

'I do not understand the mystery of grace, only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us', Unknown.

In Seventh Day Adventist (SDA), teaching Grace has many different meanings, different wordings and has many different ways of expressing grace. God grants each and every one of us with undeserved grace and gives us a life to live. Grace is a great beauty that cannot be described. We see favour be placed upon Adam and Eve, Cain and many more. Although we cannot see the simple actions of grace being evident, we still see the love and acceptance of sinful souls being forgiven.

The first action of grace that is evident in the bible comes from the story of Adam and Eve. The covering of their naked bodies after failing to listen to that one command God had instructed them not to do, Genesis...

In these particular verses, we see the wrong that both Adam and Eve had made, and the way that they had explained themselves to the Lord. We see the way Adam addressed God and the way that he spoke to him. 'The fall of Man' had then begun from that point on; sin had made its way onto the life that God had crested through the evil deeds of a snake: *'The snake tricked me she said and I ate the fruit'*. During this point, we see and understand God is under fury knowing that his people or the two main people he trusted with his garden had betrayed him because of a snake and woman's wrong doings that had led to punishing all three that were involved in the sin. God hadn't gone to an extent where he will punish the two and leave them stranded nowhere where death will find them, only he had grace and favour on the two he spared their lives and had only given them consequences to their actions, Genesis.....

God also demonstrated grace/acceptance once again in the story of Cain and Abel. The jealousy of one brother that turned in to anger and fury that led to the death of the other brother. God sees in the anger and jealousy that Cain is to find acceptance. God is calm and his words are righteous. Cain does not listen to the word of God but lets the devil control his anger when he kills his brother. God does punish Cain by making him wander the earth with no permanent home to his name. The killing of his brother had severed his relationship with his brother and God. The curse of God may have been harsh, but one that he deserved. However, it is important to see that God does not kill Cain but saves him from death by showing mercy and grace to him. He shows undeserving grace to Cain despite the crime being disrespecting of God. This giving of grace by God to Cain showed that he works in miraculous ways and ways we do not understand. What we do need to know and understand is that everything happens for a reason no matter what it is; we just need to know and understand God works in ways we do not know.

In SDA doctrines, teaching the Adventist view on grace is that they believe that Jesus' is our second chance at living. The death of our Saviour was for us to be renewed in life itself and

understand that we are sinners. We are spiritually growing, mentally knowing, physically showing and socially sharing the life of Christ within each and every one of us. "By his death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirit during his earthly ministry had broken the power to ensure their ultimate doom" (SDA Doctrine). The life that our Saviour has left behind is a sign that his work here on earth is not yet done Psalm 51:5. We were born sinners but we have been given a second chance to live life and this chance is to live his life. Since the death of our loving saviour we have been freed from the darkness, no longer in the stage of being afraid of what it is that is going to happen to us. Being ignored and having no reason to live. What we need to understand is that we have to come out of the darkness to live in the light and share his word Romans 5: 12-17.

I know grace has opened my eyes to understand that his undeserving grace is not an excuse to sin, but rather a reason to love and serve him more fully. I have understood that we have suffered from preaching grace at cheap expense. Grace is free but it is not cheap. People will take anything that is free, but are not interested if it is at a cost. ①

From a historical perspective, the implications of the teaching about grace means that we need to have an understanding of who God is in our lives. That the way people in the Old Testament were offered grace is still available to us today. This is because God sent his Son as our Saviour and so enables us to receive grace even though we do not deserve it at all 2Cor 12:9. God's grace gives all mankind an opportunity to be saved, if that accept Jesus as their Saviour. ②

I believe New Zealand would be a better place if people listened to what God wants of them and then the grace of God would come to them and everyone would live a better and faith filled life. SDA teaching helps us to understand how the grace of God, which he gives without us deserving it, saves us when we believe and don't take credit for it ourselves. This means we need to be people who recognise God's grace as a gift which we need to accept. ①