

Pathwork on
Grace

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 61 *Questions and Answers*, provides a simple yet complete description of Grace – integrating grace with self-responsibility, the role of Jesus Christ, and our role in the Plan of Salvation.

48	<p>QUESTION: What exactly is grace?</p> <p>ANSWER: I can see that it would be quite difficult for you to understand the concept of grace after hearing from me constantly that the law of cause and effect has to take its course. Although this is true, grace nevertheless exists. It is not easy to explain and very commonly misunderstood. It may make it easier if I briefly mention first what grace is not, but what is often taken to mean grace. It is often thought that when grace is extended, a person does not have to encounter difficulties he or she ordinarily would have to go through. In other words, the law of cause and effect is thereby broken. People think if God extends grace, He eliminates trouble for you. Of course, this is an entirely wrong concept. In reality grace is the Plan of Salvation with everything therein to enable the fallen spirits to return. If divine law would not operate in such a way as to make evil defeat itself, the fallen spirits could never return. This is the basic grace. The help of the spirits who did not fall, or of those who have evolved, is further grace. Without this constant help, the return would be so much harder and longer, but this does not mean that the law of cause and effect is broken.</p>
49	<p>Grace is the coming of Jesus Christ. One Being has taken upon Himself such a tremendous task and such hardship He did not have to endure in order to open the doors, to show the way, to help accelerate development for all, by an act of supreme love as has never been witnessed on this earth before or since. If you reread the lecture I gave on this subject, this will become clearer to you.</p>
50	<p>Divine grace constantly happens where the spreading of light penetrates confusion and darkness in order to hasten the realization of the divine world. Let us say, for instance, that a nation is dominated by the forces of darkness because of the people's ignorance and the outcropping of their negative currents. To come out of this darkness unassisted, without grace, would mean to go through so much hardship, destruction and tragedy. It would be unbearable. And it would take so much longer, so very, very much longer, than it does with grace. Grace may take many forms. It can happen through the incarnation of a few strong and highly developed people who do not have to take on certain tasks, but who do so in love and brotherhood, to help.</p>
51	<p>By the same token, each one of you can also be an instrument of grace. If, by your development, you come to understand more profoundly, and your power and capacity to love truly unfolds -- not by force and compulsion, but in reality --</p>

	<p>you have an effect on others, and therefore on the world, such as you cannot imagine. You are a spreader of light and truth by the very act of your search into your own soul. Your innermost self unfolds, freeing itself of all the layers and masks, and thus you are capable of affecting the innermost self of other people. You penetrate right through their superimposed layers and masks. That is the case, as I explained before. Hence, every good and right act, most of all the act of self-unfolding, makes you an instrument of grace. The power of good and love is infinitely stronger than the power of evil and ignorance. Others do not only learn from your example, but they are strongly affected in their subconscious by your emanation. You may think that it means nothing; it cannot be grace or guidance or anything divine because <u>you</u> did it. But any human being can be an instrument of grace or of any other divine manifestation. There are constant chain reactions, not only as far as the negative currents in the human soul are concerned, as you all have had plenty of opportunity to verify on your path, but also as far as divine manifestations are concerned. They come from a source and that source is divine grace. That it finally takes effect through various chains of instruments of grace -- also human instruments -- does not alter the fact that it originally comes from the divine source. I realize that this is a hard subject to explain and to understand.</p>
52	<p>QUESTION: Have those who receive it merited it in some way?</p> <p>ANSWER: Again this indicates the wrong concept. Grace is not extended to a few chosen ones and withheld from others. Grace is all around you. If you want it, you can partake of it. If you do not want it, if you desire in some corner of your being to remain in blindness, grace will not be accessible to you. But those who want it will constantly be affected by it. It is there for everyone alike. Grace is there as the product of the divine world and you can all get it if you know how to turn toward it.</p>