

217-The Grace of God is a self-restraining force of Love-08-27-10

My mother prayed for Grace when we children upset her. She would pray: "God give me grace." We four young kids, later it became eleven, were like the 4 mice I found in a box. I dropped a cat in the box. It caught one in it's mouth, one with one front paw, another with its other front paw. This left one running around looking for safety. To me it was fun. To the cat it was a problem. I killed the four mice and put the cat outside. My mother wanted to do something desperate but we weren't mice. My mother needed Grace. God gave her His Grace ~ a self-restraining love for her kids ~ to make it through her day.

God's Grace just brings you to salvation. Then it follows you through life after you are saved. Some sin away their day of grace. Titus 2:11 For the **grace** of God that bringeth salvation hath **appeared** to all men, 12 **Teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Grace is God's self-restraining force of love. Grace is God's love for you, restraining His judgment. The thing you must watch is that you do not frustrate the Grace of God. Gal 2:21 I do not **frustrate the grace of God**: (by insisting that you obey the LAW) ~ for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

God's Grace is not salvation. It is a restraining force of Love. God's Grace brings us to Salvation. Grace is God's invitation to be born again. Titus 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke **with all authority**. Let no man despise thee. (Keep your cool.)

In Noah's day ~ Genesis 6:5 every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
Genesis 6:8 Noah found Grace in the eyes of the Lord ~ But he had to build the Ark to be saved.

God watched Saul of Tarsus grow up and take on an attitude. He was blind to the Grace of God. Acts 22:3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. (God's Grace appeared to him on the road to Damascus.)

Grace is available to a person unfit for it.

God's Grace ~ self-restraining Love ~ holds Him back from punishing the sinner. He has set aside one day in which He will judge the world. Paul spoke of Grace in all his Epistles. Ro. 1:17 Grace be unto you. **Grace points to the Straight Gate. In Greek the meaning of Grace is: Invitation - favor - charm.**

God's Grace does not save you. God's Grace has an offer for you. God wants to cut a deal with you. If you will, then He will. God's Grace gets us to Acts 2:38, the message that does save us. God's Grace is an invitation to accept Acts 2:38. God's Grace is an opportunity.

We are saved because we accept this graceful invitation. "Whosoever will" is God's Grace, and, not salvation itself. God's Grace cannot be increased to something it is not. Grace is God offering salvation to the sinner who does not deserve it. When we obey Acts 2:38 God's wrath changes to mercy.

It is by His Grace God gives the sinner this opportunity. Faith acknowledges and activates God's promise of Acts 2:38. Because of God's Grace Acts 2:38 becomes available to a person unfit for it. God does not punish you for your sin but stands by while you obey Acts 2:38. **Jesus paid it all!**