

WORD

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. PHILIPPIANS 4:13

WHAT

Contrary to what some people would think that grace makes us work less and depend more on how God would move and act on our behalf, the grace of God enables us to live productive lives. How can the grace of God enable us to be fruitful, effective, and successful in everything we do?

1 The grace of God enables us to work hard.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:9,10

Paul knew that it was only by God’s grace that he became an apostle. Before meeting Christ, he persecuted the church! But by God’s grace, he had the desire and strength to work harder than all the other apostles. In his lifetime, the Apostle Paul was able to start fourteen to twenty churches and wrote thirteen letters in the New Testament. Is it a bad thing to work hard? When does it become in line with God’s will?

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2 The grace of God enables us to serve other people with our gifts.

¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. ROMANS 12:1

A spiritual “gift” is a special imparting of a capacity to serve the Body of Christ or reach those without Christ. It is a supernatural ability or talent given by the Holy Spirit to do God’s work. The word “gift” comes from the same root as “grace” meaning freely given or a favor bestowed. Who should benefit from our gifts? How can you use your gifts to bless others?

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3 The grace of God enables us to share the gospel to the lost.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ . . . EPHESIANS 3:7,8

Since we are saved by grace and not our works, God’s grace and love upon us motivate us to share the Good News to those who do not know God yet. Why do you think did Paul fling his life to spreading the gospel? What reasons do we have to keep sharing about Jesus?

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