

With the Help of God's Grace

CONCEPTS OF FAITH

What is grace?

God's life in us.

How does grace help us?

Grace takes away original sin and helps us to overcome some of the effects of original sin.

Grace helps us to know the truth about God.

Grace helps us to choose to love with our wills.

Grace helps us to use self-discipline.

Grace helps us to act as images of God.

Grace makes it possible for us to live forever with God in heaven.

How do the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity help us?

They help us to believe in God, trust in God, and love God.

What are the principal moral virtues that help us to lead moral, or good, lives?

Prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

Vocabulary

grace: God's life in us.

theological virtues: the supernatural powers that help us to believe in God (faith), to trust in Him (hope), and to love Him (charity).

moral virtues: the supernatural powers that help us to lead moral, or good, lives.

Why does the Lord come to us? To give His grace. He wants "all men to be saved and to know the truth". He wishes everyone to share in His truth, His love, His mystery, His divine life itself.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

A STORY OF FAITH



Saul of Tarsus

ONE man who received God's grace was Saul of Tarsus, a Jew. Saul persecuted Jesus' followers after Jesus ascended into heaven and after the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles. Saul went on a journey to the city of Damascus. He intended to find the followers of Jesus who were there and bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. On the way to Damascus, a bright light from the sky flashed all around him. Saul fell to the ground, and he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do." The men who were traveling with Saul heard the voice, but they could see no one. Saul got up from the ground. When he opened his eyes, he couldn't see anything, so the men took Saul's hands and guided him to Damascus. For three days, Saul didn't eat or drink anything, and he couldn't see.

Jesus appeared in a vision to one of His disciples, Ananias. Jesus asked Ananias to go to Saul, for Jesus had chosen Saul to teach the Gentiles—people who are not Jews—about Him. Ananias went to Saul and placed his hands on him, saying, “Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit.” Saul immediately regained his sight, and he was baptized. Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he went out and began to teach the people about God. Paul received the gift of grace from the Holy Spirit. With the help of God’s grace, Paul was able to know the truth about God and to share the truth about God with others. With the help of God’s grace, Paul taught the people about God, proclaiming that Jesus is God the Son.

—based on Acts 9:1–22, 13:9

Like Paul, we need the help of God’s grace. We receive grace in the sacraments. Grace takes away original sin. With the help of God’s grace, we can overcome some of the effects of original sin. Grace helps us to say “yes” to God. With the help of God’s grace, our minds are able to know the truth about God. With the help of God’s grace, we are able to make loving choices with our wills. Grace helps us to use self-discipline in what we say and do. With the help of God’s grace, we are able to act as images of God. Grace makes it possible for us to live forever with God in heaven.

Complete the following sentences with the correct answer.

1. We receive grace in the _____.
2. We can overcome some of the effects of _____ with the help of God’s grace.
3. _____ takes away original sin.
4. Grace helps us to use _____ in what we say and do.
5. Grace helps us to say _____ to God.
6. With the help of God’s grace we are able to make _____ with our wills.
7. Grace makes it possible for us to live forever with God in _____.
8. With the help of God’s grace, our minds are able to know the _____ about God.
9. With the help of God’s grace, we are able to act as _____ of God.

The Theological Virtues

If we are to love as God loves, we must share God's life. Grace is God's life in us. Grace enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, and helps us use self-discipline in the things we say and do. Grace helps us act as images of God. Grace makes it possible for us to live forever with God in heaven.

When we received grace in Baptism, we also received the theological virtues.

The **theological virtues** are supernatural powers that help us to believe in God (faith), to trust in Him (hope), and to love Him (charity). By believing in God, trusting in God, and loving God, we can get to heaven.

In your own words, tell what each theological virtue is.

Faith

Hope

Charity

The Moral Virtues

When we received grace in Baptism, we also received the moral virtues. The **moral virtues** are the supernatural powers that help us to lead moral, or good, lives. They help us to treat persons and things in the right way—the way images of God should.

The principal moral virtues are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

Prudence helps us make a right choice in a specific situation.

Justice helps us to give people what belongs to them.

Fortitude helps us do the right thing, even when it is difficult.

Temperance helps us control our desires and to use correctly the things that please our senses.