

What is the Difference Between Grace and Mercy?

We often hear explanations of God's grace that do more to muddy the water than clarify the meaning. To explain God's grace, people often talk about mercy. Sometimes grace sounds more like forgiveness or salvation. Many times the words "grace," "mercy" and "forgiveness" are used interchangeably. So it is not surprising that many people are confused about the meaning of grace and the impact God's grace has on their daily lives.

The Greek word translated "grace" in the New American Standard Bible (NASB) New Testament is *charis*. Though "grace" is by far the most frequent translation, twelve English words are used to communicate the meaning of *charis* including favor, blessing, credit, and gift. *Charis* is never translated "mercy" or "forgiveness." When the New Testament was written, *charis* was not a difficult to describe theological concept. Instead, the number of times and various ways *charis* was used shows that it was part of normal everyday conversation. Its usage and meaning was easily understood. *The Complete Guide to Grace* by James L. Lefler explains the meanings of the Greek words translated "grace," "mercy," and "forgiveness," and offers simple descriptions that help us understand how the favor of God impacts every area of our lives. For more information visit SilverdayPress.com. <