I Corinthians 1:4,5 include?
6. What are some areas of self-effort in your life? Which of these are you going to allow God to work on this week? (#14)
7. Look at I Peter 4:10. What do we learn about grace in this verse? (not given for selfish use. The Living Bible gives a good paraphrase)
8. What does II Corinthians 6:1 mean when it says "receive not the grace of God in vain"?
9. Share your application on page 10. (questions 18 and 19).

C. Suggestions For Conclusion

Teacher, look back at the object of today's lesson. Have you accomplished it? Perhaps you might close your class today along these lines.

"How much grace do you think you can count on receiving from God? (Romans 5:20). Annie Johnson Flint in her poem "He Giveth More", shows us how limitless His supply of grace is:

He Giveth More

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

His love has no limit; His grace has no measure.
His pow'r has no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!

An old college professor at a Christian college often said to his students: "Young people, if it's grace you need, help yourself. There's plenty of it!" "What is it you need grace for today? Will you 'help yourself' and then thank Him for His provision as we close in prayer."

D. Additional Scriptures - Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:19; I Corinthians 4:7; II Peter 3:18

E. Possible Projects

1. Write down the one thing worrying you most today. Pray daily during the coming week for God to reveal how his grace is sufficient for that one thing.
2. Make a list of good things that have come your way and evaluate whether they came by your efforts or by God's grace. II Corinthians 9:8
3. During the coming week, list the times when you depend on God's grace and be prepared to share those with the group.
4. List the times when you have been most afraid and what you did about it?
5. Memorize a verse pertinent to this lesson and share it with the group.

F. Extra Helps

The Taste of New Wine by *Keith Miller*
Victory in Christ by *Trumbell*
The Normal Christian Life by *Watchman Nee*
The Latent Power of the Soul by *Nee*
The Christian's Secret to a Happy Life by *H. W. Smith*
Grace by *F. S. Schaeffer*
Keys to Triumphant Living by *Taylor*