

# *Bible Correspondence Course*

## *Lesson 4*

### THE GRACE OF GOD

*“For by **Grace** are ye saved through faith, and the not of yourselves: **It Is The Gift Of God**: not of Works lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

Grace is the “un-merited favor,” and this grace God has brought to earth for all men (Titus 2:11).

#### **Faith of Men**

*“But without **Faith** it is impossible to please him for he that cometh to God must **Believe** that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).*

Works of God and men

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the Power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:16-17).*

Salvation is the result of the grace of God and faith of men. When these two are combined we have the **Works** of God and men, and this means eternal life to all those involved. This should be the ultimate goal of all men.

In the study of these subjects the student is encouraged to seek a full understanding of each subject, and the relation and necessity of one to the other. Unless the student understands how these subjects are related he is likely to become confused in his search for truth.

#### **Grace a Gift to you**

To grasp the meaning of grace let us use an illustration that will explain grace in the simplest terms.

Suppose you were unfortunate enough to be hit down by an motor vehicle as you walked along the road. In the accident your leg was broken and internal injuries prevented you from moving without someone helping you. Regardless of how you tried you were unable to move, and since it was night you were faced with certain death unless help came from some source. In other words you were entirely helpless. But in due time a certain man found you, and out of love, compassion and kindness, he saved you from your

helplessness condition, and sure death. This person saved you because of his love for his fellow man. This is **Grace**.

Grace is the “un-merited favour .” This is what God has done for his creation. Man, in his sinful condition is lost, and regardless of how he tries, how hard he works, how much good he might do, he can never save himself by his own works or power.

When God saw man in his pitiful condition, having no hope and without God (Ephesians 2:12), he gave his only “begotten son” (John 3:16) to save the lost. This is the **Grace** of God. Anything man might do would not be enough to merit his salvation. So it was through the love of God that he brought a “gift” into the world to save men. This is grace.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “*the **Grace** of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men*” (Titus 2:11). Yes, it is through the grace of God that man can be saved.

## **Faith: I believe**

What is **faith**? The Bible says, “*faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*” (Hebrews 11:1).

“*For I walk by faith, not by sight*” (11 Corinthians 5:7). When Jesus came down from heaven (John 6:38) and dwelt among men, the men could see with their eyes the Lord Jesus, therefore they walked by sight. When they confessed Jesus as the Christ (Matthew 16:16), they did this by faith, or in other words believed in what he claimed. It is certain the disciples had not ascended into heaven (John 3:13) to verify the truth of Jesus’ claims, therefore they accepted it by faith.

An explanation of faith can best be seen in the illustration of Jamaican history. It is a known fact that Port Royal at one time was larger than the present area, but in June of 1692 a large portion of it was plunged beneath the waters of the Caribbean sea. Now we didn’t see this huge tidal wave or feel the destructive force of the earthquake, but because of the evidence we have at hand we believe these things happened. This is faith, or “belief in” evidence not seen.

Our faith in God is based upon the same explanation as used above. God is a spirit (John 4:24), and no man has seen him at anytime, but we believe in God because of the evidence we have before us. His handiwork is seen everywhere (Psalms 19:1), but we cannot see him. “*we walk by faith and not by sight*” (11 Corinthians 5:7).

The same is true of Jesus Christ. The very fact that he rose from the dead is evidence enough for us to believe in him as our saviour, but we did not see him resurrected. This is faith.

The writer of Hebrews said, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”* (Hebrews 11:6).

There we have the real meaning of faith. One must have this faith if he is to please God. This Faith is the force that brings on into the right relationship with God. It causes men to have confidence in, and trust deity, although he has not seen deity. Without such faith man cannot be saved nor please God.

Works

The grace of God and the faith of men result in **Works**. Confusion exists in religion today because of the meaning of works. Some have concluded that if work was required of man in order to obtain salvation it would nullify, or make void, the grace of God. Moreover certain scriptures such as Romans 4:2-3 are used to claim men are justified (saved) by faith alone and works have no part in it.

The mistake that is made here is in thinking the requirements of God for men to be saved, or to become Christians, are works of men. Faith (belief) is a work itself, for Jesus said, *“this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent”* (John 6:29). When God requires men to **Believe** (John 8:24), **Repent** (Acts 17:30), **Confess Christ** as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), be **Baptized** for remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and **Live Godly** (Titus 2:11-14), this does not make void grace. When a person obeys these commandments he is not making void grace, but manifesting faith. Such faith is defined in the following verse: *“but we are not of them who draw unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul”* (Hebrews 10:39).

A further explanation of works relative to grace and faith is seen in Acts 10:34-35 which reads *“of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and **Worketh** righteousness is accepted with him.”* the person working righteousness is not trying to “merit” or “earn” his own salvation, he is merely rendering **Obedience** to God’s commandments. In this we have grace, faith, and works.

We have now established the meaning of grace, faith, and works; let us now seek an understanding of obedience and its relation to grace, faith and works. We learn in Titus 2:11 that the grace of God had appeared unto all men. Paul says, *“by whom also we have access by **faith** into this **grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God”* (Romans 5:2). To have access to something means to be able to partake of it. We, through our faith (belief) in God and his promises, have access to salvation.

## Undeserved Favor

To illustrate grace, faith, and works, let us use a parable of life today. Suppose a man was in prison awaiting the day he would be hanged for his crimes, and through the efforts of his lawyer his case came before the Privy Council. When the Privy Council considered the case they gave the prisoner a full pardon. It is within the power of the court to either free a man or condemn him to die. This is grace.

The prisoner did a strange thing. He refused the pardon and was hanged for his crimes. We consider his decision very foolish, but he exercised his right to do as he pleased with his own life. There is no question about his belief in the pardon, and the assurance it would be fulfilled. He simply decided not to accept it. This is faith without works.

All men have been offered pardon of sins through the grace of God. We had nothing to do with it in any way. Whether or not we accept that grace through faith is entirely within our own power. What we do with our soul is our business, but remember God loves us and has offered a pardon to us. *“He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (1 Peter 3:9).

When we choose to accept the offer of God we must comply with the terms of pardon. These terms do not nullify the grace of God, but in accepting the grace we render obedience to God. A mere profession of faith does not necessarily mean submission and obedience to God. We have testimony in the Bible where people believed in Jesus Christ but would not confess him as Lord and saviour (John 12:42-43). Moreover, James said the devils believed (James 2:19). Thus, we see some people may believe, but they do not believe to the saving of their souls (Hebrews 10:39). In other words they believe but will not obey. Since Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all that obey (Hebrews 5:9); those who believe only and do not obey **all** terms of pardon are **not** saved. It is as James said, *“for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”* (James 2:26), and again he said, *“ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only”* (James 2:24).

The Bible student should always remember that simply because he engages in the works of obedience through faith he does **not** make **void** the **grace of God**. The student should read Hebrews Chapter seven (Hebrews 7) to further clarify this statement. In every example it was works motivated by faith that brought the believer into the right relationship with God.

## Questions

### Instructions

This course of Bible Study has been written and printed in Jamaica especially for you living in this Country. It is designed to help you learn about the Bible and what to do to be saved in eight simple lessons. Before beginning, please make sure you understand what to do.

1. Read each paragraph carefully making sure you understand the information given before proceeding to new material.
2. As you come across Bible references be sure and use your Bible to read each scripture mentioned.

3. When you have completed a study of the given material, try to answer all the questions from memory without looking back to the information.
4. When you have answered the questions, please check them with the given material so as to have the correct answer.
5. When the test has been completed, be sure to include Name Address and Date in The space provided below

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## How Much Have You Learned?

### Instructions

In order to get the most from this lesson, the student should answer all the questions in this section. Complete the test and mail it to the sponsor of the Correspondence Course. It will be graded and returned to you along with the next lesson.

### True or False

Circle "T" if statement is true, and circle "F" if any part is not true

1. (T F) Grace means "un-merited favor" or "un-earned favor."
2. (T F) Faith is an unlimited belief in God.
3. (T F) "Works" in this lesson or righteous study is necessary for eternal salvation (James 2:24)
4. (T F) God loves men, but would not give his son to save them.
5. (T F) It is possible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6).
6. (T F) Faith is the evidence of things seen (Hebrews 11:1).
7. (T F) Man is Justified by faith alone (James 2:24).
8. (T F) Works will not make void grace when directed by God's word.
9. (T F) Devils believe, or have faith (James 2:19).
10. (T F) The grace of God has not appeared to all men (Titus 2:11).

## Answer in your own words the following questions

Explain the meaning of Grace.

---

---

---

Explain the meaning of faith

---

---

---

Explain the meaning of works in this lesson.

---

---

---

---

How does each of the above relate to obedience?

---

---

---

---

Do you believe you can be saved by leaving off any of the above subjects? Example: can you be saved without faith?

---

---

### Fill in the blanks

- 1 Go into the city and it will be told thee what thou \_\_\_\_\_ do (Acts 9:6).
- 2 We have access to grace through \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 5:2).
- 3 All men have \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 3:23).
- 4 Saul was told to “arise and be \_\_\_\_\_ and was away thy sins.”
- 5 The first thing a person must do to be saved is to \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel.
- 6 The last thing a person does to have his sins taken away is to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Men often teach that \_\_\_\_\_ or pouring is baptism.
- 8 The Bible teaches that baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 6:3-4).
- 9 The purpose of baptism is to “\_\_\_\_\_” away sins (Acts 22:16).
- 10 If any man is in Christ Jesus he is a new \_\_\_\_\_ (11 Corinthians 5:17).

## **Please Notice**

1. Friends may be enrolled in this Bible Correspondence Course upon request without cost or obligation.
2. A beautiful certificate of competition will be presented to those who successfully complete all eight lessons.
3. Bible questions are welcomed. Write them in the space provided below on this page.
4. Contact the address sending the Bible correspondence Course for any assistance in spiritual needs or problems.

## **Questions**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **Bible Answers to Above Questions**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **Sponsoring Congregation**

This Correspondence Course is being sent to you by:

**Patrick Gardens Church of Christ**  
6 Waterhouse Drive  
(Off Washington Blvd.)  
Kingston 20  
Tel. 876 933-5550

### **Join us for worship**

Sunday	9:45 am	Bible School (for adults and children)
	10:30 am	Morning Worship
	5:00 pm	Youth Meeting
	7:00 pm	Evening Worship
Wednesday	7:30	Bible Study and Prayer Meeting (In this session you are permitted to ask questions and make comments.)

You are also invited to listen to **“Preparing for Eternity”** Wednesdays at 4:45am on  
RJR

Write to Us at: P.O. Box 369 Kingston 8