

Acts, Part 05

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 6/3/20

Text: Acts 4:33

Introduction Summary

This lesson covers Acts 4:33-37. Great grace had come upon the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this study, we will study the various meanings of the grace of God and how it must be defined in its proper context in order to get a full understanding of the Scripture.

- I. **Acts 4:33:** Power means miraculous ability. Miraculous ability was upon them all.
- II. “Great grace” descended upon them. Great: massive amount, huge amount
 - A. There’s a difference between “grace” and “mercy.”
 - B. Mercy (Gk. *Eleos*) is compassion shown to someone in word or deed (Heb. 4:16). Webster’s 1828 ed. defines “mercy” as follows:
 1. Temper or disposition of pity
 2. Easily moved by the distresses, wants and infirmities of someone else
- III. The first time grace is used in the Bible is in Gen. 6:8. In this verse, Grace means favor.
- IV. The new testament word for grace is *charis*. It’s is translated many ways in English.
 - A. Graciousness: a kind condescension; someone who’s high who lowers himself to assist someone who is low. Example of graciousness:
 1. In 2 Cor. 8:9 and Phil. 2:6-8, *grace* means compassion.
 2. In 1 Cor. 10:30, *grace* means thanksgiving.
 3. In Col. 4:6 and 1 Peter 3:15, *grace* means acceptable to witness.
 4. In 1 Peter 1:10, *grace* means benefit or favor.
 5. In 1 Pet. 3:7, *grace* means joy.
 6. In Rom. 1:5, *grace* means anointing (John 1:14; Acts 10:38; 1 Cor. 3:10).
 7. In Heb. 10:29, the Holy Ghost is *Grace*.
 8. In 2 Cor. 8:1-2, *grace* is revelation.
 9. In 1 Cor. 1:3-4, *grace* is all the above, including the ministry gift. Your minister is God’s gift to you.
 10. In 1 Cor. 3:5-7, *grace* is utterance and knowledge.

11. In Acts 11:21-23, *grace* is the work of God—the manifestation of the church. WOFICC is a manifestation of the grace of God.
- B. **Acts 4:33:** Great, abundant, a massive amount of *grace* was upon them all.
 1. John Wesley's note: "A large measure of the inward power of the Holy Ghost was upon them all, directing all their thoughts, words, and actions."
 2. Family Bible note: "Much favor and assistance from God was granted them."
 3. The Brethren New Testament Commentary: "God blessed them with a great measure of the Holy Ghost which brought upon the precious fruit of the Spirit."
- V. **Acts 4:34-37:** God's grace was upon all of them to sell their possessions and bring the proceeds to the apostles so that no one lacked anything. God's grace changed their heart. God's grace gave them a grateful heart.
- VI. In chapters 4 and 5, we can see that the manifestation of grace can be at different levels.
 - A. There are different manifestations at different levels.
 - B. There are different graces for different ministry offices.
- VII. **Acts 4:36:** Barnabas is the only person singled out.
 - A. He was full of the Holy Ghost and full of faith (Acts 11:19).
 - B. God elevated Barnabas to the office of Apostle (Acts 13:1).
 - C. Barnabas passed the money test (Acts 4:37).
 1. Tithing is the money test (Mal 3:10).
 2. The tithe is the best that you have.
 3. You decide the amount of your offering (2 Cor. 9:7).

Testimony: My wife and I decided we would tithe off the gross. Prov 10:22 the blessing of the Lord has come upon us. God has always been with us and helped us financially, whether we had little or much. Just as the psalmist said, I've never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Closing Summary

As we have seen in this study, grace is not to be mistaken for mercy. We've also seen that grace has multiple definitions. Therefore, it is vital that we understand what grace is within the context of the verse of Scripture. Once we know that, we will be able to have faith for great grace to be upon us and see it manifest in our lives.