

The Grace of God
Fr. Peterson "Pete" Tieng, Parochial Vicar at St. Anne of the Sunset, SF

We have been saved by the Lord and continuously do so and rely on the grace of God all throughout our lives. We have been redeemed through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Romans 3:24, it is mentioned, "They are justified freely by his grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus" – the apostle Paul addressed both the Jews and the Gentiles. He told the people that they cannot save themselves and will always rely on God's grace.

So what is "grace"?

Grace is the free and undisturbed gift of God's light and love for us. We share in this light and love of God.

What does it mean to be baptized? To be forgiven of our sins and an invitation to participate in the life of Jesus. We are transformed into Jesus' life and being one in the life of Jesus. We become heirs of the kingdom of God and by our baptism we become co-heirs with Jesus to the kingdom of the Father. We become adopted children of God. This is the relationship of God with his children. The question is, "Are we living our lives as children of God"? God works in us by his grace even if we are undeserving.

The 4 Types of Spiritual Grace:

1. Prevenient Grace (enabling grace) – prepares us to receive God's salvation. God's gift is already working in us even before we receive Him.
2. Sanctifying Grace (the grace that makes us godlike) – now I am accepting God. It cleanses us and makes us righteous. Grace received in the Sacrament of Baptism.
3. Habitual Grace - received each day of our lives. With habitual grace, God helps us live as his children so that each passing day, we become more and more like him.
4. Grace of Perseverance – the grace that prepares us for the moment of death and the Kingdom. It speaks to us about our journey to God. In our Christian journey, God's grace is working in us.

How do we respond to grace?

1. By Faith – we are not alone and God pulls us toward Him.
2. By Cooperating with God's grace – by being God- reliant and not self-reliant, by not doing things on our own, and by depending on God.

We are called to holiness. When we receive the Lord we are called to live holy. It is a process towards perfection and that is union with the Father. Let us aspire for holiness because we are citizens of God.

Why do we pray? Why do we go to mass? Why do we go to confession? TO BE IN UNION WITH GOD.

With God working in us and through us by grace, we must do our part. The gift of grace is wasted when we do not do our part.

Submitted by Amor on 1/11/21