

What is Grace and Mercy?

What is grace according to dictionary.com? (3) Favor or goodwill; (4) A manifestation of favor, especially by a superior

What is mercy according to dictionary.com? (1) compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy, or other person in one's power; compassion, pity, or benevolence; (3) the discretionary power of a judge to pardon someone or to mitigate punishment, especially to send to prison rather than invoke the death penalty.

Do these definitions match the biblical definitions?

1. Grace and mercy are part of the LORD's character

Hebrews 11:6—Literal translation—*and apart from faith it is impossible to please [Him], for it is required of him who is coming* (present participle, or continuous action) *to God to believe that He exists and [that] He becomes a rewarder to those seeking* (present participle) *Him*. If we believe God is and becomes a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, then we must know His character. **Begin at Exodus 3:14.**

Exodus 33:19—Read 33:19 and 34:5-7. Ties back to Exodus 3:14—Ehyeh asher ehyeh. 34:7—“keeping” and “forgiving” are participles. (33:19—gracious→*channan* H2603; 34:6—gracious→*channun* H2587; 34:6—goodness and 34:7—mercy→*chesed* H2617)

Psalm 86:15—This is a prayer of repentance. (gracious→*channun*; mercy→*chesed*)

Psalm 145:8—Read v. 8-9. This ties back to Exodus 34. (gracious→*channun*; mercy→*chesed*)

Proverbs 3:3—Read v.1-6. Mercy and truth are part of God's character, so never forget them. V.4—“And so find favor” is a command. V.6—“acknowledge” is a command form of *yada*, or know; “direct” is from *yashar*, or to make right. (mercy→*chesed*)

Jonah 4:2—Jonah knows the name, or character, of the LORD. (gracious→*channun*; lovingkindness→*chesed*)

John 1:16-17—Read v. 14-17. Grace and truth has always been because it's part of His character. (grace→*charis* G5485)

2. Who receives the LORD's grace and mercy? Is it conditional?

Genesis 6:8—Why did Noah find grace (favor) in the eyes of the LORD? V.9—He walked (*hithpael*) with God by choice. (favor→*chen*)

Genesis 39:21—Read v. 20-23. Joseph had favor because the LORD was with him (v.23). Why did the keeper of the prison trust Joseph? It's for the same reason why the LORD was with him. (mercy→*chesed*; favor→*chen*)

Exodus 20:6—He shows mercy to thousands of generations to those who love Him and keep (participles) His commandments. (mercy→*chesed*)

Deuteronomy 7:9, 12—“Faithful” is a niphthal participle, so he is being faithful and merciful to those who love Him and keep (participles) His commandments. V. 12—“because”—*eqev* (H6118) as a result, you receive compensation (reward) or a consequence (mercy→*chesed*)

1 Kings 8:23, 33, 47, and 59—Read v. 33-34, 46-53, 56-61. Supplication is a prayer for mercy; notice it comes with repentance. V.56—“promised”—*diber*, or spoke; “promise”—*davar*, or word (supplication→*channan* and mercy→*chesed*-v.23)

2 Chronicles 30:9—Notice the condition: He is merciful *IF*... (gracious→*channun*)

Psalm 25:7, 10—Read v. 7-11. The ways of the LORD are mercy and truth only to those who are keeping His covenant. (mercy→*chesed*)

Psalm 27:7—Read v.7-9. “Seek my face”—**2 Chronicles 7:14** (mercy→*chanan*)

Psalm 32:10—Mercy surrounds those who trust in the LORD. (mercy→*chesed*)

Psalm 36:10—Mercy will continue (*mashak* H4900—draw out or drag on; used to describe the sound of the ram’s horn in Exodus 19:13) for those who know Him and who are upright in heart. (lovingkindness→*chesed*)

Psalm 51:1—Read v. 1-2. A prayer for forgiveness (mercy→*channun*; lovingkindness→*chanan*)

Psalm 59:5—The LORD will punish those who practice lawlessness—Matthew 7:21-23 (merciful→*chanan*)

Psalm 66:20—Read v. 16-20. Relates to **Proverbs 28:9** (mercy→*chesed*)

Psalm 86:5—The LORD is always ready to forgive those who are calling upon Him. (mercy→*chesed*)

Psalm 103:4, 8, 11, 17—Read v.3-18. The LORD’s mercy is those who fear Him. Grace is evident in v.10. This is not a pardon to sin, but time to repent! Participles→v.3-“forgives” and “heals”; v.4-“redeems” and “crowns”; v.5-“satisfies”; v.6-“executes”; v.18-“keep” and “remember” (lovingkindness and mercy→*chesed* and gracious→*channun*-v.8)

Psalm 119:29—Give me your law so I will know how to live free from the way of lying (*sheqer* H8267—deception, falsehood, as in a false witness—Exodus 20:16). (graciously→*chanan*)

Proverbs 3:34—Read v.31-35. The LORD gives grace to the humble, not the proud and scornful (grace→*chen*)

Isaiah 26:10—Even when grace is shown to the lawless, they will not learn the way of righteousness, even if everyone else around them is righteous. (grace→*chanan*)

Jeremiah 36:7—The LORD is waiting on the people to repent. (supplication→*techinnah*-8467)

Joel 2:13—The LORD is looking for people to repent. (gracious→*channun*; kindness→*chesed*)

Micah 6:8—Read v.6-8. God wants us to reflect His character—**Hosea 6:6** (mercy→*chesed*)

Malachi 1:9—Repentance leads to God’s grace. (gracious→*chanan*)

3. How is the word “charis” used?

Luke 1:30 and 2:52—Translated “favor”

1 Corinthians 16:3—Translated as “gift”

2 Corinthians 1:15—Translated as “benefit”

Philemon 1:9—Translated as “joy”

4. Salvation is a free gift because of grace and mercy

Acts 13:43—Read v. 38-39, 43. Paul was persuading people to continue in grace, not trying to earn salvation through works. This is the crux of the Gospel. (grace→*charis*)

Acts 15:11—Read v.1, 6-9. V.1—“not able”—*ou dynamai*, also used in 1 Corinthians 15:50. Salvation is by faith through the grace of the LORD. (grace→*charis*)

Romans 3:24—Read v. 21-26. As long as we are believing, He is justifying. **Romans 11:22—**“The conditional clause in this verse, if you continue in His goodness, is a reminder that there is no security in the bond of the gospel apart from perseverance. There is no such thing as continuance in the favour of God in spite of apostasy; God’s saving embrace and endurance are correlative.” (Murray) (grace→*charis*)

Romans 5:1-2; Galatians 2:16, 21; Ephesians 2:5, 7, 8 (Read v.4-9)—Salvation must be by faith. Otherwise, it’s not grace. (grace→*charis*; mercy→*eleos*)

Romans 15:9—Read v.7-10. Salvation is available to everyone. (mercy→*eleos* G1656)

2 Corinthians 6:1—Read v.1-2. God is gracious enough to give us the opportunity to receive salvation-**2 Peter 3:9**
(grace→*charis*)

Galatians 5:4—Read v.1-6. It wouldn't be grace if we had to earn salvation by our own merit. Two kinds of works:
(1) Works to try to earn salvation and (2) works to prove your salvation is real—**Romans 11:6** and **James 2:18**
(grace→*charis*)

Titus 2:11—Read v.11-14. Literally the “saving grace” of God has appeared to all men. No excuse.
(grace→*charis*)

Titus 3:5, 7—Read v. 5-8. We are saved by His mercy, not our works. However, our works prove our salvation is
real. (mercy→*eleos*; grace→*charis*)

Hebrews 4:16— Read v.1, 9, 11, 14-16. V.1-“to have come short of it”—*hysterio-hoos-ter-ay'-oh* (G5302) TGL→
to be left behind in the race and so fail to reach the goal, to fall short of the end. We can confidently know that our
sins can be forgiven if we come to Him in repentance. (mercy→*eleos*; grace→*charis*)

1 Peter 1:3, 10, 13—Read 3-13. Salvation is the goal of our faith (**1 Timothy 4:16; Hebrews 2:6; 1 Corinthians 15:2**). Grace=the gift of salvation; “Kept” (v.5), “believing” (v.8), and “receiving” (v.9) are present participles (v.3-
mercy→*eleos* and v.10 & 13-grace→*charis*)

Jude 1:21—“Looking”-present participle; “unto”-can be translated at “for”. (mercy→*eleos*)

5. Are grace and mercy a free pardon to sin?

Romans 6:1, 14, 15—Read v.1-16. Do we sin so God's grace will abound? No, for grace to abound, we must live
according to His standard. Trying to earn salvation makes you a slave to sin because just one sin makes you guilty of
all-**James 2:11** (grace→*charis*)

Hebrews 10:29—Read v.26-31. This is proof that you cannot continue in sin once you profess to being a believer.
(grace→*charis*)

Hebrews 12:15—Read v.14-15. Not living in holiness (*hagiasmos* G38—**2 Thessalonians 2:13**) will cause you fall
short of the grace of God. (grace→*charis*)

2 Peter 3:18—Read v.14-18. We avoid the error of the wicked by continuing in the grace and knowledge of the
LORD. (grace→*charis*)

Jude 1:4—Read v.3-4. These false teachers teach a doctrine of grace=lawlessness-**Revelation 2:6, 14-15**
(grace→*charis*)

6. Conclusion

From rethinknow.org *What is God's Grace?*—“We think freedom is doing whatever we want to do when we want to
do it. That might appear to be freedom. But that kind of life doesn't set you free, it enslaves you. Grace frees us and
allows us to live as God intended. When people look at the “rules” God gives his children many scoff. Any good
parent gives their children rules. Not to hamper their fun or restrain their freedom. But to keep them safe and allow
them to fully experience life. Guardrails on the side of the road are there to protect you from the dangers of
careening off the road. The Holy Spirit gives us guardrails to keep us on the path of freedom. Freedom isn't the
ability to do whatever you want. Freedom is living as God designed. What is God's grace meaning? **It means that
we can live free from the shackles of sin.**”