## Kingdom Feature, July 2017

## "The Gift of the Grace of God"

By Apostle Jerry Upton

The Divine Grace of God is the sovereign favor of God bestowed upon those who don't merit it, and for which no payment, works, or compensation is demanded by the recipient. Grace can not be earned, bought, or won by the recipient. It is a divine act of God and only God.

"And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." **Romans 11:6** 

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." **Ephesians** 2:8-9

## The Three Divine Characteristics of Divine Grace:

- **A.** It was planned and purposed before the world began: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." **2 Timothy 1:9**
- **B.** It cannot be earned, because it is free: "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:24
- C. It reigns over sin, when believed and freely accepted: "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:21

Two of the greatest examples of the grace of God are found:

- A. The thief on the cross: Luke 23:26-43
- B. The Lost Son (prodigal son): <u>Luke 15:11-32</u>

In order to experience and walk in the fullness of the grace of God, we must be delivered from:

- **A. Legalism:** examining and placing our value and the value of others on what we are doing for God, rather than focusing on what God is doing for us. **Ephesians 2:10**
- **B. Pride:** boasting of our accomplishments, good works, and deeds, rather than realizing that any good that comes out of our lives is orchestrated by the grace of God. <u>I Peter 5:5</u>
- **C. Jealously:** secretly resenting the good that happens for others, being bitter in heart because you don't feel that God is favoring you like others, refusing to rejoice when others are blessed and accomplish great things. **Song of Solomon 8:6**
- **D. Murmuring and Complaining:** continuously voicing displeasure of what is not taking place, how unfair life is, and how things are not going well in your life. <a href="#">I Corinthians 10:10-12</a>