

# The Grace of God

by Zac Poonen

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of humility and submission to spiritual authority in receiving God's abundant grace and living in victory over sin.*

**Scripture:** Romans 6:14, 1 Peter 3:7, 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Peter 5:5-6

**Topics:** "Grace", "Humility"

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## Description

Zac Poonen emphasizes the significance of God's grace in fostering harmonious marriages and spiritual growth within the Christian community. He highlights Peter's teachings on understanding and honoring one's spouse to ensure a peaceful home, as well as the importance of using spiritual gifts to serve others, reflecting the manifold grace of God. Poonen stresses the necessity of humility and submission to spiritual authority, particularly for younger individuals, as a means to receive grace and fulfill God's purpose in their lives. He warns against pride, which leads to spiritual blindness, and encourages believers to cultivate humility to experience victory over sin and embody Christ's character. Ultimately, the sermon underscores that grace is essential for both personal and communal spiritual health.

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## Transcript

Peter speaks of receiving grace for a happy married life: "You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." ( 1 Pet.3:7).

God wants Christian married couples to live together in peace and harmony. Their home must be an island of peace in a strife-torn world. And for this, abundant grace is required.

Peter then goes on to speak of spiritual gifts: "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." ( 1 Pet.4:10). Every spiritual gift is to be used only to SERVE others, as a means of dispensing the true grace of God to them. The grace of God is many-sided. Therefore, God has chosen people from different backgrounds and with different personalities and temperaments and placed them all together in Christ's Body so that each of them can display some unique aspect of God's grace through his/her life and ministry.

"You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (1 Pet.5:5). Here Peter speaks about the importance of learning submission to spiritual authority in our younger days itself.

If a young man is saved by the age of 20, it is usually God's purpose that he should have an effective ministry by the time he is 35 years old. But for this to be fulfilled, that man should learn the all-important lessons of brokenness and humility by the time he is 35. And those lessons can be learnt only as he submits to spiritual authority. Only thus can he receive grace to exercise spiritual authority later in his home and in the church. Young people who do not submit to spiritual authority invariably end up losing the ministry God had in mind for them. This does not mean that we don't have to humble ourselves once we are older!! Subjection to elders must be learnt when we are young. But following Jesus along the way of humility is something that we have to keep on doing until our dying day. That is the only way to keep on receiving grace until the very end of our lives.

God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. If we are proud, then even if all our doctrines are right, we shall end up like the Pharisees, deceived and blind concerning spiritual realities. Then we shall not be able to recognise the true prophets of God in our day, any more than the Pharisees could recognise Jesus, the True Prophet of the Lord in their day.

All sin has its origin in PRIDE and SELFISHNESS. In the same way, all the virtues of Christ have their origin in HUMILITY and SELFLESSNESS. The more we humble ourselves, the more we will receive grace from God. Then we shall live in victory and manifest Christ's character more and more in our lives. If anyone does not have victory over sin, that would indicate clearly that he has not humbled himself - because all who humble themselves will certainly receive grace (1 Pet.5:6), and all who come under God's grace will certainly get victory (Rom.6:14).

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