

Stronger Together - The Power of Grace -

1. God grants us grace in the form of Guidance to position us to accomplish His purposes. *Acts 9:10-12; Acts 22:12; Acts 2:17; John 5:19; John 12:49-50; John 20:21*

2. God grants us grace in the form of Redemption to reveal His merciful nature to broken people in a broken world. *Acts 9:13-16; Isaiah 55:6-9; Luke 1:17*

3. God grants us grace in the form of Adoption to free us from fear so we can embrace His perspectives, priorities & people. *Acts 9:17-19; Romans 8:14-16; 1 Corinthians 4:15-16*

4. God grants us grace in the form of Courage to live out our convictions in the face of opposition & oppression. *Acts 9:19-30*

3 kinds of fear & 3 kinds of courage found in this passage:

1. Fear of persecution vs. courageous association & advocacy
2. Fear of perceived heresy vs. courageous protection
3. Fear of the Lord unto courageous witness

5. God grants us grace in the form of Encouragement through the Holy Spirit strengthening our hearts for greater influence. *Acts 9:31; Psalm 34:7; Proverbs 9:10a; Proverbs 19:23*

How do we get into encouragement?

1. Read the Bible (Romans 15:4).
2. Get to know the God who wrote the Bible (Romans 15:5).
3. As you get those two down, then you are set to prophesy, the purpose of which is to encourage each other. (1 Corinthians 14:3)
4. Share testimonies with anyone who will listen of a God whose grace is alive and at work today! (Revelation 12:11).

5. Affirm the gifts and character of Christ we see in each other. The Holy Spirit often encourages through our words of affirmation. Barnabas, whose name means son of Encouragement, first appears in Acts 4:36 and his name was actually given to him by the apostles because He was such a conduit for the Encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

Next Week's Reading Guide:

Acts 10
Psalm 51
John 1:1-14
John 3:1-21
John 5:1-15
John 8:1-11, Hosea 6:1-3
Acts 2:17-41

Discussion Questions:

1. Share about a time when you experienced God's guidance.
2. Pray for someone who needs to experience God's redemption.
3. In what ways can you help new believers grow in the Lord?
4. In what areas could you grow in having more courage?
5. Encourage each other with a time of affirmations.