

Bridgeway Community Church  
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 Series: God's Got Your Number  
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## **God's Got Your Number**

### **Five**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In the New and Old Testaments, the number FIVE or FIFTH is mentioned 255 times in the NIV Bible.

- On the fifth day, God created “all living creatures” (animals).
- The first FIVE books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch, which literally means “The FIVE BOOKS.”
- David picked up 5 SMOOTH STONES when he confronted Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40).
- The day of Pentecost happened on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The Bible discusses the FIVE (wise and foolish) virgins in Matthew 25.
- Jesus fed 5,000 men with FIVE loaves of bread (John 6:1-14).
- Paul talks about the FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY:

Ephesians 4:11 NIV

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers

Now that I have provided you with some basic information on the number five, let me deal with what it actually represents and how it impacts our lives.

- The number 5 represents the Grace of God for humanity.
- It represents the Power of God unto Salvation.
- It represents our God-given ability to overcome every situation in our lives.
- It is the number of God's divine favor.

“When you have God’s grace in your life, you have divine favor.”

“When God looks at you, he’s not looking at your present reality, but he is rather looking at your kingdom reality - your purpose, your destiny, your greatness - what he is doing in your life.”

Today, I want to talk to you about different dimensions of God's grace.

"I believe that if you embrace them [dimensions of God's grace], if you receive them, if you surrender to the word of God, your soul will be shifted and you will enter into a deeper understanding of the grace of God."

Humans were created with five different senses:

1. Hear
2. Taste
3. Touch
4. Smell
5. Sight

You can tell a blind person all the information you can find on the color blue, but because they have never experienced the color blue, they do not know what it is.

"Grace is like that. We can give you all information about grace, but the truth of the matter is that grace needs to be experienced...when you experience grace, it changes the whole meaning and the whole definition and the outlook of life."

On one occasion, the Apostle Paul was frustrated about his humanness and a particular thorn in his flesh and wrote:

### 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 NIV

Three times, I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

If we are honest, we will all agree that this doesn't make any human sense:

- Power in weakness?
- Boasting about my weakness?
- Delighting in my weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties?
- When I am weak, I am strong?

"This is humanly impossible, but when you have had an experience with the grace of God, you understand that there is always more to the story."

**Working definition of the grace of God:** grace is a state of consciousness, a disposition of understanding of the limitless provisions and possibilities contained in God but only accessed through the office and blood of Jesus Christ.

Grace is everything that makes God–God.

Grace is an internal and spiritual awareness of the fullness and richness of Christ.

Grace is the unmerited, undeserved, and unearned kindness and favor of God.

When you understand the systematic character of the grace of God, there is a spiritual awakening, empowerment, assurance, and confidence that comes over your life.

### **DIMENSIONS OF GRACE:**

“There is only one grace...yes. I want to talk about different dimensions of grace, but there’s only one grace and it’s the grace of God. We have access to it through Jesus Christ alone...surrendering your life to Jesus Christ.”

The Holy Spirit in us manifests this Grace through different dimensions.

1 Peter 5:10 NIV

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.

### **SAVING GRACE**

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

“You’ve been saved by grace...saved from condemnation, saved from destruction, saved from the pit of hell, saved from dysfunction, saved from brokenness.”

At the cross, Jesus received 5 prophetic wounds: hands, feet, head, rib cage, and the whips on his back, for you to receive his grace. It is the price Christ paid for you and me to be saved and delivered from the stronghold of sin. It is God's greatest expression of his love for humanity.

The miracle that is produced by saving grace is not produced by the recipient. We are only beneficiaries of it.

**Isaiah 53:5 NIV**

He [Jesus] was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

This dimension and manifestation of saving grace not only saves us, but it also gives us spiritual peace and spiritual healing.

Grace is a gift from God, when God doesn't give us what we deserve.

**Romans 6:23, NIV**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Grace is the love of God shown to the unlovely; the peace of God given to the restless; the unmerited favor of God. It is God's favor toward the unworthy or God's benevolence on the undeserving. In His grace, God is willing to forgive us and bless us, despite our human condition.

"This is all God. This is nothing you do to get saved. He paid the price at the cross."

## **EMPOWERING GRACE**

**1 Corinthians 3:10 NIV**

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.

[This verse] "shows work...it doesn't say by the grace of God and he [God] laid the foundation. By the grace that God gave me, I put in work! I laid the foundation."

"There is some work that comes connected to this empowering grace."

"As revealed by the Holy Spirit, God's empowering grace is the key to moving you into the destiny of God."

2 Thessalonians 3:10 NIV

For even when we [Paul and companions] were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

"If you want to enter into your destiny, you gotta put in work. You gotta surrender yourself to the things of the Lord, you gotta work out those different details and the different situations, you gotta learn how to become mature and you gotta learn how to surrender yourself and you gotta learn how to become more of the image of Christ and you gotta learn how to interact and engage with your brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus and you have to learn how to give to the Lord...you gotta put in work!"

"When you don't put work in, it limits the power of grace's teaching. It implies that I don't need to change anything or grow or become mature because Jesus loves me. That limits the growth and the expansion of the kingdom of God. You gotta put in work."

2 Timothy 2:1 NIV

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

"Dedicate yourself to growing and dedicate yourself to going into different dimensions of Christ."

Charles Capps defines grace this way; it is "God's willingness to use His power and ability on our behalf even though we don't deserve it." That is a masterful definition!

Grace is supernatural power working in our favor.

**Benevolence vs. Action:** Grace is not just an attitude of benevolence from God towards us, but rather an activity (action) He performs in faithfulness to His covenant.

God is DOING grace - Empowering Grace

God IS grace - God's Character

God GIVES you grace - Saving Grace

As God works in our lives, His grace empowers us from within for right living. Grace doesn't mean it doesn't matter how we live; instead, grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and live in ways that please God.

Titus 2:11-12, NIV

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age.

This grace empowers us to do better, it inspires, motivates and influences our decisions for Godly living.

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL GRACE**

1 Corinthians 15:10, NIV

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Biblical examples of transforming grace...

Woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5).

The 10 men with Leprosy (Luke 17).

The Paralyzed man by the Pool in Bethesda (John 5).

Paul in Damascus (Acts 9).

And the list goes on-and-on.

Hebrews 4:16 NIV

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

"God's transforming grace changes the trajectory of our lives. Transforming grace transforms you! It transforms everything about you!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

“At some point in life, there needs to be transformation. At some point in life, there needs to be change. At some point in life there needs to be surrender. How long are you going to stumble on the same rock?! There needs to be change.”

Romans 12:2 NIV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

“The truth is that based on our humanity, condition, strength, upbringing, decisions, and nature, we were all heading in the wrong direction. But God’s Grace intervened and changed the trajectory of our lives.”

Proverbs 14:12 NIV

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

“In other words, it is because of this grace that our future is guaranteed.”

“Teaching grace without responsibility, limits us. When it comes to salvation, he [Jesus] did it all...but there is a transformation that comes upon your life. You should look different. You should be different because of this grace that is inside of you.”

## **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION:**

Titus 2:12-13 NIV

It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,<sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ

**First**, the grace of God teaches us what we are to let go of or certain practices that need to go.

“If the Spirit of God is tugging at your heart and you’re feeling like ‘I should let this go. I should change this in my life.’ The beautiful thing about this is God’s grace gives you the strength to do it. That is what is so marvelous about this. But you need to let the grace of God work in your life.”

**Second**, God’s grace teaches us how to live.

Not only does the grace of God teach you what to let go of, but it also teaches you what to start doing and this works hand-in-hand.

“Sometimes it’s impossible to let things go until you start doing.”

**Third**, the grace of God teaches us what we are to look forward to.

“Don’t just grind through grace. You might not like it...but do it and I can guarantee you that you become more and more like the image of Christ.”