

Kingdom Feature, August 2017

"How Do Grace and Mercy Work Together?"

By Apostle Jerry Upton

Foundation Scripture: [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

Two words that are used by many believers are Mercy and Grace. Without question the power of these two words are always felt when we speak them, sing them, proclaim them, and even decree them to others. Let's take a look at their meanings:

Mercy: defined by [Webster's Dictionary](#) as compassion or forbearance shown to an offender of subject; a blessing regarded as an act of divine favor or compassion; relief of distress; compassion shown to victims of misfortune.

Grace: defined by [Webster's Dictionary](#) as generosity shown by God to man; divine favor unmerited by man; disposition to kindness, favor, clemency or compassion; the display of kind treatment, usually on the part of a superior.

These are only English language definitions, but in order to see what mercy and grace really mean, let's go to God's Word and look at what the original definitions are.

The Hebrew word most often translated "mercy" in the Old Testament is Strong's #7356, **racham**, and is defined by [Strong's Hebrew Dictionary](#) as compassion; by extension, it is the womb (as cherishing the fetus); by implication, it is a maiden. [Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon](#) defines **racham** as: to love, to love deeply, to have mercy, to be compassionate, to have tender affection, to have compassion. It is from #7358, **rechem**, which is defined by the New American Standard dictionary as: the womb.

Another word translated as “mercy” is Strong’s #2603, **chanan**, and is defined by Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary as: to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow; or to implore (that is, to move to favor by petition). It is defined by the New American Standard Dictionary as: to show favor or to be gracious.

In the New Testament, there are two words most often translated “mercy”. The first is Strong’s #1656: **eleos**, mercy, pity, or compassion. It is used as a noun and is the thing itself. The other word has its source in **eleos** and Strong’s #1653: **eleew**, to have pity or mercy on, to show mercy.

According to Unger’s Bible Dictionary, “mercy” is defined as: “a form of love determined by the state of condition of it’s objects. Their state is one of suffering and need, while they may be unworthy or ill-deserving. Mercy is, at once the disposition of love respecting such, and the kindly ministry of love for their relief.”

Some of the examples of Mercy found in God’s Word are:

[Exodus 34:6-7](#) [Deuteronomy 4:31](#)

[Psalms 62:11-12](#) [Psalms 52:8](#)

[Psalms 86:5](#) [Psalms 108:4](#)

[Psalms 145:8-9](#) [II Corinthians 1:3-4](#)

(The giving nature of God releases His mercy; it is imparted to us in order to comfort us and also flow through us to comfort others. It is not just for us, it is a continual outpouring to others.)

How do we reap the fruits of Mercy? By sowing mercy to others!!!!!!

[Proverbs 3:1-4](#) [Proverbs 14:21-22](#) [Micah 5:8](#)

[Matthew 5:7](#) [Luke 6:20-36](#) [Hebrews 2:17](#)

The wisdom of God is released to a merciful heart: [James 3:13-17](#).

Mercy is a part of God's character and very being. God is full of mercy. So, we as God's people, are also to be full of mercy. We are to possess it and apply it in our lives and put it into practice daily in our contact with other people consistently.

What about Grace?

One English dictionary defined Grace as: "beneficence or generosity shown by God to man; especially divine favor unmerited by man: the mercy of God as distinguished from His justice."

Nelson's Bible Dictionary defines "grace" as: "Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves."

In the Old Testament of the King James Version, the English word "grace" is translated thirty-nine times. In the New American Standard Version of the Bible, the English word "grace" is only translated eight times. Virtually all other thirty-one times, the Hebrew word is translated "favor". Why the difference? Let's look at the meaning.

The Hebrew word most often translated "grace" in the King James version is Strong's #2580, **chen**: graciousness, kindness, favor. In the Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, its meaning is given as "favor, grace, charm." In the New American Standard Dictionary, the Hebrew word **chen** is defined as coming from the root **chanan**, Strong's #2603, which is to show favor, or to be gracious. In most cases in the Old

Testament, the context shows us it is used in a manner implying the showing of favor.

In the New Testament, the English word translated “grace” is used more than 120 times. In almost every instance, it is translated from the Greek word **charis**, Strong’s #5485 and is defined as “graciousness of manner or act; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude.”

Thayer’s Greek Dictionary brings out even more shades of meaning. It says grace is: “what affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness; grace is good will, loving-kindness, favor; grace is used of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues.”