

THE CHRISTIAN'S CROWNING GRACES

Introduction: Everything that God made has a purpose in His sovereign plan. Everything, plant and animal, or mineral has at least one outstanding feature. The bird is noted for its song, the flower for its fragrance, the sunset for its beauty. So every Christian has various graces that should crown his life.

Perhaps someone here now is saying, "No, not me. Everyone else may have some excellent quality or special ability, but not me." Listen to Eph. 4:7: "Unto everyone of us is given grace according to the measure of Christ."

Notice some of these graces in your Bible:

I. There is the grace of growing as a Christian.

- A. $\neq$ Peter 3:18, "Now in grace."
- B. Before there can be growth there must be life.
- C. Life in Christ begins by faith. 2 Peter 1:5
- D. Notice the things that are to be added to faith: virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity.
- E. Are you growing in grace?

II. There is the Grace of Giving.

- A. 2 Cor. 8:7, "See that ye excel in this grace also."
- B. Notice the graces they abounded in — faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence, love.
- C. Don't miss the blessing that is yours through liberal, cheerful giving to the Lord.
- D. Porter South recently repeated that Baptists stand 42nd on the matter of giving in comparison to other denominational groups. Andrew Hall of Lake Wales said, "The real problem of Southern Baptists is the 'dead-weight' problem. That is, our rolls are bogged down with lifeless, non-breathing, non-giving, non-attending, non-caring souls who long ago climbed upon our church lists and straightway became anonymous."

III. Then there is the Grace of Speaking.

- A. In Eph. 3:8 Paul says "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."
His word trans. "preach" = "to bring good news"
- B. This is the grace I am witnessing
- C. Col. 4:6, "Let your speech be always with grace".
- D. Avoid ungodly speech, gossip, slander

IV. What I would call the Grace of Singing

- A. In Col. 3:16 Paul wrote, "teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto the Lord."
- B. It is wonderful to sing the praises of God with a voice that is dedicated to him.
- C. Lorenzo, in Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice had this to say the place of music in the soul:
"The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils,
The motions of his spirit are dull as night
and his affections dark as Erebus:
Let no such man be trusted."
- D. We should carry a song in our hearts all the time.

V. Finally, there is the Grace of Serving

- A. This may cover a multitude of different graces.
- B. Some are listed in Romans 12:6-8.
 1. "Having then gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:
 2. "If prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith.
 3. "If service, in our serving
 4. "He who teaches, in his teaching.
 5. "He who exhorts, in his exhortation;
 6. "He who contributes, let him do it with liberality"
 7. "He who gives aid, with zeal
 8. "He does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."