

GRACE EMPOWERS US

Grace is the PROVISION of God; FINISHED WORK of God;
UNCONDITIONAL FAVOR of God; ENABLING POWER of God

I. Grace doesn't change God's standards

- A. Today's views: 1). No standard (lawlessness); 2). Adjust it (compromise); 3). Pretend we meet it (hypocrisy); 4. Give up under it (works attitude/trying to meet it in own strength)
- B. The lawless always cry legalism at the mere existence of a standard
 - 1. Legalism is not law (the existence of a law or the Law of Moses).
 - 2. Legalism is not the existence of a standard, (obligation, or a requirement).
 - 3. Legalism is not regularity (or regular spiritual disciplines).
 - 4. Legalism can be a wrong fleshly motive or attitude toward a law, standard, or regularity for the purpose of exalting oneself, self-glorying, and judging others by it.

II. Grace empowers us to meet God's standards

- A. Under grace sufficient power is supplied/ a new enabling power; ability or power to meet the responsibility 2 Cor. 3:5-7; 1 Cor. 15:10
- B. A new nature Ezekiel 36:26, 27; Eph. 4:24; 2 Peter 1:3

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III. Grace changed things

A. The order of Divine blessing and human obligation

- Under Law: human obligation 1st - Divine blessing 2nd
- Under Grace: Divine blessing 1st - human obligation 2nd

B. The power depended upon to fulfill the obligation

- Under Law: man's work/fleshly energy
- Under Grace: Jesus work/Divine nature, life, and spirit within