

Introduction:**Text:** 1 Peter 4:7-11**A. The blessings and benefits in receiving and experiencing God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus.**

1. **Saving** us from sin, death and condemnation (2 Cor. 5:21. Rom. 8:1)
2. **Forgiving** us and removing our guilt and shame (Eph. 1:7)
3. **Adopting** us as His children and giving us eternal life (John 3:16, Rom. 8:15)

B. The grateful responses of a person who has genuinely received and experienced the grace of God, will be gracious in their... (1 Peter 4:7-11)

1. **Ways**
 - a. The way they receive others (1 Peter 4:8-9; Col. 3:12)
 - b. The way they forgive (Col. 3:13)
2. **Words**
 - a. They speak **life** to others (Col 4:6)
 - b. They speak the **truth** of God's word in love (1 Peter 4:11, Eph 4:15; 2 Tim. 3:16)
3. **Works**
 - a. They do good by **servicing** others (1 Peter 4:10-11)
 - b. They serve with the right **motive** (1 Peter 5:2-4)
4. **Worship**
 - a. They give all glory to God (1 Peter 4:11)

Conclusion:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

1. Being gracious or big-hearted, God loves the world, but He loves people individually and He expects people to respond to His love personally.
 - a. Why does God make believing in His Son a personal decision and responsibility for receiving His gift of eternal life?
 - b. Have you received God's gift of eternal life in Christ yet?
 - c. How does believing in Jesus Christ make you gracious toward others, beginning with those you could be gracious to?

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us (Rom. 5:5).

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law (Gal. 5:22-23).

2. God's love poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit is the root of our gracious attitudes toward others.
 - a. Note and discuss the different attitudes listed in these Scriptures.
 - b. Do a personal review of your gracious attitudes toward others, based on these Scriptures.
 - c. Ask God to use you to show His love in your attitudes toward others.

PRAY!