

Receive Not the Grace of God in Vain (2 Corinthians 6:1)

1 Corinthians 15:1-10 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and **his grace which [was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

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∩ **pneumatikos definition of “grace”**

A term in the NT translated from the Greek word *charis*, meaning to joyfully participate in an upward climb of promotion, deliverance or miraculous accomplishment. It is functioning by, through and with grace. It will lift the believer from their current place to a higher place in God and continues to advance and promote the believer through every stage of development. Grace enables us to move upward from previous challenges and modes of existence into new places ordained of God. It is what God gives so we can grow forward, enabling us to partner in the new thing God wants to do. It is a feminine noun which means it must be embraced and acted upon. Grace requires our investment, as it is a progressive relationship between God and man. As we search for God at the Throne of Grace, we find grace in our time of need. Our time of need is when we recognize we are being called to a fresh positioning of sonship and cannot do it on our own. The root of *charis* is *chairo*, which means to rejoice and is formed from the combination of the visitation of grace and perfect timing (*kairos*). When the enemy is attacking and opposing our walk of faith, we must rejoice exceedingly. To rejoice is an indication of our grasping the timing of the Lord in conjunction with God's hand upon our life. (*Line Upon Line*, Stacy Masten)

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3VERSE 8:

one born out of due time

“prematurely, or an untimely birth”

Matthew 23:37-39 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

3VERSE 9:

least of the apostles;

not meet to be called an apostle

Meet: *hik-an-os'* - competent (as if coming in season), i.e. ample (in amount) or fit (in character); sufficient; ability, able

3VERSE 10:

But by the grace of God I am what I am:

Yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me

and his grace which was bestowed upon me (or shown toward me) was not in vain;

kenos (vain) – empty; without use; *kenos* stresses the absence of quality;

mataios (vain), as used in James 1:26 is the absence of useful aim or effect; to be void of result; devoid of truth; empty-handed; without a gift; fruitless

James 1:26 *If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion [is] vain.*

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“Grace is our response to the purpose of God as we accept it and commit everything to its goals.” (*Grace and Supplication*, Ron Crawford)

“There is a responsibility in applying grace to our existence, and in learning lessons of victory through our partnership with our Lord.” (*Grace and Supplication*, Ron Crawford)

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⌘ LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

2 Corinthians 6:1 *We then, as **workers together with him**, beseech you also that ye **receive not the grace of God in vain**.*

Mark 16:20 *And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them**, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

1 Corinthians 3:9 *For we are **labourers together with God**: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

Matthew 10:20 *For it is not ye that speak, but **the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you**.*

Philippians 2:16 *Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.*

1 Corinthians 16:23 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with **you**.*

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⌘ WORLDLY EXAMPLE

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

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⌘ CONCLUSION

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

John 9:4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

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