

# Lifeline Bible Church Bible Study Outline



# All By Grace

## GRACE & PRIVILEGES STUDY ONE: DEFINITIONS OF GRACE & PRIVILEGE

### **GRACE:**

1. Kindness shown by God to humanity\*\*
2. Enablement to do something\*\*
3. Another chance to re-do/correct assignment not done properly in previous times and to finish it
4. Quality of behavior that is pleasant, polite and fitting for a given assignment
5. Tenderness, softness, ease, elegance required for tasks and duties
6. Strength physical and spiritual: fore-sight, insight\*\*
7. Helpful attitudes and resources for effectiveness and efficiency
8. Free mercy\*\*
9. Christian virtue: honesty, morality, goodness, principle, sincerity, uprightness, integrity, fairness, decency, honor, justice,

### **PRIVILEGE:**

1. Favor granted to someone or to a few people amongst many \*\*
2. Special right or advantage which ordinarily would have belonged to rich, powerful, high class people\*\*

### **FOCUS OF STUDY:**

1. Kindness shown by God to humanity\*\*
2. Enablement to do something\*\* (Special gift, talents and abilities not common to all).
3. Strength physical and spiritual: fore-sight, insight\*\*
4. Free mercy: without any string attached
5. Favor granted to someone or to a few people amongst many \*\*
6. Special right or advantage which ordinarily would have belonged to rich, powerful, high class people

## **SLEEP AND REST:**

**TEXTS:** Ps.4:8, Gen.2:2, Ex.20:8-11 Gen. 15:12-1 (Abraham); 28:10-17 (Jacob), Gen.37:5-9 (Joseph), Job 4:1; 33:15-18, Matt.1:18-21; 2:19-21 (Job); Acts 12:6-10 (Peter); Acts 16:9-10 (Peter)

### **SLEEP:**

1. To rest with your eyes closed body not active, mind not conscious but still breathing.
2. Not medical inducement on account of local or general anesthesia.
3. Natural God given rest that comes on account of tiredness or fatigue after a day's work.

\*\* At creation, virtually all creatures were endowed with this grace or benevolence by God. After the fall sleep became something that man had to deliberately crave for.

\*\* GOD IS THE ONLY BEING THAT EXISTS WHO DOESN'T NEED SLEEP - Ps.121:3-4

Sleep and rest are gifts/ordinances from God. Gen.Ps.4:8, Gen.2:2, 15:12Ex.20:8-11 Both are -

### **TYPES OF SLEEP:**

1. Natural
  2. Spiritual - separation from God
- Both natural and spiritual sleep could be:
3. Temporary
  4. Permanent

**Focus of this lesson is on natural sleep and taking of rest**

### **WHEN WE SLEEP:**

1. Creative and re-creative work is carried out in our bodies - Gen.2:21-22
2. Refreshment/revival to the body soul and spirit occurs
3. Strength is renewed
4. Hope is restored
5. A way to reduce our activities/restlessness which often distorts God's voice or prevent us from hearing him out rightly
6. Accidents, injuries, disasters, tragedies of all kinds are averted
7. Tension, strife, aggression, tussle in relationships are tempered down
8. Comfort and consolation comes to those mourning
9. Ideas to tackle problems or challenges often come during sleep or in waking hours
10. Divine encounter in form of dreams, visions, trances etc come from the spirit realm\*\*

Gen. 15:12-1 (Abraham); 28:10-17 (Jacob), Gen.37:5-9 (Joseph), Gen.41:1- 7 (Pharaoh); Job 4:1; 33:15-18, Matt.1:18-21; 2:19-21 (Job); Dan.2:1-3;4:1-1-18; (Nebuchadnezzar); Dan.7:1-14; Acts 12:6-10 (Peter); Acts 16:9-10 (Peter)

**These divine encounters may come as: warnings, instruction, guidance, revelation of future plans and events, need of help for people not necessarily known or familiar to us or as a wakeup call to pray/intercede for people.**

**CAUTION: Too much sleep on account of indolence or slothfulness is condemned by God Prov.6:9-11, 24:33-34.**

**CONCLUSION:** The devil will continue to work very hard to bring us into situations that will deny us of sleep whether on account of our jobs, life experiences or even in our relationships. He will try to fill our lives and schedules with gadgets that will take sleep and rest from us. His ultimate goal is to bring chaos into our lives and ensure we don't enjoy life as God expects.

**GRACE AND PRIVILEGES TWO:**  
**THE GRACE & PRIVILEGE OF WORK - Rom.9:15-16**

**WORK DEFINED**

Work is effort, exertion, duty, errand, project, calling, career, employment, job, livelihood, post, profession, trade and labour.

**Effort:** Physical or mental energy needed/used to do something

**Exertion:** To use power or influence to make something happen

**Duty:** Something that must be done because it is your moral or legal responsibility

**Errand:** Job/work done for someone usually involving going somewhere

**Calling:** Strong impression /feeling (usually by a higher authority often spiritual in nature) to do something

**Career:** Period of time in one's life pursuing a purpose, profession or to do a job/doing a particular thing

**Project:** A planned piece of work that is designed to bring improvement on something/someone/group of people /situation

**Employment/Livelihood:** Work especially when it is done to earn money (gain)

**Job:** A particular piece of work that you have to or must do.

**Post:** A job, a very important one especially in a big organization

**Profession:** A type of job that needs special training or skill and requiring a high level of education: To be versed in the knowledge of God's word and rightly apply it to our work schedule is the best from of education

**Trade:** To do business with the sole intention of making profit.

**Labor:** To do a hard task.

**SOME THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT WORK IN SCRIPTURE**

1. God (the Trinity) were the first to work and they give us an example to follow - Gen.1:26; Jn.5:17,19; Lk.6:40; Jn.13:13-16
2. To work is to be like God and partner with Him - Gen.1:28; Jn.5:17; 1Cor.3:9
3. Angels and all heavenly hosts work too - Ps.103:20; Heb.1:13-14
4. God hates idleness - Matt.20:1-8; Rom.12:11; Prov.10:4-5; 12:24
5. God has set standards for His work force - Matt.22:10-13
6. God's work/ service is open to all but not all invited heed the call - Matt.22:14
7. Not all who heed the call to God's work force will finish or finish well. Some workers will fall along the way - Matt.25:1-13; 2Tim.4:10; 6:9-10; Lk.9:62;
8. There is dearth of labourers in God's vineyard - Matt.9:37-38
9. It is human though not wise to give excuses not to work e.g. Moses - Ex.3:11;4:1,10; Lk.14:16-24
10. Our excuses not to work will be the bases of punishment and judgment. They are never tenable before God no matter how reasonable they sound to us and those around us - Matt.25:24-27
11. Work is never always easy; it is often associated with difficulties, pain and hardships that we are tempted to throw in the trowel - Lk.22:41-42

12. Every work has time allotted to it. There comes a time when it will be too late to work – Jn.9:4; Rev.14:15-16
13. If we reject God's offer of service; He will hire others - Matt.22:2-10
14. God has not called us to work for free but His service requires our free will. He forces no one to work. He is not a slave driver or task master - Lk.10:7; 1Tim.5:18, Ezek.22:30; Isa.6:8
15. He gives us tasks according to our abilities - Matt.25:14-28; Rom.12:5-8
16. Rewards here and in eternity would be based on work done - Matt.20:8; 25:14-28; Rev.20:12; 22:12.

**CONCLUSION:** There is plenty of work to be done in God's vineyard and very few people available. The 80/20 principle applies sadly in house too. Please heed His beckon any time He comes calling. It is a grace and privilege to serve. It pays to serve too.

**GRACE AND PRIVILEGES THREE:**  
**GRACE & PRIVILEGE OF EDUCATION**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Contrary to what we now take as fundamental human rights or more specifically the rights due children, education used to be for privileged few. The criteria for choice may be based on gender, wealth (affluence) power, position in the family e.t.c.

Education involves -

1. **Literacy:** Ability to read and write
2. **Civilization:** Changing the ways of a primitive people to those found in more advanced setting skillfully and or subtly.
3. **Sophistication:** Having a great deal of experience and worldly wisdom

**HISTORY OF WRITING: Rev. 5:1-6; 1Cor.14: 1-5.**

Writing is an invention of man to express his ideas and experiences so that they can be passed down from one generation to another. It is a way to document history, preserve traditions and culture, discoveries and possibly make projections for the future. Instructions, rules, regulations, ordinances, commandments and code of conduct in all spheres of life are preserved through writing.

**\*\* READING AND WRITING OFTEN GO TOGETHER**

God from the creation story was and has always being prepared to communicate with man. He condescended to our low estate by adopting human language as a means of communicating with us. There are heavenly and angelic languages not comprehensible by man - **Rev.5:1-6; 1Cor.14:1-5; 2Cor.12:1-4; Dan.5:5-10, 26-28.** The numerous human languages we have today are as a result of the first mass rebellion - **Gen. 11:1-9**

\*\* If God then chose to reach out to us through any of these languages we ought to count it:

**First** as a grace and privilege given to all humanity

**Secondly** a double privilege to those who can read and write their language

**Thirdly** manifold privileges to those who can speak, read, and or write more than one language.

For any of these categories of people ability to read and or write ( literacy)together with other aspects of education then becomes a case of to whom much is given much is expected - **Matt.25:29**

By His providence, the bulk of God's revelation was given to a people who had inherited an alphabet ripe for universal use so that those who want can learn to read the sacred books. Writing was invented in 3100 B.C.

**IMAGINE HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE HAD THIS GRACE AND PRIVILEGE SINCE THEN!**

**YOU ARE ONE OF SUCH PEOPLE!!!**

**WHAT TO DO WITH THE GRACE AND PRIVILEGE OF EDUCATION**

1. Be grateful to God for it. Not everybody can do so - 1Thess.5:18
2. There should be no occasion for pride or arrogance - 1Cor.4:6-8, Rom.12:3

3. Surrender your education: acquired skills and literacy to God for His use - **2Pet.1:21, 2Tim.3:16.**

(Moses wrote the Pentateuch, David and a few others wrote the Psalms, Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs though in regrets, Paul wrote a major part of the new Testament, Peter, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John to mention a few amongst many other all wrote the books attributed to their names. Remember all these men had their vocation and profession. Paul was a lawyer, Peter a fisher man, Luke a doctor, Mathew a civil servant, Mark a historian, Amos was a shepherd, Daniel was a highly placed government official.

4. Your education show cased in literacy is a chance for you to receive and document revelations from God. Take note that all the people mentioned above not only received revelations from God, they also documented them in writings.

### **BENEFITS OF EDUCATION**

1. A chance to be God's tool to influence and shape other people's lives both now and for posterity. Writers are great influencers whether negatively or positively. What you read lingers on in your mind for a long time and sometimes to your grave. That is what we enjoy now from the holy writ.
2. An opportunity to renew your mind. We become like minded and partners with God. Our minds at the point of salvation were no more clean slates no matter how godly our background. There had been some defilement. The extent only differs from person to person - **Rom.12:1-2; 2Cor. 5:17**
3. A call to partake of heavenly wisdom - **Gen.3:16; Jam.3:15, 17; 1Cor.1:26-30; Ps.119:98**
4. A tool to know God's mind, repent if need be and to fear Him - **Deut.17:19; Josh.8:34-35**
5. We are blessed by reading the scriptures - **Rev.1:3**
6. We are equipped for spiritual warfare - **Eph.6:12; 2Cor.10:4; Matt.4:1-11**
7. God's word is the best tool for correction, reproof, and training so we don't end in destruction - **2Tim.3:16; Prov.29:1**
8. We are encouraged in our challenges and life sojourn by the accounts of the saints who have gone ahead - **Heb.11**
9. Given a chance to have understanding beyond human ability - **Ps.119:99-100**

**CONCLUSION: Your level of education and literacy is your level of accountability to God because it is a measure of your sphere of influence.**

**What do you read? What do you write? - Rev.22:12; 2 Cor.5:10**

**Imagine "Christianity" without the Bible: a nation without a constitution, schools without curriculum. With education came science, technology and computer literacy; all of which can be used positively for mass communication of the gospel. The average educated Christian today is better advantaged to reach more people with the resources at his / her disposal than in ancient times. Unfortunately these resources rather than being assets have become distractions and in some cases to propagate wrong doctrines – Jn.5:39; Hagg.1:1-9**

**GRACE AND PRIVILEGES FOUR:**  
**GRACE & PRIVILEGE OF FRIENDSHIP - Prov.17:17; 18:24**

A friend is a close acquaintance. Someone you like and know fairly well.

- Someone with whom thoughts, and aspirations are shared
- A likeminded fellow. Thoughts could be fears, agitations ,worries, failures, successes, sorrow sadness, or shame
- Someone with whom you share/declare your assets and liabilities
- Someone you confess your faults, weaknesses, failures and disappointments to
- Someone upon whose shoulders you can cry.
- A burden bearer carrying your pain and sorrow as though they were his
- An empathizer not a sympathizer
- Someone who rebukes, corrects, admonishes, reproofs, disciplines you with the intention to bring out the best in you. **DOES NOT BRING /SHARE ONLY PROBLEMS**

- **SOMETHINGS IN FRIENDSHIP**

- \*Wounds and pain - Prov.27:6; Zech.13:6, Ps.38:11

- \* Abandonment - Lam.1:2

- \* Betrayal - Mk.14:10

- \* Misunderstandings – Job 16:20; 19:14

- \* Quarrels and fights

- **WARNINGS ON FRIENDSHIP**

- Mind your company - 1Cor.15:33
- Avoid unequal yoke - 2Cor. 6:14-18
- Flee from all appearances of evil - 1The.5:22
- Avoid the brother of questionable/doubtful testimony and character - 1Cor.5:9-11

**TIPS TO IMPROVE FRIENDSHIP IN SCRIPTURES**

- Love at all times, never forsakes(dump or abandon) - Prov. 17:17;18:24
- Give gifts - Prov.19:6
- Give hearty, sincere, truthful, honest and godly counsel - Prov.27:9
- Add good and godly quality to your life - Prov.27:17
- Love the unlovable(despised, castigated)\* - Hosea 3:1,11:9
- Engage positively and productively. Help you to fight idleness positively - Matt.20:13
- Strict, disciplined, principled, firm, uncompromising on good and godly virtues, just - Prov.22:12
- Save and deliver in emergency - Lk.11:15 at “mid night”. WE all experience mid nights periodically
- Pray even when hurt and despitefully used - Job42:10; Matt.5:44; Lk.6:28
- Forgive from the heart
- Avoid undue repetition of past offences and hurts - Prov.17:9



**GRACE AND PRIVILEGES FIVE:**  
**GRACE & PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER - Luke 11:1-2; Esther 4:11, 16; 5:1-2**

Prayer is often defined as communion with God. Man in his history started with a profound communion and fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden until the **GREAT FALL**. How long the fellowship lasted was not disclosed in the holy writ. Have you ever wondered what that fellowship and communion was like? I believe it is nothing we can fathom now. We would get to know when we get to heaven.

Before the fall man's fellowship with God was not based on what he could get or an occasion to bring needs and challenges to Him. **WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WAS ALL ABOUT?** The fall brought a major setback to us. Jesus came to breach the gap, but as long as we are in the flesh, we may never enter into the fullness of the fellowship and communion God has for us.

**KEY WORDS IN PRAYER**

**COMMUNE:** A group of people living together and sharing everything they own.

**COMMUNION** is the sharing of thoughts and feelings.

**FELLOWSHIP** is friendliness. It is an association of people with common interests.

**PRAYER RE-VIEWED**

1. A time to appreciate God for the honour bestowed on us - **Isa.1:18; 53:1-10; Jn.15:16a; Rom.5:6-8; 9:15&16**
2. Honouring God's invitation - **Lk.11:1-2**. Note "when ye pray". God has given us the freedom to approach Him. He has authorized us to speak to Him. We are permitted to and expected to speak to and with Him. **\*Compare with when you have appointments with the "earthly kings"**. You must never speak first; wait until you are spoken to. You must never ask royalty anything; you **ONLY** answer royalty. In your reply you must add the prefix such as: "Kabiyesi", "My lord", "Your majesty" e.t.c. sometimes long hours of rehearsals are required and you are tutored on what, when, how, where to talk. In some cultures you dare not turn your back to the King or queen when leaving his/her presence. What a protocol!!
3. An opportunity to come to God as His child - **Lk.11:1-2**. Note "Our Father". No need to wait for an angel to introduce you. No need to book an appointment. No need for somebody's complementary card as Nigerians do. No need to package yourself." God does not address us the way we are dressed"!!!  
Come **JUST AS YOU ARE!** - **Isa.1:18**.
4. An opportunity ( a grace and privilege )to share our thoughts and feelings with God and wait for Him to do same with us from His own end. A time to reason together.  
**Isa.1:18a; Gen.18:17-33**

5. A time or means to befriend God and strengthen our relationship with Him and vice versa. **Ex.33:11; Jn.15:13 & 15**. It could be a time to be alone with Him - **Gen.32:24; Matt.26:36; Mk.1:35**
6. A way of continuously associating with God against all odds & at all times - **2Cor.6:17-18**
7. A way of building common interest and sharing secrets with God; God has interests, desires and secrets too - **Amos 3:7; Acts13:2**
8. A way of sharing all we are, own and ever hope to be with God. We need to remember however that we owe ALL to Him - **Jn.3:27; 15:1-5; 1Cor.4:7**
9. A chance to cooperate with God and work with Him to change our world - **1Cor.3:9; 1Tim.2:1-2;8; Acts 4:24-31**
10. A time of spiritual warfare - **Gen.32:24-29; Dan.10:13; Matt.26:36; Eph.6:12.**
11. A time to receive heaven's assistance - **Matt.4:11;Dan.10:13;Heb.1:13; Jn.15:13&15**
12. A time to be refreshed and strengthened - **Matt.4:11.**

**CONCLUSION:** Life is too short to be lived without Divine assistance. It is too long to stand alone. It is too simple to make avoidable mistake and too complex to walk through like a fool. God has given us the grace and privilege of prayer. May He helped you not to take this grace in vain.

**GRACE AND PRIVILEGES SIX**  
**PRAYER 2: THE NAME OF JESUS IN PRAYER**

Prayer has been defined as communion and fellowship with God. It is a privilege for a man to be able to do this. One thing amongst others that is however vital to our prayers in this dispensation is THE NAME OF JESUS.

**NAME EXPLAINED:** A name is a means of identity and often connotes the character of the person bearing it. This is the reason why care should be taken in the types of names given to children.

The name of Jesus is part of the grace and privileges we have as Christians especially in the place of prayer.

**WHAT THE NAME OF JESUS' DOES IN PRAYER**

1. Grants us boldness and confidence to approach God. **Heb.4:15-16**
2. It is the seal of our prayers that guarantees us an answer from God. **Jn.14:13**
3. It inspires hope, confidence and faith
4. It confers authority, strengthens and empowers us.
5. We obtain forgiveness in His name. **Act.2:38**
6. Healing, understanding, insight, foresight. **Acts.3: 6;4:18**
7. Brings discomfort to the wicked, lawless, disobedient. **Acts. 26:9**
8. Irresistible to the powers of darkness. **Acts 16:16-18;19:14;Phil.2:10-11; Eph.6:12**
9. It shall be our eternal seal. **Rev.22:4**

**SOME NAMES OF JESUS**

1. Emmanuel (God with us). **Mattw.1:23**
2. Jesus Christ. The anointed one that save people from their sins. **Mattw.1:16,21**
3. Wonderful, Counsellor, the Everlasting Father. **Is.9:6**
4. Prince of peace. **Is.9:6**
5. The Word of God. **Jn.1:1,Rev.3:14; 19:13**
6. The Faithful and true witness. **Rev.1:5;3:14**
7. The First begotten from the dead. **Rev.1:5;1Thes.4:16**
8. He that lived was dead and now alive forevermore. **Rev.1:18**
9. He that has the keys of hell and death has the key of David **Rev.1:18;3:7**
10. He that opens and no man shuts, shuts and no man opens. **Rev.3:7**
11. The Prince of the kings of the earth. **Rev.1:5**
12. The only Potentate (only powerful and strong). **1Tim.6:15**
13. The King of kings and Lord of lords. **1Tim.6:15,Rev.17:14;19:16**
14. The Alpha and Omega(Beginning and the end).**Rev.1:8,11,22:13**
15. The beginning of the creation of God. **Rev.3:14**
16. The Holy and True one. **Rev.3:7**
17. The Lion of the tribe of Judah. **Rev. 5:1-9,\*\*1Pet.5:8**
18. The Root of David. **Rev.5:1-9**

19. The Lamb of God. **Rev.5:1-9.**
20. The King of saints. **Rev.15:3**
21. The Son of man, yet Son of God. **Rev. 3:7; 14:14.**

**GRACE AND PRIVILEGES 7**  
**THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRAYER**

We have defined prayer as communing and fellowshiping with God. Experience however has shown that prayer in its various forms has never been an easy task. No man by his own ability and strength can make good success in the place of prayer. We all need help and enablement. This only comes from the Holy Spirit.

Man at creation was privileged to have God's breath (Spirit) given to him. This was lost at the fall but restores to us in Christ Jesus. It is a priceless endowment for mortal man to have God's Holy Spirit.

**WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES IN PRAYER**

1. Draws us to God, helping us to see our insufficiency and inadequacy **Rom.8:15**
2. Helps our infirmities (frailty, human nature and weakness). **Rm.8:26**
3. Intercedes for us according to the will of God. **Rm.8:26-27**. He adds depth, power and faith
4. Intercedes through us. **Rm.8:26-27; 1Tim.2:1-2**
5. Calls us to pray for others and sometimes to couple our prayers with fasting for effectiveness. **Acts13:2, 1Tim.2:1-2**.
6. Reveal God's mind to us. **Jn.16:14-15**
7. Shuts out the devil and his cohorts as we pray. **1Cor.14:2**. Please note however that praying in tongues is an integral part of praying in and with the Holy Spirit.
8. Helps us to avoid vain repetitions and babblings.
9. Comforts us **Jn.14: 14-16,26**
10. Teaches us to pray and remind us of God's words, promises, instructions to live (the scriptures). **Jn.14:26**. It is important that we read, meditate upon and memorize scriptures in order to be effective in prayer. The Holy Spirit can only remind us of the scriptures in our spirit man. The scripture is the Christian's constitution written by God.
11. Guide us into all truth. **Jn. 16:13**
12. Gives us willingness and strength to persevere in the place of prayer. **2Cor.12:9,1Thes.5:17,Lk.18:1**

The enablement of the Holy Spirit in prayer is not to meet our personal needs alone. God is waiting earnestly to see us bow our knees in prayer so His hands can be stretched forth to change the world. He has given the Holy Spirit. **Is.62:1; 6b, Lam.2:19**