

## **Taking For Granted What God Has Granted**

Our God has been extremely good to us. He has given us everything that we could ever need. Often we take what God has granted for granted. In order to understand this, let's define the terms we are using.

“Take for Granted”: “to use, accept, or treat in a careless or indifferent manner”

“Granted”: “to bestow...to give...to transfer” (Biblical word “granted” means bestow gratuitously)

To put it all together, what we are discussing is when we use, accept or treat what God has bestowed, given or transferred to us gratuitously in a careless or indifferent manner.

Our goal is to first reveal what God has granted to us. Then we will cover how we could take His blessings for granted.

So what has God granted us? Perhaps a better question would be “what has God not granted us”? In 2 Peter 1:2-4, the Bible says, “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of {the} divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

While God has granted to us “everything”, it is our goal to make a list of passages that specifically inform us of something that God has granted to us.

First, we must point out that God has granted salvation to us. When the gospel was first preached for the remission of sins, it was to the Jews (Acts 5:30-31). Even though it was known through prophecy that the salvation that would be found in Christ was for the whole world, it was not until God revealed to Peter that all people were able to come in repentance that leads to life. In Acts 11:18, we read, “God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance {that leads} to life.” The reason that this is important is because most of us in this audience today would be excluded from salvation if this truth was never revealed. Praise God for the salvation that he offers (John 6:65). The psalmist wrote in Psalm 85:7, “Show us your loving kindness, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.” Indeed God's love and full salvation have been granted to us. Unfortunately, we often take for granted that God has saved us and we turn again to sin like a dog returns to its vomit (as the apostle Peter stated by example). After escaping the defilements of the world and knowing the way of righteousness and the holy commands of God, we trample under foot the Son of God and regard as unclean the blood of the covenant by which we were sanctified while insulting the Spirit of grace. (See II Pet. 2:20-22; Heb 10:29). Fortunately, our God is merciful and is patient. He is unwilling that any should perish, but wants all men everywhere to come in repentance (II Pet. 3:9; Acts 17:30-31). Have you taken the salvation that God has granted for granted? If you have, make sure that you return to Him and show how grateful you are for His grace toward you.

#### 4 - To God Be The Glory

Secondly, I believe that God grants to us our prayer requests. How many times have you seen God at work in this local church? What has God granted you in your personal life? God answers prayer and we must believe that He will grant our requests. In Mark 11:24, Jesus said, "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be {granted} you." In that context Jesus was making a profound statement about having faith that God can do amazing things when we make a request (even move a mountain). We are often encouraged by passages that mention how we can come before the throne of grace and find grace to help in time of need. We take comfort in knowing that we can talk with God when we hear that He wants us to cast all of our cares on Him, because He cares for us (See I Pet 5:7; Heb. 4:15-16). But with our busy schedules and our attention focused on so many other things, we can easily take for granted the avenue of prayer that God has granted to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. How often do you go to God in prayer? Do you only come to Him as a last resort? Do you have a good communicative relationship with your Father in heaven? God has opened the door to heaven and all we have to do is seek His face and ask for His blessings, believe that we have received them. He will grant our requests. For example, in Acts 4:29-31, we see the apostles praying, "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and {began} to speak the word of God with boldness." That is the power of prayer. Don't take it for granted! Pray that God would grant strength to those in need (See Eph. 3:14-21). Pray that God would grant us to be of one mind with one another (See Rom. 15:5-7).

#### 83 - God Is So Good

Thirdly, God grants us peace and safety. While we all face trials and may even question where the presence of God is at times, we know that God is the source of our care. When Paul was a prisoner and was about to face a shipwreck, he prayed to God regarding the matter and an angel gave Him a message that assured Him that God would grant Him peace and safety. This did not mean that he could forgo facing the shipwreck, but that God would deliver him from this adversity. This deliverance was also extended to all those who were with Paul. In Acts 27:23-25, the Bible says, "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.' Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told." If God be for us who can be against us, right? This granting of safety produced courage. These words of granted peace removed fear. The text concludes with how God granted what He promised. We see there, "But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern {began} to be broken up by the force {of the waves.} The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none {of them} would swim away and escape; but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their

intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest {should follow} some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land. When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta. (Acts 27:41-28:1). Thank God for granting relief from our adversity even if we must go through the tempest. The psalmist wrote in Psalm 94:12-14, "Blessed is the man whom you chasten, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law; That you may grant him relief from the days of adversity, until a pit is dug for the wicked. For the LORD will not abandon His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance." Paul closed his letter to the church in Thessalonica by saying in II Thessalonians 3:16, "Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!" Do we ever try to act like we are self sufficient and that it is really our own doing that we have security in this life? In other words, do we take for granted the source of our comfort? God can grant us a peace that passes understanding and we are often guilty of trying to act like we are able to provide calm in the midst of the storms in our own lives. It is only by God's goodness that we are able to live and move and have our being with the knowledge of being safely brought home to heaven someday. Paul wrote near the very end of his life, "The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him {be} the glory forever and ever. Amen. (2 Tim. 4:18) We need not to take for granted the granted peace and safety of God. We should not try to create our own either (Read II Thess. 5:2-11).

#### 835 - Savior, Grant Me Rest And Peace

There is a day coming, where all who take for granted the things that God has granted will be judged for their carelessness or indifference. While there are many things that God can grant to us, isn't it wonderful to know that God can grant you salvation, the avenue of prayer and the assurance of peace and safety. If you want to receive what God is willing to grant you, we want to help you to receive these blessings today. If you have once received the blessings God has granted, but you have taken them for granted, let us pray for you and be an encouragement to you. God grant to each of us those things that would make us who He wants us to be in His Son, Jesus Christ.