

A "Heart of God" Study Course

God's Grace Provision

Pride vs. Humility

A Journey into the Heart of God



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Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School — St. Louis

God's Grace Provision is a result of the teaching ministry of Randy Gruber at the Potosi Correctional Center Prison Fellowship Bible Study in Missouri. His students have produced this course to pass on what they have learned to good and faithful men who will in turn be able to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).

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INSTRUCTIONS



How to Study

Always pray before you read or study God's Word. Prayer keeps Bible study productive with the Spirit's power. You may want to pray the words the psalmist prayed in Psalm 119:18, "*Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.*" Or pray Paul's words that "*God may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened*" and "*that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*" Ephesians 1:17-18; Colossians 1:9. After all of your time, energy, and sincerity spent in the Scriptures, it is still "*God who gives the increase*" 1 Corinthians 3:7. He says, "*You do not have because you do not ask*" James 4:2. So pray before you begin your study.

The Key Principle

The Key Principle on page 5 is the theme of this course. Understanding this principle is key to understanding the Scriptures as a whole. Therefore, it is a basic Bible doctrine.

Memorize the *Key Memory Verse* on page 5. This will make your study of the Scriptures more profitable. When sinful thoughts enter your mind, put them out by meditating on the *Key Memory Verse*. Do not underestimate the blessing which results from memorizing Scripture. See Psalm 119:11.

Exam Questions

Read each lesson carefully at least twice. Read it once to get a general idea of its contents. Then read it again, slowly, answering the exam questions. As you read, *be sure to open your Bible to each referenced Scripture*. Carefully consider God's Word. It is the most important content of each lesson.

The exam questions are numbered within each lesson. Lines are provided for your answers on pages E1-E7. There are two types of questions:

1) The questions which are *accompanied by a Scripture reference* are designed to find out if you understand the lesson material. Answer these

questions according to what you learn in the lesson (especially the referenced Scriptures). Your response *will be graded by whether it is consistent with the lesson material*. You will receive *one* or *zero* points for your response.

2) Each lesson has one question which is *not accompanied by a Scripture reference*. It is designed for you to *state your own thoughts*. For example, in lesson 1, question 4 is this type of question. Your honest and open answers will help your instructor get to know you as an individual and encourage you in your studies. They will also help you and us evaluate the effectiveness of this course. You will receive one point for each of these questions you answer.

You may use any Bible version. However, we suggest that you use the *New King James Version* if possible. Please tell your instructor on page E1 what version you are using. This will help in the grading of your exams.

How Your Exams Will Be Graded

Each question is worth one point, and each lesson has eight questions. You will receive four points for printing your complete name, address, and the Bible version you use on page E1. The total possible points for this course are one hundred. Your instructor will mark your grade in the blank beside each of your responses. Upon completing this course, you will be awarded a certificate.

Returning Your Exams for Grading

*After completing the exam questions, check them carefully. Make sure you have followed the above directions for Exam Questions. Be sure you have neatly printed your name and address on page E1 as well as on the upper left corner of your return envelope. If necessary, put the correct postage on the envelope. Use the Business Reply envelope if one is provided. Only mail pages E1-E8. *Gently pull them out of the course book to mail them.* If you are studying this course through an Associate Instructor or associated ministry or organization, send pages E1-E8 to the individual or organization from whom you obtained the course. Otherwise, send them to the address below.*



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INTRODUCTION



Key Principle:

God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

Key Memory Verse:

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

–1 Peter 5:5

Continuing the Journey:

Our journey began with the first book in this series called *Divine vs. Natural Viewpoint*. This book taught a very important principle which is key in order to begin one’s journey into the heart of God. That is, God and man do not think or act alike. The critical difference is in our view of Jesus Christ. Christ is central to God’s thoughts and ways. He has chosen to accomplish His entire purpose through Christ. In the *past*, He created all things through Christ. *Presently*, God’s focus is to manifest Christ on the earth through redeemed men. In the *future*, all things will be judged and put into their proper place based on their relationship to Christ. God has chosen Christ to be man’s Deliverer and Ruler. But natural man excludes the Lord and His Christ from his thinking because he does not want God ruling over him.

Then the journey continued with *Repent or Perish*. In that book we learned the next Key Principle for our journey into the heart of God. Since natural man has excluded the Lord and His Christ from his thinking, his thoughts are in opposition to God’s thoughts. God is walking one way while man is walking another way. So, obviously, if God and man are going to walk together—that is, enjoy a relationship with one another—someone must change. Since God is perfect, guess who must change? We must change. We must have our thoughts changed and our ways changed because God will not walk in the evil ways of man.

But natural man has a deep, deep problem! He does not see himself as he truly is. Man by nature is proud. Man thinks that he is better than he truly is and that he knows more than he actually knows. This brings us to our current

Key Principle in this book. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. The humble person admits that he does not know as he ought to know. He has realized that he has nothing within himself to merit the favor of God. So he knows he needs help from outside himself. This attitude puts the humble man in a unique position to receive God's grace.

Grace is God Himself at work for us in the person of Jesus Christ and in us in the person of the Holy Spirit to do for us and in us what we cannot do for or in ourselves. This grace is the humble man's abundant provision for deliverance from the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin. This grace also teaches the humble man how he ought to live as a Christian in order to glorify God. Then it enables him to live the Christian life. Finally, this grace equips and empowers the humble man to serve God and man with his new life from above.

But this grace only comes to those who are low enough to receive it. People who think they have God's favor based on their performance or their religion miss the blessing of God. The God of all grace will only bestow His blessings on the basis of grace, not merit. Sadly, many will fall short of this grace. This book will instruct the reader in what God's great grace is and how one may receive it as well as experience it to the full.

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LESSON ONE



Pride vs. Humility

If you look back in the course of history in the Bible, you will come to Adam, the first man that was on the earth. If you look even further back, you will come to a revelation from God of an angelic creature that He created. He was a guardian cherub. His name was Lucifer, which means “son of the morning.” Lucifer, now called Satan, committed the first sin. He said, “*I will be like the Most High*” Isaiah 14:14. Pride was his sin. He had exalted his thinking above the thinking of God. As a result, he sinned, and God removed him from his position in heaven as a guardian cherub (Isaiah 14:12).

1. How many “*I will*” statements did Lucifer make in Isaiah 14:13-14?

Lucifer Thought He Knew

Lucifer was one of the most beautiful creatures God had ever made. He was a spirit being and one of three mighty angels (Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer). It seems that each one had charge over a third of the invisible angelic realm because, when Lucifer fell, a third of the angels fell with him (Revelation 12:4). In his exalted position, the great error in his thinking was that he could think on the level of God. He thought he knew, but he really did not know as he ought to know. His knowledge was limited, unlike the knowledge of God Who is all-knowing. Therefore, Lucifer made a decision which resulted in his judgment.

2. How does Isaiah 14:12 describe the consequences of Lucifer’s sin?

Adam and Eve Thought They Knew

If we move forward in history to the garden of Eden, we see Adam and Eve listening to Satan who is tempting them to sin (Genesis 3:1-6). He is giving them the thought that God is not really good because He is holding something back from them. God told Adam and Eve they would die if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan said, “*You will not surely die*” Genesis 3:4. He was tempting them to think his word was more accurate

than God's word. So Adam and Eve had a revelation from God about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then they got a temptation to think contrary to it, and suddenly they thought they were wiser than God Himself. They thought they knew more than God knew. So they ate the forbidden fruit. As a result, they sinned as Lucifer did, and they died.

3. Genesis 3:6 reveals what Eve was thinking as she decided to eat the fruit. What should she have been thinking? Genesis 2:17

We Think We Know

In both cases, Lucifer as well as Adam and Eve thought they knew when they really did not know. Then they acted on what they thought they knew, which resulted in sin. This is pride—exalting your thinking above the thinking of God, thinking you know when you really do not know. This is man's problem. We act as if we know, but we act on very limited knowledge. So we often make poor decisions. Have you ever made a decision based on what you thought you knew, but when you looked back on that decision, you realized what a fool you were? We all have done this. As a result, we end up with consequences we never dreamed of. Pride is the great sin of the human heart.

4. Give an example of when you made a bad decision because you thought you knew when you really did not know as much as you thought you did.

Here is an illustration of thinking we know when we really do not know. Picture life as a great big puzzle with 1,000 pieces. Then picture your life as one of those pieces. Now plug yourself into that puzzle. You only have knowledge of your one piece and the pieces around you that are directly touching you. But from your limited perspective you begin to make decisions about the whole puzzle. How well will you make those decisions? There is much you do not know because you cannot get outside the puzzle to see the big picture. But God exists outside the puzzle, and he tells us what is right and wrong and how things should be. He knows everything from the beginning to the end. He alone has perfect knowledge. He is omniscient, which means He is all-knowing. But we are very limited in what we know.

The following example of pride is actually a true story. A Russian cosmonaut went into space on Sputnik. When he got beyond Planet Earth he said, "Well, we sure do not see any God up here." Now someone has since responded, "Just step out of the spaceship, and you would meet God." How

proud the cosmonaut's statement was! Just because he was in a little spaceship circling the earth, he thought he had sufficient knowledge to declare there is no God. Had he been everywhere in the universe? Who is to say there is not Someone outside this universe? The only way we know things outside what our senses tell us is if someone truthful is revealing them to us. If someone reveals something to us, we can know it, without knowing everything, and this can help us make a right decision. Adam and Eve were given such knowledge by God Himself (Genesis 2:16-17). So they had freedom to eat whatever they wanted to with only one restriction. If they had just trusted God and kept His thoughts above their own, they would have been fine. But they were proud, and the result of their pride was their fall.

5. Genesis 3:16-19 reveals the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin. What does verse 19 say would happen to their bodies as a result of their sin?

So God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. The proud person thinks he knows when he does not really know. The humble person judges himself as one who does not know as he ought to know. He depends upon God to reveal to him what he needs to know. That is why the Christian faith is based upon revelatory truth. If God does not reveal it, we cannot know it. For example, if God had not told us, how many of us would know that God created the heavens and the earth in six days (Genesis 1)? How many of us were there to see it? Yet, how many of us believe it is true? If you believe it, you are simply believing what God has revealed. You are depending on someone who was there telling you what happened.

Job Thought He Knew

Job is a good example of someone who thought he knew when he really did not know. Job was making all kinds of decisions with limited knowledge in order to defend himself. Chapters 19, 30, and 31 of the book of Job give examples of this. He went so far as to declare, "*God has wronged me*" Job 19:6. Job was just going on and on telling God and his friends things he did not really understand. So God eventually said, "*Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me*" Job 38:3. Then God said to him, "*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?*" He followed this with several similar questions like, Where were you "*when the morning stars sang together?*" (Job 38:7). This verse reveals that the invisible creation was in existence prior to the visible creation. Job is filled with revelation about the

angelic world, our world, and about what God has done and is doing within them. God may have written the book of Job first because He wanted to give us an overview of the cosmic battle that is going on and how utterly ignorant and insignificant we had become as a result of our sin.

6. Summarize Job's response after God had vigorously questioned him. Job 40:4-5

God's questioning of Job had revealed how little Job actually knew. So in chapter 40 Job begins to express his realization that everything he had been saying was wrong! He could not begin to understand the reasoning of God apart from what God reveals. Then, in chapter 42, Job began his final response. *"I know that You [God] can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand"* Job 48:2-3. In today's words, Job is saying, "I am stupid, I do not know anything." He had finally come to the place where he realized that he did not know as much as he thought he knew. Job was a very righteous man, but a proud man. Before God questioned him, he really thought he had it all figured out.

7. In Job 42:3 about what did Job say he had uttered or spoken?
8. How did Job conclude his confession? Job 42:6

In Job 42:6 "abhor" means "to hate or despise." Job hated himself for presuming he knew enough to cast judgment on what God was doing to him.

Until we judge ourselves as the sinners we are, God will not have our ear as He wants it. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. The proud man thinks he knows when he does not really know. The humble man knows he knows nothing unless God has revealed it to him. So he looks to God for understanding and trusts God with all he does not know. Therefore, he is in a unique position to freely receive from God what he needs to know to make wise decisions and fulfill God's purpose for him of bringing glory to God.

God's Grace Provision

Pride vs. Humility

EXAM BOOKLET

AK '14 D-GGP

Student's Information

___ Your Bible Version: _____

___ Name: _____

___ Address: _____

___ City, State, Zip: _____

Instructor: _____ Course Grade: _____



LESSON 1 EXAM

EXAM 1 POINTS: _____

- ___ 1. _____

- ___ 2. _____

- ___ 3. _____

- ___ 4. _____

- ___ 5. _____
- ___ 6. _____

- ___ 7. _____

- ___ 8. _____

LESSON 2 EXAM

EXAM 2 POINTS: _____

- ___ 1. _____
- ___ 2. _____
- ___ 3. _____
- ___ 4. _____
- ___ 5. _____

- ___ 6. _____
- ___ 7. _____
- ___ 8. _____

