

LiFT Online No 3 (May 2020)

Grace

Welcome to our monthly LiFT Prayer Meeting. Our theme for this evening is “Grace” incorporating Thy Kingdom Come.

The most common definitions of Grace are:

“the unmerited favour of God toward man”

“Grace is a gift from the Heavenly Father given through His Son, Jesus Christ. The word Grace, as used in the scripture, refers primarily to enabling power and spiritual healing offered through the love and mercy of Christ”

Grace is “the love and mercy given to us by God because God desires us to have it, not necessarily because of anything we have done to deserve it”

Our worship song is “Amazing Grace (My chains are gone) by Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

Please read through the original words for “Amazing Grace” by John Newton and take time to let words or phrases speak to you, using them to worship God with.

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.*
--John Newton, 1725-1807

What does God's Grace mean to you? How have you seen His Grace worked out in your life? and how would you like to see God's Grace filling the lives of those who do not know Him yet? Maybe the following verses may be an encouragement.

The Church in Antioch

*¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, **telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.** ²¹ **The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.***

*²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ **When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.** ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. Acts 11:19-24*

Perhaps you could visualise in your mind 5 people that you would like to see accepting the good news of the love and grace of our Lord. As you do so,

imagine them holding out their hands to receive His gifts. If you have any words or pictures of encouragement that you are able to share with them, please do so. If not, keep them safe somewhere, so that you can give them to them, when the time is right.

The attachment below contains a sheet for colouring in, which you are welcome to download and use for your own quiet times. As I was thinking about Grace and Thy Kingdom Come, certain elements came to mind, but how to combine them cohesively! As we have previously discovered, daffodils are the flower of Lent trumpeting in the resurrection – 3 for the arms of the cross and Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The rainbow – Grace and Hope flowing down, the sun and rays, the Light of Jesus to the world. The rest I leave to your interpretation. There are 5 figures on which you can name the chosen people that you are praying for.

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AmMjDOz5X7aDg4Q8VgCIKboDI48tA?e=DTwqbG>

(Link expires 30/06/20)

As we turn to prayer please be led by the Holy Spirit.

As a water drop disturbs the water causing ripples please pray for:

Immediate family and friends

Church, Local Community and Service providers within it

The UK, for Politicians, the Economy, Social stresses and Media Coverage

The wider world, for Brazil and South American Countries with Covid 19, the Middle East and all countries suffering, famine, drought and tension.

As we bring our time together to a close may ***“The LORD bless us and keep us; The LORD make his face shine on us and be gracious to us; the LORD turn his face toward us and give us peace.”*** Numbers 6:24-26 God Bless.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI-nkc4xqHM>