

LESSON 7

Attributes of God - III

Objective : Understand the importance of God's grace, compassion and faithfulness. Be thankful to God and reflect the divine qualities of God.

Bible Portion : Eph. 1:1-2, 10

Memory Verse :

Ps.103:8: The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

Eph. 2:4-8: But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

Introduction

What are the attributes of God we have learnt in previous lessons? How do we live, for God is holy? Where the love of God and his righteousness mostly related together? Can you say some other qualities of God which are significant to us?

1. The grace of God

God is gracious and merciful (Ps.103:8). What is grace? Suppose, an obedient son of a good father killed by a criminal. Father can make revenge by himself, or execute the justice through authorities. He can also forgive him, accept him to the family and gives him all the properties of his son. This is called grace. Grace of God is the love and goodness that flows to unworthy. Grace is the blessing given to an ineligible person. It makes ineligible to eligible and the person with liabilities will be sent freely.

The works of God's grace

1. **Saves:** It saves the humankind who is under death and curse through sin. Justification is a free act by redemption of God's grace. (Rom.3:24). You have been saved by grace through faith (Eph.2:8). Choice (Rom.11:5-6), call (Gal.1:15, II Tim.1:9-10), Justification (Rom.5:21,6:23) and glorification (Heb.2:9-10) are the experiences related to salvation is given to us by the grace of God.
2. **Strengthens:** It empowers us to lead a victorious life from opposite circumstances and Satan's temptations. (II Cor.12:9, II Tim.2:1, I Pet.5:10)
3. **Maintains and nourishes:** The grace of God maintains us and also nourishes us. (Heb.13:9,Lk.2:40, Act.13:43,14:26, I Cor.15:10).
4. **Enriches:** Though he was rich, he became poor for our sake. How wonderful is God's grace!(II Cor.8:9). He has blessed us with all heavenly blessings. By the grace of God, we receive all blessings in the world to live.
5. **Gives us blessed hope** (Tit.2:11-12): The grace gives us the revelation of the glory of Jesus Christ in the second coming.

- 6. Blesses us with gifts:** The people, who are saved by the grace, will be blessed with the Holy Spirit and its gifts. (Eph.4:7). These gifts are given by the grace. So they are called gifts of grace. (I Cor. 12:1-14). Such gifts are the gift of knowledge of wisdom, of healing, of prophesies, of speaking in different tongues, of interpretation of tongues, etc. All these are given to the church by the grace of God. We must praise God for his grace manifested in various ways and no one has to take his grace in an ordinary way.

God's Compassion

Though God's grace and compassion are more or less same, they are different in meanings as we experience it. His compassion is God's dealing to our sin and misery. Compassion is God's divine quality. The divine quality of God as compassionate is described both in Old Testament and New Testament. In the Old Testament, God's compassion to Israelites is described 4 times that it is used in New Testament; but Israelites, due to disbelief, were unable to experience it. So the word of God was not useful to them. (Heb.4:2). We cannot measure God's compassion and it can be experienced through Jesus Christ. As we come nearer to the presence of God bravely, we can experience the taste of his compassion.

God's compassion is a reality. (Ps.103:3, 62:12,145:8, 86:15, Deut. 4:31).

Who will be manifested with God's compassion?

1. Those who are afflicted (Is.49:13-14). Even though a woman forgives her child, God will never forgive the afflicted ones. He will be compassionate to them.
2. God shows his mercy to those who fear, depends and walk whole heartedly in his presence. (Ex.20:6, Deut.7:9, II Chro.6:14, Ps.32:10:103, 8:11,13,17).
3. Whoever confesses and denounces the sins will find God's mercy. (Prov. 28:13).
4. Whoever calls on him truly (Ps.8:5,Rom.10:12).

How God manifests His mercy?

- 1) By forgiving sins of those who confess and renounce their sins (Ex.34:7, Is. 1:18, 55:7, Jn. 3:10, 4:2, 11; Mic. 7:18, 1 Jn. 1:9)
- 2) By showing steadfast love to those who do not confess sins and continue in it (Neh.9:16-18,26, 27, 30, 31) thus his mercy lead them for their repentance (Rom2:4)
- 3) By delivering the people from sickness, sadness (Ez.3:7, 9, 15 ;13, Ps. 48:1, Phili.2:27)
- 4) Being a shade at the time of oppression from the enemy (Is.25:4, 32:1-2, Ps.59:16).

God's Faithfulness

Like all other attributes of God, Faithfulness is also part of God's quality. All his qualities are one though we learn it differently God is self-formed, eternal and unchanging one. He is faithful. The meaning of the root word for faithfulness is to uphold. So "faithful" means one who can uphold or one can be trusted upon. God is not only omnipotent and omnipresent but also unchanging one. The power and knowledge of men will change. No man can be trusted. So God is faithful.

God's Faithfulness is a reality

The below mentioned Bible verses show God's faithfulness (Deut. 7:9; 32:4; 1 Cori. 1:9, 10:13; 1 Thess. 5:24; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Jn. 1:9).

The greatness of God's Faithfulness

- a. The compassion of God is fresh every morning and his faithfulness is great (Lam. 3:23).
- b. His faithfulness reaches to the skies (Ps. 36:5).
- c. He establishes his faithfulness in heaven (Ps. 89:2)
- d. All the deeds of God are faithful (Ps. 33:4).
- e. His faithfulness continues through all generations (Ps. 119:90).

How God revealed His Faithfulness

1. He reveals his faithfulness in maintaining his promises and laws (Heb. 10:23; 1 King 8:24-34). The promise given to David was fulfilled at the time of Solomon. Though the Israelites were unfaithful, God is faithful in his promises to their futures. The people of Israelites have been scattered into different parts of the world due to their sins (Deut. 28:64). But they had established their own nation this century (Deut. 28:64; 30:3-5). God is faithful and the promises, about Jesus Christ was also revealed (Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:22). Though we are unholy, he remains holy (2 Tim. 2:13).
2. God delivers his people from the hand of wicked (2 Thess. 3:3). He also provides a way out at the time of temptation (2 Tim. 2:13).
3. God makes his people unblemished at the second coming of Jesus Christ (1 Cori. 1:8; 1 Thess.5:23).
4. God punishes the people when they go away from the ways of God and also forgive their sins as they confess (Ps. 119:75; Jn. 1:9).

We can trust in God at any time because He is compassionate, gracious and faithful. Thus we will get our problems solved. All these qualities showed be reflected in our lives.

Questions

1. How the Grace and compassion of God is different from each other as they are related to us?
2. Explain the Grace of God.
3. What are the works of grace for us?
4. How God reveals his compassion?
5. Explain the greatness of God's faithfulness?
6. How God reveals his faithfulness?
7. How can you reflect compassion and faithfulness in your lives ?
