



Progression of Grace

Stage 4

SHAPED BY GRACE

"But GROW in the GRACE and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"...it is by grace you have been saved...For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works..." Ephesians 2:10

The **start of grace** was in God's eternal plan. As we accept the gospel of Christ we are **saved by grace** and then **strengthened by grace** through our trials and experiences. God then works for us to be **"shaped by his grace."** We are shaped (changed; transformed; molded) into His workmanship in order to do good works. Remember, we are not saved **by** good works but created **to do** good works – to carry on the mission of Jesus as he performed many good works while on this earth. This is a "creation/shaping" of God's doing. We will be able to do things beyond our normal talents and abilities. We will experience the development of **"spiritual gifts"** and **"spiritual fruits"** that will shape us into the character of God, the image of Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit. This is the 4th progression of grace.

1. GOD'S GRACE SHAPES US WITH CHRISTIAN _____

2 Peter 1:3-10 – note the phrases **"divine power"** and **"divine nature"** which creates a **"divine process."**

List the 8 "graces" in this passage: 1) _____; 2) _____;
3) _____; 4) _____; 5) _____;
6) _____; 7) _____; 8) _____.

We are to cooperate with God by "making every effort" and to "possess these graces with increasing measure." In doing so, we become productive and effective in our lives as Christians, and receive a **"divine promise"** (vs. 10)

2. GOD'S GRACE SHAPES US FOR CHRISTIAN _____

*"But to each one of us **grace has been given** as **Christ apportioned it...and gave gifts** to his people...to **equip his people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up...joined and held together by every supporting ligament, the body grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does it work." Ephesians 4:12,16*

Note these key points:

- 1 Peter 4:10-11 – use these spiritual gifts as God intended them to be used.
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 – each of us have a spiritual gift(s) but not all gifts are the same "God is at work"
- 1 Corinthians 12:31 – "eagerly desire the greater gifts, the most excellent way" (faith, hope, and love)
- Romans 12:6-8 – seven gifts are mentioned along with the appropriate action or attitude.

Some examples in Scripture are these: *"Let your **conversation** be full of grace" Colossians 4:6; "excel in the grace of **giving**" 2 Corinthians 8:7; **generosity** and sacrifice proved God's grace in Acts 4:32-35*

3. GOD'S GRACE SHAPES US FOR CHRISTIAN _____

One of the main goals of us being shaped by God is a **"spirituality"** that shows:

- That *"Christ is being formed in us" Galatians 4:19*
- That we exhibit the "Fruit of the Holy Spirit" in our lives. *Galatians 5:22-23 – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*

Note in Acts 20 the progression of grace in the Apostle Paul's life as he interacts with the Ephesians elders:

- God's purpose was served in his ministry by his **salvation and strengthening** from grace – 17-31
- But they witnessed Paul's **"graceful" character** and manner to the points of tears! – 32-38
- Paul the Sinner was now Paul the _____; Paul the Persecutor was now Paul the _____
- Therefore, in his own words, *"God's grace to me was **not without effect!**" 1 Corinthians 15:10*