Reflections on the Character of God

The reflection section has 5 scriptures that pertain to this week's aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections give you 2 more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

Friend

Reflection: Exodus 33:7-11; Proverbs 18:24; Matthew 11:19; Luke 19:1-10; James 2:23

Life Response: 1 Samuel 18:1-4; John 15:13-15



A Discipleship Journey – Amazing Grace Sanctifying Power to Live Holy Lives! – July 11, 2021

Three aspects of Grace:

Grace that comes before our salvation prevenient grace

Grace received at our salvation justifying grace

Grace that empowers us to live holy lives sanctifying grace

Sanctification – is to be set apart for the purposes of God.

"For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!" Rom. 6:14,15

Grace instructs us: Titus 2:11-14

To deny ungodliness -I Thess. 1:9

To deny worldly desires - I Cor. 6:9 – 11

To live sensibly - Rom. 6:16 present yourselves = willing choice

To live righteously - Rom. 6:17,18

To live godly - Rom. 6:22

The grace of God causes us to look (anticipate) the <u>hope</u> of Christs appearing.

This hope:

"Redeems us from every lawless deed" "Purifies us as His people" "Gives us our Christ like identity" "Gives us a love for others"

Applying God's enabling grace:

"As each one has received a special gift, <u>employ</u> it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." - I Peter 4:10

"After you have <u>suffered</u> for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you." - I Peter 5:10

Paul's "thorn in the flesh". "And He has said to me, '*My grace is* <u>sufficient</u> for you, for <u>power</u> is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well <u>content</u> with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong." - II Cor. 12:9,10

"But by the grace of God <u>I am what I am</u>, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me." - I Cor. 15:10

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being <u>transformed</u> into the same image from GLORY TO GLORY, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." - II Cor. 3:18

Conclusion: The grace of God can save us but only if we <u>respond</u> to it. The grace of God can sustain us but only if we <u>trust</u> it. The grace of God can sanctify us but only if we <u>surrender</u> to it.

Community Group Discussion Questions

- 1) What is the difference between Justifying grace and sanctifying grace?
- 2) Having been set free from sin, what is our responsibility to stand against sinning as a Christian?
- 3) How does a Christian live in the world, but not follow the desires that the world presents?
- 4) What effect does the hope of Christ's return have on living the Christian life?
- 5) What can we do to apply God's grace to live victoriously?
- 6) Why does God allow us to go through trials and difficulties?
- 7) How would you help a new believer to grow in their walk with the Lord?