

## **GRACE AND PEACE**

***Eph 1:1 Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the purpose of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and those who have faith in Christ Jesus:***

***Eph 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

One of the greatest keys to the victorious Christian life is often overlooked even though it is repeated sixteen times in the New Testament letters written to the church! It is repeated in every doctrinal book of the New Testament. I think one of the reasons why people overlook this crucial key to victory is where it is placed in each letter. It is used at the opening of each of these sixteen letters written to the church. Most take the phrase, “Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” as just a nice salutary greeting that was the custom of the day, much like our statement at a beginning of a letter, “I hope all is well with you”. This oversight robs us of a tremendous truth and power in our Christian life!

What is so important about this oft-repeated phrase is that it is at the very beginning of each letter. “Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” are actually the resources we are to use to fulfill everything that is written afterwards in the letter! Grace is not just the unmerited favor of God, but also the empowerment of God to do what we could never possibly do in ourselves and by our own efforts. The peace of God is the harmony we have with God and the resulting prosperity from that harmony.

The fact that this is repeated over and over again reveals God’s desire to emphasize the importance of it. God repeats things to bring emphasis to it. There is no phrase repeated more often than this phrase in the New Testament. This means there is nothing more important than

this to know about the Christian life. What must we know? That grace and peace **HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO US** to live out everything we are called upon to do as a Christian.

Why is this so important to understand? It is because we tend to seek God for his grace when we are trying to walk in what the Word is telling us. However, this grace has already been given to us! We are told over and over again- GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU. God has given it, but we must receive it and acknowledge that we have it by faith. The problem comes when we go by our feelings. We don't feel that power most of the time, so we seek it. The only way we will experience it, is to acknowledge it by faith and confess we have it. Say, I have grace for this! I have peace for this!

This principle can be seen in other areas. A Christian may seek for healing, but the Word says they have been healed by His stripes. We must first believe it has been done and acknowledge it by faith before we see it manifested. It is the same with grace. We must believe it has already been granted to us in Christ. This grace is God's empowerment for what He has called us to do. In the New Covenant, God will never ask from you but that He first has already deposited in you the resource to carry it out. This resource is called grace! It has been given to you already! God repeats this over and over again sixteen times to you and me, to get through to us that we don't need to get grace or peace, but **we have them now!** You have them **RIGHT NOW!**

Often Christians struggle with certain sins and seek the power to overcome them. They either struggle to overcome them by their own efforts or seek God for power over them. Do you see a problem with this scenario? I hope you do now. We have the power over them, if we will but acknowledge the grace already given to us in Christ. We have this power given to us already. It is latent power ready to be released by the

words of our confession and actions of faith. From now on say, “I have grace to do this! I can do all things through Christ who is strengthening me!” Grace and faith are **NOW** words! So, dear Christian get this in your heart-**GRACE AND PEACE** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN!