

4. Why do you think it is important to understand that everything we do for the Lord is the working of His grace?

5. How would you describe our nation with respect to God's grace?

Do you believe there is hope for our nation? Why, or why not?

6. What practical steps can you take to be more aware of God's grace in your life?

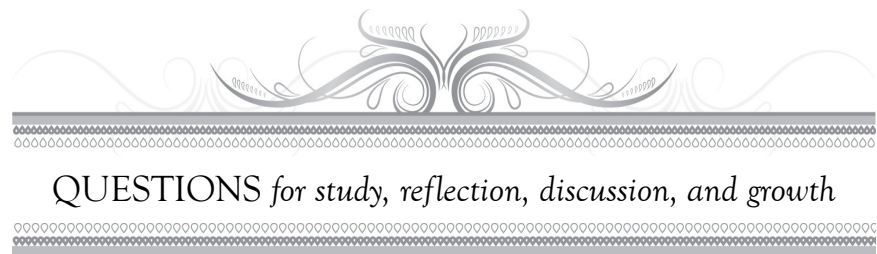
I. A. favor, heart, will, actions, love.
III. A. prepares, demolishes, excludes.
III. B. cultivates, conveys, works.



Week 7: HOW GRACE WORKS

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 2:8-10 | November 15-16, 2008

- I. Grace Defined and Described (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)
 - A. Grace is the undeserved and unearned _____ of God shown to sinners. It is God Himself at work in the _____, the _____, and the _____ of human beings so that God's self-giving _____ can fill our hearts and make us fit for a relationship with Him for eternity.
 - B. The Biblical Portrait of Grace
 - 1. God's initiative—Abraham
 - 2. God's inner work—Saul
 - 3. God's indescribable gift—Jesus Christ
 - 4. God's Holy Spirit—Gift and Giver of grace
- II. Our Need for Grace
 - A. Humanity Apart from God's Grace (Ephesians 4:18-19, Romans 3:10-12, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Romans 8:7-8)
 - B. Our Nation Apart from God's Grace



III. The “Work” of Grace

A. In Saving Sinners

1. Grace _____ the heart (2 Peter 1:2-3)
2. Grace _____ pride (Ephesians 2:9)
3. Grace _____ human effort (Romans 4:1-16, 2 Timothy 1:9)

B. In Sanctifying Saints

1. Grace _____ the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
2. Grace _____ the gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:6ff)
3. Grace _____ in and through us to accomplish God’s purposes (Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 2:12-13)

Notes:

QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 4:1-16 and 5:1-3, Acts 15:1-12, Galatians 1:6-10 and 5:4-6.
2. From reading the above passages, what are the essential qualities or characteristics of God’s grace?
3. What are some of the characteristics or signs of grace at work in the human hearts?

How has God’s grace changed your life?