

Grace (John Bevere)

The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presses into it. Luke 16:16 KJV

Presses - NT:971 *biazo* (bee-ad'-zo); from NT:979; to force, i.e. (reflexively) to crowd oneself (into), or (passively) **to be seized**

We're created in His image – we're not ordinary, we're extraordinary

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Gen 1:27-28 NIV

How do we live the extraordinary life? = the grace of God

Define grace – salvation, free, unmerited favor, forgiveness of sins (survey of 5000)

2% said grace was God's empowerment

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. 10 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. 2 Cor 12:9-10 NIV

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His **divine power** has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness... 2 Peter 1:2-3 NKJV
so that through them you may **participate in the divine nature** 2 Peter 1:4 NIV*

*For this very reason (grace), **make every effort** 2Pet 1:5... because we know we can*

Grace - NT:5485 *charis* (khar'-ece); from NT:5463; the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude)

Also – God's empowering presence in one's life... that can be seen

*they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and **saw the evidence of the grace of God** Acts 11:22-23 NIV (It was evident outwardly)*

Bevere definition - God's empowerment that gives us the ability to go beyond our natural ability

1st use - And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. John 1:16-17 NKJV

"grace for grace" = The overflow, abundance or completeness of what the grace of God does for us
= the fullness of Jesus (not introduced as forgiveness, but empowerment)

Grace empowers us to be like Him...*because as He is, so are we in this world. 1 John 4:17-18 NKJV*

'We are his offspring.' Acts 17:28 NIV

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor 6:18 NIV

*Dear friends, now **we are children of God**, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know 1 John 2:6*

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. NIV that when he appears, **we shall be like him**, 1 John 3:2 NIV

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves 2 Cor 7:1 NIV (via grace)

People repent intellectually but don't change (no experience with grace)... Christians trying to live Godly in their own ability. (1. Become legalistic or 2. invent a doctrine that nothing is sin)

the spirits of just men made perfect Heb 12:23 NKJV

let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably Heb 12:28 NKJV

As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 Cor 6:1-2 NIV

*Now Stephen, **a man full of God's grace and power**, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. Acts 6:8-9 NIV*

Grace expressed as wisdom (new ideas, creativity, innovation, leadership)

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. Luke 2:40 NIV

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21 NIV

*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. **He will do even greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12 NIV*

*how much more will those **who receive God's abundant provision of grace** and of the gift of righteousness **reign in life** through the one man, Jesus Christ. Rom 5:17 NIV*

The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. Deut 28:13 NIV

Grace gives us the ability to distinguish ourselves (overcome, rise above)

*In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them **ten times better** than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. Dan 1:20 NIV*

*Then this Daniel began **distinguishing himself** among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an **extraordinary spirit**, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. Dan 6:3 NASU*

We are the light of the world, treasure in earthen vessels (Lights naturally shine)

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. 2 See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. 3 **Nations will come to your light**, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Isa 60:1-3 NIV*

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of **grace and truth**. John 1:14 NIV

Grace – empowered, favored (with miraculous and wisdom)

Truth - experienced