

2 Peter 1:2

This verse is to be paralleled to **2 Peter 3:18** which commands Christians to grow IN the grace and knowledge of God. This verse does not say that grace grows, but rather WE are to grow IN grace.

Grace

- We are saved by grace through faith.
 - o **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and ^[a]that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;
 - o **Titus 3:3-7** For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs ^[a] according to *the* hope of eternal life.
 - o **Romans 3:24** being justified as a gift by His **grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
- The grace that we are saved by is unchanging. God's saving grace is immutable on His children. We are not ever in our lives "more saved" or "less saved" than the moment we are initially saved when we are justified by faith. This speaks to the gift of grace and the eternal security of the believers. This should give great comfort and peace to the believer that God's grace is final, firm, and forever. There are no Christians who have a greater salvific grace, are more justified, or more loved than any other Christian. However, the level each Christian has grown IN the grace is varied as this is displayed in our lives.
- Every believer has the same grace given by God in salvation, but the level of sanctification and worship each person has is dependent on how much they have grown into this grace that God has given.

Peace

- We are all born enemies of God with the wrath of God being our due punishment and end. Only by justification through faith alone (faith is a gift of God- 2 Peter 1:1) does one have peace with God. This occurs at the moment of justification.
 - **Romans 5:1,9** Therefore, having been justified by faith, ^[a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Much more then, having now been justified ^[a]by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of *God* through Him
- The peace a believer has with God at the time of justification is unchanging. This peace is final and eternal as the war with God is over once and for all. However, we are called to have peace multiplied and to grow in our lives as it relates to how we live out our lives on this earth. The more knowledge we have of God, the more peace we will have in our souls in trials and life.

Grace and peace are given to the blessed, to which are those whom God shines His face upon and lifts His countenance upon. Numbers 6:24-26 parallels with Romans 4:1-8 to those who are blessed.

- **Numbers 6:24-26** The Lord bless you, and keep you; ²⁵ The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

Grace and peace be multiplied

- The grace and peace we have at salvation cannot be increased or decreased. However, we are commanded to grow in grace and peace and have them multiplied in our lives.
- **This is accomplished by growing in the knowledge of God.**
- The more we know about God the more we will understand His grace and the peace we have through Him and from Him. This will lead to increased doxology, sanctification, and handling of life's tests.

**God's peace doesn't change, but the peace we have in situations will increase in direct relation to the knowledge we have of Him.*

**God's grace on believers doesn't change, but our understanding of His grace upon the trials of life will shape how we handle every situation in life.*

**This is correlated with increasing knowledge of God and His Word.*

Examples

Paul- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, 2 Timothy 4:22

Practical application

- o **Philippians 4:6-8** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all ^[a]comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is ^[e]lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, ^[f]dwell on these things. ⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**We are to grow in grace and peace as this is a witness to our families, friends, and the world.*

**The Christian should be the prime example in how to respond and handle situations since the sovereign God is our Father and we are resting in His grace and peace.*

- o **John 14:27** Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.
- o **John 16:33** These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

**Growing in grace is not measured by time, involvement in church activities, or feelings, but is rather measured in light of the knowledge one has of God which is then applied practically in our lives.*

**We have a peace that surpasses all comprehension and a grace that's amazing, let us grow in the knowledge of those things and of our God!!! Higher theology=higher doxology!!*