**Grace**

**From his fullness we have all received,**

**grace upon grace.**

***(St. John 1:16)***

**By the grace of God I am what I am.**

***(1 Corinthians 15:10)***

**Grace, as it extends to more and more people,**

**may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.**

***(2 Corinthians 4:15)***

**And he said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee:**

**for my strength is made perfect in weakness.**

**Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities,**

**that the power of Christ may rest upon me."**

***(2 Corinthians 12:9)***

**For by grace you have been saved through faith,   
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.  
*(Ephesians 2:8)***

**Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,**

**so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

***(Hebrews 4:16)***

**Grace be with all of you.**

***(Hebrews 13:25)***

**If grace takes hold of us and remakes us in the depths of our being, it is so that all our actions should feel its effects and be illuminated by it. *(Jacques Maritain, in True Humanism)***

**Allah guideth whomsoever he pleaseth, by grace, and he leadeth astray whomsoever he pleaseth, by justice. *(Fiqh Akbar)***

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me; I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind, but now I see. *(John Newton)***

**Around the time of World War I there was a girl with a lovely voice who couldn’t afford vocal training. But she kept right on singing anyway, and gavesuch joy to the members of her little Philadelphia church that they raised $126 in pennies, nickels and dimes and called it “The Fund for Marian Anderson’s Future.” So Marian Anderson started taking lessons, and when she was 18 her high school teachers arranged an audition with a world-famous singing instructor. Again the church folk raised money for lessons. The future looked bright, success assured. And then she failed. A group who believed in her sponsored a concert in New York City’s famed Town Hall. But Marian Anderson was not yet ready for Town Hall, either in experience or personal maturity, and the critics flayed her. She felt she could not take it; she felt she had let down those who believed in her. For over a year she wallowed in self-pity, and would not go near her teachers. Then one day her mother said to her, “Marian, grace must come before greatness. Why don’t you think about this failure a little and pray about it a lot?” Later, Marian Anderson, who helped many another young singer survive the kind of despair she tasted in that first bitter defeat, said, “Whatever is in my voice, faith has put it there. Faith and my mother’s words: grace must come before greatness.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Grace is that aspect of Divine Law that doesn't deal with even exchanges, but in the increase of good through greater giving. *(Ed Rabel, Unity Minister)***

**Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice of an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder (follows) lightning . . . . this correspondence cannot fail. Its failure, ingratitude, is sin . . . . Radically and basically all sin is simply ingratitude. *(Karl Barth, theologian)***

**Usually grace begins by illuminating the soul with a deep awareness, with its own light. *(Diodicus, in Spiritual Perfection)***

**What did Dietrich Bonhoeffer mean by “cheap grace”? He meant the promise of forgiveness without the demand for repentance. He meant church membership without church discipline, communion without confession. “Cheap grace” is grace without discipleship and, surely, without the cross of Jesus Christ. *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 83)***

**When you feel lost, weak and defenseless, your Father will sprinkle the courage of angels upon your shoulders, breathe the strength of living into your soul and will grant you the grace of a bird in flight to fly above your previous limitations and beyond your current expectations. *(Michele Gigliotti)***

**Madame Chiang Kai-shek once told the story of a young Buddhist monk who sat outside his temple two thousand years ago, hands clasped in prayer. He looked very pious and he chanted Amita Buddha all day. Day after day he intoned these words, believing that he was acquiring grace. One day the head priest of the temple sat next to him and began rubbing a piece of brick against a stone. Day after day he rubbed one against the other. This went on week after week until the young monk could no longer contain his curiosity, and he finally blurted out, “Father, what are you doing?” “I’m trying to make a mirror,” said the head priest. “But that’s impossible!” said the young monk. “You can’t make a mirror from brick.” “True,” replied the head priest. “And it is just as impossible for you to acquire grace by doing nothing except chant Amita Buddha all day long.” *(Bits & Pieces) 49012***

**Felix Jardio, 60, a Filipino farmer had been saving his money for years to buy a carabao. He finally saved P1300 and went out looking for the work animal, which he soon found. But alas, he did not know that the government had ordered all Philippine paper bills exchanged for the “Bagong Lipunan” issue, and his savings stashed up in the old currency issue were useless. And so in 1975, he sent a letter -- with the help of some schoolboys -- to the President. After all, he was only a poor, ignorant rice farmer. The answer came back. It said: “The law must be followed. Because the deadline for exchanging bills has already passed, the government can no longer change your bills with the new ones. Even the President of the Philippines is not exempt from this rule.” The letter did not end there. It added: “However, because I believe that you really worked hard to save this money, I am changing them with the new ones from my own personal funds. I hope that you will be able to buy your carabao.” The letter was signed: “Your friend, Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Philippines.” *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

**You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the play and the opera, and grace before the concert and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing; and grace before I dip the pen in the ink. *(G. K. Chesterton)***

**This last act must take place, as surely as the fruits of trees and the earth must someday wither and fall. But a wise person knows this and accepts it with grace. (Cicero, in The Atlantic)**

**Grace is a consequence of humility. *(Toni Bentley, ballet dancer)***

**When the father of Dr. Harry Ironside lay dying, the descending sheet which Peter saw in a vision was dominant in his mind. Over and over he mumbled, “A great sheet and wild beasts, and . . . and . . . and.” Seemingly he could not recall the next words and would start over again. A friend whispered, “John, it says, ‘creeping things.’” “Oh, yes, that is how I got in! Just a poor, good-for-nothing creeping thing! But I got in -- saved by grace!” *(Walter B. Knight)***

**In life as in dance, grace glides on blistered feet. *(Alice Abrams, poet)***

**It is painfully clear that modern consciousness has taken a detour off the primordial pathways to grace. Day by day people die as victims of this route. The road is getting rougher. At the end lies a cliff. Around us our leaders, good lemmings all, exhort us to stay the course. *(Charlene Spretnak, in States of Grace)***

**Divine grace works for an infinite and eternal good, which cannot fall under the dominion of the senses, and in consequence the mind moves the senses to deeds of virtue. *(Giovanni Vico, in The New Science)***

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**There is a tradition that Jonathan Edwards, third president of Princeton and America's greatest thinker, had a daughter with an ungovernable temper. But as is so often the case, this infirmity was not known to the outside world. A worthy young man fell in love with this daughter and sought her hand in marriage. “You can't have her,” was the abrupt answer of Jonathan Edwards. “But I love her,” the young man replied. “You can't have her,” said Edwards. “But she loves me,” replied the young man. Again Edwards said, “You can't have her.” “Why?” said the young man. “Because she is not worthy of you.” “But,” he asked, “she is a Christian, is she not?” “Yes, she is a Christian, but the grace of God can live with some people with whom no one else could ever live.” *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

**Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected. *(Jonathan Edwards)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Grace does not destroy our liberty by its certain efficacy; rather by that very efficacy divine grace moves the free will without doing violence to it. *(Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange)***

**Grace is nothing else than the forgiveness or remission of sins. *(Philip Melanchthon, in Loci Communes)***

**Just before Christmas in 1974 four Paris garbage collectors were working along the Avenue Marigny behind the Elysee Palace when their truck was stopped by a policeman who told them they were being offered breakfast by President Valery Giscard d' Estaing. The president gave each garbage man a Christmas present of a turkey and bottle of champagne, and wished them an enjoyable day. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

**Now comes the gift. The gift is yours from God simply because you are God's child. You didn't have to earn it, and you don't have to prove you deserve it. It is yours unconditionally. It comes with being part of creation. It is the gift of grace. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 394)***

**Elie Wiesel tells a story of grace, one related to him by Doug Huneke, a Presbyterian minister who interviewed some of the Christians who sheltered Jewish refugees from Hitler’s vengeance even though they knew the Nazi penalty for such heroics was death. One woman rescuer Huneke met had already lost her son and husband to Nazi retribution for sheltering Jews when, toward the end of the war, a terrified young German soldier, fleeing from the advancing Red Army, sought safety at her door. It would have been easy, Huneke supposed, for the woman simply to turn the young man away, and it would have been understandable if she had reported him to Soviet authorities. Yet these things, for her, would have been most difficult, even impossible, for she believed that living without grace in a world gone mad was the surest route to madness herself. Unhesitatingly, she gave the young man shelter and, in one small way at least, changed the world forever. *(John O’Neil, in Leadership Aikido) 6189817***

**The same sort of honeybee that dies when it stings a human does not die when it stings another honeybee. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One woman says to another: “You are amazing, Grace, but that hymn wasn’t written about you.” *(The Lutheran Witness cartoon)***

**A person could continually declare, “I want to die -- I don't want to live.” By the action of the law of mental causation thoughts always tend to manifest themselves in experience. Yet this person thinks death and still goes right on living. Why? Because God's will for life transcends even man's desire for death. This is Grace. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 38)***

**I'm becoming more and more myself with time, I guess that's what grace is. The refinement of your soul through time. *(Jewel, singer and songwriter)***

**The grace of God is in my mind shaped like a key that comes from time to time and unlocks the heavy doors. *(Donald Swan)***

**During his last hours, John Knox woke from a slumber sighing, and told his friends that he had just been tempted to believe that he had “merited Heaven and eternal blessedness, by the faithful discharge of my ministry. But blest be God who has enabled me to beat down and quench the fiery dart, by suggesting to me such passages of Scriptures as these: ‘What hast thou that thou didst not receive?’ ‘By the grace of God I am what I am’ ‘Not I, but the grace of God which was with me.’” *(Christian World Pulpit)***

**I would like to achieve a state of inner spiritual grace from which I could function and give as I was meant to in the eye of God. *(Anne Morrow Lindbergh)***

**Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues. *(John Stott)***

**Grace is sufficient to enable us to be accounted entirely and completely righteous in God's sight. *(Martin Luther, in Preface to Romans)***

**Grace isn't a little prayer you say before a meal, it's a way to live. *(actress Andie MacDowell's Twitter feed)***

**Grace means good will, favor, disposition to show mercy. Therefore, we do not hold ourselves as bond servants of the law, but as recipients of the grace of God, as sons of the Most High. The grace of God extends to all people, not alone to one sect or creed. All men are equal in favor with God. The grace of God is greater than the laws of man. To become recipients of that which the Father would bestow, we should take the element of grace into consideration; that even beyond what we ask for, seek, earn, or deserve under the law, God is more than willing to give. God, as the great creative principle of the universe, will always meet us more than half way. By becoming receptive to the “grace of God,” we receive the measure of God's provision, which exceeds any of our imaginings. *(Charles Fillmore, in Keep A True Lent, p. 168-169)***

**Grace is not a strange, magic substance which is subtly filtered into our souls to act as a kind of spiritual penicillin. Grace is unity, oneness within ourselves, oneness with God. *(Thomas Merton)***

**Grace was in all her steps, Heaven in her eye. In Every gesture dignity and love. *(John Milton)***

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**All men who live with any degree of serenity live by some assurance of grace. *(Reinhold Niebuhr)***

**God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. *(Reinhold Niebuhr, American clergyman and author)***

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**Good week for: Grace, after Dolly Parton formally asked Tennessee lawmakers to shelve plans to erect a statue of her on the grounds of the state capitol. "Given all that is going on in the world, I don't think putting me on a pedestal is appropriate at this time," tweeted the country legend, 75. She suggested the state wait until "after I'm gone." *(The Week magazine, March 5, 2021)***

**Grace is needed to turn a human being into a saint, and anyone who doubts it does not know what a saint or a human being is. *(Blaise Pascal)***

**In the very first of Ephesians, Paul chooses his salutation that his friends may know the grace and peace which comes from God the Father and his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe the sequence of the words grace and peace is with specific intent on the part of Paul. Grace is the generous act of God's love; the result of grace is peace. *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 8)***

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**The religious who, of course, ascribe the origins of grace to God, believing it to be literally God's love, have through the ages had the same difficulty locating God. There are within theology two lengthy and opposing traditions in this regard: one, the doctrine of Emanance, which holds that grace emanates down from an external God to men; the other the doctrine of Immanence, which holds that grace emanates out from the God within the center of man's being. *(M. Scott Peck)***

**The ability to appreciate pleasant, unearned surprises as gifts tends to be good for one's mental health. Those who perceive grace in the world are more likely to be grateful and happy than those who don't. And feeling “given to” by the world, they feel predisposed to give back to the world. A famous preacher told me the story of a Yankee who, on a business trip, had to drive through the South for the first time. He stopped at a roadside diner in South Carolina and ordered eggs and sausage for breakfast. He was surprised when his order came with a white blob on the plate. “What's this?” he asked the waitress. “Them's grits, suh,” she replied. “But I didn't order them,” he said. “You don't order grits,” she explained. “They just come.” And that, said the preacher, is very much like grace. *(M. Scott Peck, in The Road Less Traveled &  Beyond)***

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**Grace is not something that comes in from the outside and says “No, you are doing it wrong, let me show you how to do it.” Grace is not a kind of auxiliary steam, supplementing our feeble powers with a force not of the same character. Grace does not replace nature, it perfects nature, transmutes something that belongs to earth and makes it glow with the radiance of heaven. *(Ronald A. Knox, in Bridegroom and Bride)***

**Grace is nothing if not the final power; and power is force if it is not grace. *(John Oman, in Honest Religion)***

**To receive grace we need only to love its Donor. *(Mathias Scheeben, in The Glories of Divine Grace)***

**How can you know that a particular relationship is good or not? When you are out of sync with goodness, you know it: You aren't happy. And if a relationship is anything less than good, you need to question your thoughts. It's your responsibility to find your own way back to a relationship with yourself that makes sense. When you have that sweet relationship with yourself, your partner is an added pleasure. It's over-the-top grace. *(Byron Katie)***

**Grace is nothing else but a certain beginning of glory in us. *(St. Thomas Aquinas, in Summa Theologica)***

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**It is not in virtue of its liberty that the human will attains to grace, it is much rather by grace that it attains to liberty. *(St. Augustine)***

**What is grace? I know until you ask me; when you ask me, I do not know. *(St. Augustine)***

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**Grace is necessary to salvation, free will is equally so; but grace in order to give salvation, free will in order to receive it. *(St. Bernard)***

**The chains of grace are so powerful, and yet so sweet, that though they attract our heart, they do not shackle our freedom. *(St. Francis de Sales, in Treatise on the Love of  God)***

**Grace can do nothing without the will, and the will can do nothing without grace. *(St. John Chrysostom)***

**Without the burden of afflictions, it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases. *(St. Rose of Lima)***

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**But for the grace of God, what sinner would have returned to God? (*St. John Sergieff of Cronstadt)***

**Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind, spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies. *(Robert Louis Stevenson)***

**The grace given us is the grace for struggle and not the grace for peace. *(Adolphe Tanqueray, in The Spiritual Life)***

**Victor Daley, the Australian poet, was being tenderly cared for in a Catholic Hospital as he was dying. One of his last acts was to thank the nurses for all their kindness to him. “Don't thank us,” the nurses said, “Thank the grace of God.” Very perceptively, the poet asked, “But aren't YOU the grace of God?” *(Caroly R. Gibson)***

**Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: “You are accepted.” *(Paul Johannes Tillich)***

**God's grace is active even during those times when we are not heading in the direction of “the Father's house.” The truth is that we are always given more than we give. God is always there, keeping us from reaping the full harvest of any seeds of disaster we might have sown. It only takes a brief recalling of some of the incidents of our own lives to realize that maybe things “should have been” worse than they were! *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 397)***

**To feel in ourselves the want of grace, and to be grieved for it, is grace itself. *(Robert Burton, in Anatomy of Melancholy, III)***

**Grace fills empty spaces, but it can only enter where there is a void to receive it, and it is grace itself which makes this valid. *(Simone Weil)***

**On the afternoon of May 24, 1738, John Wesley attended St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The anthem was Psalm 130, “out of the depths have I cried unto thee O Lord, hear my voice.” That evening in a society meeting at Aldersgate Street, Wesley's heart was strangely warmed as he heard a reading of Luther's preface to his “Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans.” Like Luther, John Wesley described the change which overtook him. “I was striving, yea, fighting with all my might under the law, as well as under grace. But then I was sometimes, if not often, conquered; now, I was always conqueror.” *(Marvin W. Anderson)***

**Alexander Whyte, the great Scottish preacher, once stood up in his pulpit in Edinburgh and said: “I have discovered the most wicked man in Edinburgh. . .” Then he paused, while the congregation eagerly awaited the name; whereupon the preacher continued – “Alexander Whyte.” *(Eugene A. Hessel)***

**The winds of grace are always blowing. It is you that must raise your sails. *(Rabindranath Tagore)***

**Grace only works effectively in us in proportion to our unremitting correspondence to it. *(Francois Fenelon, in Spiritual Letters)***

**The world of sin confronts the world of grace like the reflected picture of a landscape in the blackness of very still, deep waters. *(Georges Bernanos, in The Diary of a Country Priest)***

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