

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

What Is God's Perpetual Gift To Us?

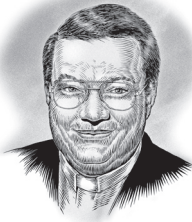
Know This...

Everything good we accomplish and receive flows from the grace of God. Even our faith in Jesus Christ is a gift of His grace. Without it, we are helpless; for on our own we are incapable of turning away from sin. Grace gives us the means of participating in the life of Christ from the moment we are baptized until the moment we die. If we die in a state of grace, we spend eternity with God in heaven.



John: Grace is favor, free and undeserved help from God that enables us to respond to His call. Grace is God's perpetual gift to us. Individual achievement is a gift of grace.

James: When the Apostle Paul complained about the pain and suffering he had to endure, God said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."



John: God's grace gives us the strength, courage, and perseverance we need to participate in the life of God: to do His will, to avoid sin, and to grow in holiness.

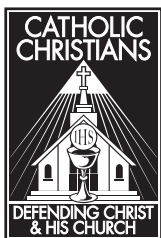
James: There are two forms of grace. Actual grace is a steady stream of divine assistance that enlightens our will and intellect so we can turn away from sin and come to faith in Jesus.

John: Sanctifying grace, unlike actual grace, resides in the soul. This gratuitous gift is not given to everyone; but to those who are free of original and mortal sin.

James: Grace produces two responses: faith, then good works. Grace moves us to participate in God's life, but it does not compel us.

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"Jesus was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him... His own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God... And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John [the Baptist] testified to Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because He existed before me.' From His fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.'" Jn 1:10-12, 14-17

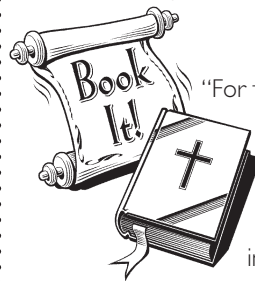
"Moved by grace, man turns toward God and away from sin." ccc 2018 The Apostles taught that our good works flow from the grace of God. Around 200 A.D., St. Clement of Alexandria wrote, "A man by himself, working and toiling at freedom from passion, achieves nothing. But if he plainly shows his great desire and complete sincerity in this, he will attain it by the addition of the power of God. Indeed, God conspires with willing souls. But if they abandon their eagerness, the Spirit which is bestowed by God is also restrained. To save the unwilling is to exercise compulsion; but to save the willing belongs to Him who bestows grace."



BE ATTITUDES



"Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase." St. Rose of Lima "Christ loves a soul that is in a state of grace with an immense love; He ardently desires to unite Himself with it. This is what Holy Communion does." St. Alphonsus Liguori "God guides all by the action of His grace. Therefore do not be lazy or lose heart, but call to God day and night to entreat [Him] to send you help from above to teach you what to do." St. Anthony the Great



"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom 6:23 "For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world." Titus 2:11-12 "Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more." Rom 5:20b

Almighty and Ever-loving Father in heaven, You gave us Your greatest and most precious gift: Your Son. Through Your sacraments, our prayers, and our works of charity, we receive Your free, undeserved, and perpetual gift of grace. I acknowledge and accept that I am helpless without You. I pray that I will always respond to Your gift in a way that pleases You. I ask this through my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

