

# Attributes of God

## Week 9 – Mercy and Grace

**Mercy:** God's goodness toward those in misery and distress through His **compassion** and **forgiveness**.

1. God is **compassionate** (Psalm 103:13-14; Exodus 2:23-25, 3:7; Judges 10:16)
2. God is unconditionally **loving** (Ephesians 2:4-5, Romans 5:8)
3. God is **forgiving** (Psalm 86:5, Ephesians 1:7)
4. God is **longsuffering** (2 Peter 3:9)

*"Longsuffering is that which keeps Him from coming. He is bearing with men. Not yet the thunderbolt! Not yet the riven heavens and the reeling earth! Not yet the great white throne, and the day of judgment; for He is very pitiful, and bears long with men!" – Charles Spurgeon*

5. God is **restoring**. Believers are:
  - a. **Reconciled** to God (Romans 5:10-11)
  - b. **Transformed** toward holiness (Romans 12:2)
  - c. **Restored** emotionally and with others (Psalm 147:3, 2 Corinthians 1:3, Matthew 5:24)
  - d. **Called** for purpose (Ephesians 2:10)

You may be asking:

- How does God's mercy coexist with His justice? How can a perfectly just God extend mercy to sinners without compromising His righteousness? (Exodus 33:19)

*"God does not always act with justice. Sometimes He acts with mercy. Mercy is not justice, but it is not injustice. Injustice violates righteousness. Mercy manifests kindness and grace and does no violence to righteousness. We may see nonjustice in God, which is mercy, but we never see injustice in God." – R.C. Sproul*

### **Take aways – Mercy**

1. Praise God for being merciful (1 Peter 1:3)
2. When you pray, remember to go in confidence to our God who is merciful (Hebrews 4:16, Psalm 34:17-18)

*"Go to prayer with confidence in God's mercy; as a cold person goes to a fire, saying, 'it will warm me, not burn me.'" – Thomas Watson*

3. Do not presume on the mercy of God (Romans 6:1-2)

*"God's mercy is a holy mercy; where it pardons it sanctifies." – Thomas Watson*

4. In response to the mercy you've received, show mercy to others (Luke 6:36, Matthew 5:7, Ephesians 4:32)

**Grace:** God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment through His unmerited **favor** and **generosity**.

1. God is **choosing** (Ephesians 1:4-6, Romans 11:5, 1 Corinthians 1:21)
2. God is **calling** (Romans 8:28-30, 9:24; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 9)
3. God is **regenerating** (Ephesians 2:4-5, Philippians 1:29, 2 Peter 1:1)

*"If you have faith in Jesus Christ, you didn't conjure it up. That faith did not come forth or emerge from your state of spiritual death. For the first time maybe that you really heard the gospel and responded favorably to it and embraced it, maybe you thought, 'Well, I finally decided to believe in Jesus.' No such thing. Saving faith is not the result of a human decision. It is the result of a divine gift." – R.C. Sproul*

4. God is **justifying** (Romans 3:24, 28; 5:1; 8:1)

*"Justification has a positive and a negative element. It consists at once in the removal of guilt and the imputation, or granting, of righteousness. It rescues the sinner as a brand from the burning and at the same time gives him a title to Heaven. If it failed to do either of these, it would fail to do anything... If Christ only cancelled out guilt, He would merely return the sinner to Adam's original state without Adam's original perfection of nature. There must be the 'double cure.'" – John Gerstner*

5. God is **rescuing** (1 Thessalonians 1:10, Colossians 1:13, Acts 15:11)
6. God is **redeeming** (Isaiah 41:14, 44:22; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
7. God is **sanctifying** (1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 12:9)

*"I need not torment myself with the feat that my faith may fail; as grace led me to faith in the first place, so grace will keep me believing to the end." – J.I. Packer*

8. God is **glorifying** (Philippians 3:20-21, 1:6; Romans 8:30)

9. God's grace is:

- a) **Free** and **unearned** (Romans 3:24, 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

*"Saving grace is always freely bestowed, never earned. It is never a reward for the righteous, but a gift for the guilty." – Steve Lawson*

- b) **Monergistic** (Romans 9:16)

- c) **Sufficient** (2 Corinthians 9:8, 14)

*"There is sufficient grace for every issue of spiritual life - all grace - in profuse, multi-colored, multi-faceted abundance and richness. Grace to understand the Word, grace to wisely apply it, grace to overcome temptation, grace to overcome sin, grace to endure suffering, grace to endure disappointment, grace to endure pain, grace to obey the Lord, grace to serve Him effectively, grace through all aspects of life." – John MacArthur*

- d) **Mediated** (1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6, Romans 5:15)

- e) **Infinite** and **eternal** (Romans 11:29)

### **Take aways – Grace**

1. In times of trouble, remember that God's grace is sufficient for you. (Romans 5:20)

*"Let believers, therefore, not count upon immunity from trouble, but let them reckon upon grace sufficient for it. Let them believe that God's choicest letters of love are sent to us in black-edged envelopes. We are frightened at the envelope; but inside, if we know how to break the seal, we shall find riches for our souls. Great trials are the clouds out of which God showers great mercies." – Charles Spurgeon*

2. As a believer, remember that God's glorifying grace awaits you. (Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17)