

THE  
GRACE  
EFFECT

G O D . Y O U . W O R L D .

# Grace, Faith & Obedience: Understanding the Relationship



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What is grace, faith and obedience, and how do they all work together? Are some of these concepts pitted against each other or do they work together in perfect harmony? Do they change and evolve? Or, does God have a consistent plan and method throughout all of time?

**Grace.** In any dictionary, grace is often defined simply as “unmerited favor.” It is the receipt of something in which you did nothing to earn. God’s grace is simply God extending His “unmerited favor” on His undeserving people. There is nothing that we can do to earn Yahweh’s grace.

Grace by its own definition means that it is freely given by God through no action of our own. God owes us nothing. We are all undeserving of any blessing and only deserve the curse (death) because we have all failed at keeping God's law perfectly. God's ultimate act of grace is His gift of salvation, saving us from the second death.

**Faith.** Faith is the foundation and source of all of our behavior. Faith is the believing, committing and trusting in God and His Word. God is defined as His Word, and Jesus (His Hebrew name, Yeshua) is defined as the Word made flesh. Having faith in God (and Yeshua) is the very same as stating one has faith (believes, commits and trusts) in God's Word.

It is simply not possible to state that one has faith in Yeshua and then conclude that something in Scripture to no longer be true as Yeshua is the Word and the Word is Yeshua. If Yeshua is true, then God's Word is completely true, even today. There should be nothing in Scripture that we should conclude is "no longer true."

God's Word and God Himself are inseparable and are Scripturally one and the same.

Yeshua walked and practiced God's Word perfectly and thus is defined as "the Word made flesh" in the book of John. Therefore, faith in God, faith in Yeshua, and faith in the Word are all one and the same.





**Obedience and Works.** Obedience is the result of our true faith. It is the resulting output of believing, committing, and trusting in God's Word after faith/trust has already been established. The more faith one has in God's Word, the more that faith will manifest in their observed behavior as obedience and the doing of God's Word and will.

Obeying God is simply a matter of obeying His instructions. His instructions are outlined by His commandments in His Word. The summary of all commandments are often referred to as His law (in Hebrew, Torah), which simply meaning “instructions.” God’s holiness and righteousness are defined by His own law that has existed since the beginning.

We are commanded to be holy as He is holy (holy simply means being set apart). When one believes with all the heart, soul and mind that something is true. Consequently, one behaves and acts as though it is true by completely applying it in their life to the best of their ability.

We have all fallen short of God's perfect righteousness as defined by His law - the instructions for man. God's law was given to us to bless us if we obey, and curse us if we disobey (which is sin). God's instructions (His Word) have existed since the beginning, thus nothing in God's Word is ever new, we are just always in a state of trying to understand His Word better, which is actually the exact same as understanding God Himself better.

We have all broken God's law, and thus we were all under the curse (Paul calls this the law of sin and death). The breaking of God's law is sin and the consequence of sin is eternal death. Once under grace through faith, we are no longer under the law of sin and death, as was written by Paul in Romans chapters five through eight.

God offered man a way to eternal life if we have faith (if we believe, if we commit, and trust) in God and His Word. God did not have to offer this to us for any reason whatsoever. He owes us nothing and we can do nothing ourselves to escape what we rightfully deserve, which is eternal death. Thus, anything God extends as a benefit to us is an act of grace (or unmerited favor). His plan of salvation is an extension of His grace out of His love for us.

God's Word outlined a plan for our salvation from God's wrath (eternal death). That plan was manifest in Yeshua our Messiah at the appointed time. Yeshua dying on the cross abolished the curse that resulted from our disobedience to God's law. The finished work on the cross is the ultimate act of God's grace. We certainly did not deserve to be saved from the second death and did nothing to earn it.

Yeshua is God's ultimate act of grace for mankind. God's grace is a demonstration of His love for us.

The finished work on the cross eliminated the curse (the law of sin and death) for those having faith, and all of the instances of our failures at keeping God's law (sin) will not be held against us like those that will be judged and experience the second death. We will not be present at the Great White Throne judgment that leads to the second death. It is those who have faith (believe, commit, trust) in Him and His Word that will have eternal life.



When we keep God's law, we still receive the blessings as originally prescribed, but not the curse of the second death when we fail.

When we fail, it is covered under grace through the work on the cross. When we are obedient, we still receive the blessings. We still receive all of the blessings of our obedience in this life and the blessings also extend into eternity as part of our rewards, or crowns, that we receive at the Lord's return.

This is the Bema seat judgment in which all believers will experience, which is different than the Great White Throne judgment (the second death). At our judgment it will be determined whether we will be least or great in the Kingdom for all eternity. What we do and practice in His Word as believers now will echo into eternity on that day.

We know for certain that we are saved from the curse (the second death) when we realize a continuous desire to keep God's commandments. No faith equates to no desire to keep God's commandments. There are only two paths: the narrow path leading to the narrow gate and the broad path that leads to destruction. Few will take the narrow path.

If we have faith, we will then have a desire to keep God's commandments, and the greater the faith, the greater the desire. Our faith is evidenced by our obedience.

Because of our faith, we strive to be obedient. Obedience is the keeping God's commandments (His law). Disobedience (lawlessness) is defined as breaking God's commandments (which is sin).

Grace is God  
demonstrating His love  
for us. Our obedience is  
us demonstrating our  
love in return. That is  
the relationship of love  
Scripture declare we  
have with God Himself.



1. The Law blesses  
(obey) and curses  
(disobey). It blesses us  
when we obey, and we  
are cursed when we  
disobey.



## **Deuteronomy 11:26-28**

26See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse - 27the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; 28the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God.

2. The Law defines sin. If we break the law of God, that is sin. If we observe the law of God, we stay out of sin.





## **1 John 3:4**

**“Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”**

3. The Law is perfect.  
Perfect means that it  
cannot be made better.  
Perfect means that if  
you take any of it  
away, it is no longer  
perfect.



## Psalm 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul. The statutes of the  
LORD are trustworthy, making wise  
the simple.

4. The Law is liberty/  
freedom.



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## Psalm 119:44-45

44 So I will keep Your law continually, forever and ever. 45 And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.

That means if you walk in the law of God, you are free; but free from what? Free from sin. Remember how Yeshua walked? He walked the law of God. Remember how Christ said to walk, how John said we should walk (1 John 2:6)? Walk like he walked...that is why Christ is freedom. Remember, it is the truth that sets us free (John 8:32). What is Truth?

5. The Law is the truth.  
Psalm 119:142 says it  
best:



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## Psalm 119:142

“Your righteousness is an everlasting  
righteousness, and your law is truth.”



# 6. The Law is the way.



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## **Exodus 18:20**

“Teach them His decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave.”