

Daily Devotionals #10 – God’s Grace and Mercy

These two attributes of God are extensions of His love. They highlight His love towards His people. These attributes are often spoken of together, because they show the goodness and love of the Lord but looking at them specifically should cause us to worship even more.

God’s grace – Favor or blessing that is given by God to people that do not deserve it.

God’s mercy – Favor given by God to people shown by not giving them what they deserve.

God’s Grace (Read Eph. 2:8-10, Rom. 3:23-24)

God shows believers undeserved favor by gifting them with faith. No one would repent of their sins unless God made them alive and gave them the gift of faith. By grace through faith, people are saved! Wait, are you saying that humans didn’t deserve to be saved? That’s precisely what I am saying. The Bible states this also. As sinners, we do not deserve any favor from God. We have done nothing good and we constantly live to please ourselves. How could we possibly claim we deserve to be saved by God? God’s undeserved favor shown to mankind is most clearly seen in His salvation plan where He redeems a people to Himself that were completely unworthy and had nothing to offer God in themselves. He saves people from their sins, makes them His children, as children they are co-heirs with Christ, and grants them eternal life.

God’s Mercy (Read 2 Cor. 1:3 and Ephesians 2:4-5)

One unique aspect of this attribute is that the one who needs mercy is often in a desperate situation. The one who cries out for mercy because they are overwhelmed by something and therefore they beg for relief. Most of the time, those who beg for mercy have brought the bad situation upon themselves by their own foolish decisions. Consider the example of a man who was unwise with his money and spent more than he had. He bought a house and car he could not afford and years later the bank is about to take everything he owns in order to reconcile the debt. This would be a scenario where one could cry out for mercy. Or consider a student who did not prepare for their final exam. This final exam was very important but the student wasted their time and never even bothered to study. The day of the exam comes and the student fails as expected. The student may approach the teacher and ask for mercy. In both of these human examples, mercy is unlikely to be granted because they deserve to fail the test and they deserve to have everything taken from them.

In a similar way, all of mankind deserves the eternal fires of Hell. Why? Because all have sinned against God. We could not complain against God if He decided to send us all to Hell because that is what we deserve. The beauty of mercy is that in the Gospel of Jesus Christ we see how God gives the punishment we deserved to Christ. Instead, we reserve a reward that we did not earn.

It is vitally important to remember that God does not owe anyone mercy or grace. He gives blessing and favor in the forms of mercy and grace because He loves us. Titus 3:5-6 says, *“⁵ He saved us, **not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.**”* Who can question God’s love? If you are a Christian, know that you are deeply cared for by the Almighty God. He has shown you abundant love, mercy, and grace and you now get the privilege of living for Him!