



August 31, 2025

Grace: A Most Precious and Loving Gift from God

Beatitude

The Gift and Grace of Blessedness

1.) Grace is, as was mentioned, an undeserved gift from God, a gift of His nature and life. To be filled with God's grace means to be filled with the presence and life of God. This precious gift that we receive is not easily understood. The Catechism reminds us that *"grace is supernatural and escapes our experiences and can be known only by faith."*¹ You may wonder, how can I recognize God's grace? And the Divine Teacher would answer, *"You will know them by their fruits."*²

2.) When you plant a seed in the ground, you cannot see the seed grow. The human eye cannot visualize what's happening inside the seed. But with time and trust, tending the soil, you do see a green plant sprouting from the ground. In the same sense, we may not see the exact moment that God's grace is given, but like the seed, we will see its fruit.

"Blessed are you."³

3.) Blessedness or holiness is a gift from the Father, through the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is the Lord God who makes us holy and righteous. The word *"beatitude"* means a fortunate or blessed one. Blessedness implies that a blessing was given, is promised, or both. In Matthew's Gospel, the Beatitudes crown Our Divine Teacher's Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' eight promises are the fulfillment of His Passion and Resurrection. At the same time, Our Lord promises a future gift of glory with Him; He also offers a glimpse of that glory in this lifetime. The sermon or sermons that Our Lord gives are essentially a commentary on the Beatitudes.

4.) The blessing or favor that Our Lord promises is His grace, the gift of Himself. When God blesses you, He is entering into your life with the invitation to unite yourself to Him.

¹ CCC #2005. Catechism of the Catholic Church, second edition, 1997

² Matthew 7:20, RSCVE, 2nd Edition, Ignatius Bible Commentary. Also CCC #2005

³ Matthew 5:3-11, RSCVE, 2nd Edition, Ignatius Bible Commentary

This is what “*sharing in his life*” means. Jesus Christ, true Man and true God, was completely united to the Father, in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The grace or gift of beatitude begins first in the heart, soul, and mind of God. As it is with all good things, it is the Lord who speaks first. To see the Beatitudes is, by God's grace, a glimpse of the face of Christ. ⁴

5.) Beatitude is the promise that with His grace and our cooperation, we will be completely transformed and renewed. In all that we do or say, it will be “*the spirit of my Father speaking through you.*” ⁵The Beatitudes reflect Our Lord and His manner of approaching us. The same is true about the Virtues and Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our Blessed Lord reveals Himself to us, so that in seeing Him we may believe in Him. It is His divine will that in believing in Him, we may have life “*through Him, in Him, and with Him.*” ⁶

6.) Like the seed, we may not discern the moment it's planted or how, but with faith, we sense it growing. When you discern a change in life's direction, or a change in attitude about yourself and those around you, the seeds of grace and beatitude are stirring. The Beatitudes promise future glory with God and divine assistance in this life. Our Father in His providential wisdom has created us with a natural yearning for the true good and blessedness. In giving us the Beatitudes, his gift calls to us and elicits a response. Our Divine Lord lays down not so much a rule to follow as a new life to live.

7.) The Beatitudes and their promises are an invitation to enter into communion with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our Divine Teacher speaks of two gates in which we must enter; one leads to everlasting life and the other to damnation. The Beatitudes, along with the Decalogue, are the path to the kingdom and eternal life. In conclusion, grace and beatitude serve as a constant reminder that we do not go it alone. His grace calls and guides us; His beatitude leads the way and blesses us.

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⁴ CCC #1717, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, 1997

⁵ Matthew 10:20, RSCVE Second Edition, Ignatius Bible Commentary

⁶ Roman Missal, Eucharistic Prayer