

GRACE

Χάρις

(that which causes favourable regard, or bestows pleasure, unmerited favour, getting what you don't deserve)

To learn the definition of God's grace, it is wise to understand the Greek and Hebrew words behind this term. A prominent Old Testament word describing God's grace is *chesed*. This word speaks of deliverance from enemies, affliction, or adversity. It also denotes enablement, daily guidance, forgiveness, and preservation. The New Testament word is *Charis*. It focuses on the provision of salvation.

Definition of God's Grace – How do theologians define it?

"What is *grace*? In the New Testament grace means God's love in action towards men who merited the opposite of love. Grace means God moving heaven and earth to save sinners who could not lift a finger to save themselves. Grace means God sending His only Son to descend into hell on the cross so that we guilty ones might be reconciled to God and received into heaven. '(God) hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him'" (2 Corinthians 5:11). "Grace may be defined as the unmerited or undeserving favour of God to those who are under condemnation."

Definition of God's Grace – What does the Bible say?

"This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:22-24).

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!" (Romans 5:17).