

Study Companion

Grace vs. Obedience

Did Grace Free Us From Obedience—or From Condemnation?

A printable companion for tracing grace, redemption, faith, obedience, and transformation across Scripture.

Use this packet beside the full Bible study. Write the verses. Test the claims. Show your work.

Don't take my word for it—Open your Bible.

openyourbible.org

What Do I Believe Right Now?

Write your present understanding before you begin. You can return to this page at the end.

What does grace mean?

What role, if any, does obedience have in the life of someone who has been saved?

Can someone earn salvation by obeying Yehovah? Why or why not?

Can someone receive grace and then knowingly disregard Yehovah's instructions? Explain your current view.

Noah: Favor First, Then Obedience

Read Genesis 6:5–22 and Genesis 7:5.

Genesis 6:8 — What does Noah find in Yehovah's eyes?

Who initiates the warning and rescue plan?

Genesis 6:22 and 7:5 — What does Noah do after receiving favor and instruction?

Which comes first in the story: favor or obedience?

Does Noah's obedience cause grace to exist, or does grace lead into obedience?

Abraham: Belief and Obedience

Read Genesis 15:1–6; Genesis 22:1–18; Genesis 26:1–5.

Genesis 15:6 – What does Abraham do, and what is counted to him as righteousness?

Genesis 22 – What does Abraham do when tested?

Genesis 26:5 – List the words Yehovah uses to describe Abraham's response.

Do Genesis 15 and Genesis 26 contradict each other? What relationship do you see between trust and obedience?

Rescue Before Commandments

Read Exodus 2:23-25; 3:7-8; 6:2-8; 19:1-6; 20:1-3.

Who hears, sees, remembers, comes down, and initiates the rescue?

Write the sequence: slavery → rescue → brought to Yehovah → commandments.

Did Israel obey the Ten Commandments in order to earn release from Egypt?

What does Yehovah say about Himself before giving the first commandment in Exodus 20?

What does the order of Exodus suggest about the relationship between redemption and obedience?

Not Because of Your Righteousness

Read Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 9:1-6; 10:12-13.

Why does Yehovah say He chose Israel?

What boasting does Moses explicitly reject in Deuteronomy 9?

After rejecting self-righteous boasting, what does Deuteronomy 10 still call Israel to do?

Does denying earned righteousness require denying obedience? What does the text suggest?

Torah on Hearts; Spirit in People

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:22-28.

Jeremiah 31:33 — What does Yehovah put within His people and write on their hearts?

Does Jeremiah describe the New Covenant as removing Yehovah's instruction or internalizing it?

Ezekiel 36:27 — What does the Spirit cause Yehovah's people to do?

What do these passages do to the idea that grace means obedience became irrelevant?

Love, Lordship, and Doing

Read John 14–15; Luke 6:43–49; Matthew 7:21–27.

John 14:15, 21, 23–24 — What does Yeshua repeatedly connect with love for Him?

Luke 6:46 — What question does Yeshua ask people who call Him “Lord”?

In the house-on-the-rock illustration, what distinguishes hearing from faithful response?

Matthew 7:21–23 — What is the problem with “Lord, Lord” profession without doing the Father’s will?

Does Yeshua describe obedience as legalism—or as something connected to love and discipleship?

Romans 3 and Ephesians 2

Let Paul reject boasting without making transformation disappear.

Romans 3:19–31 — What does Paul say about boasting and justification?

Romans 3:31 — Does faith nullify the law? Write Paul's answer.

Ephesians 2:8–9 — What is salvation by? What is it not from?

Ephesians 2:10 — What are believers created in Messiah for?

Write the sequence in your own words: grace → salvation → good works.

Romans 6: Grace and Sin

Read Romans 6:1-23 as one argument.

Romans 6:1-2 — Should believers continue in sin so grace can increase?

Romans 6:14-15 — What conclusion does Paul explicitly forbid after saying “not under law but under grace”?

Romans 6:16-23 — What two paths or masters does Paul contrast?

What is the difference between “wages” and “gift” in verse 23?

Whatever “under grace” means, what can it NOT mean according to Paul?

Titus 2–3 and Galatians 5

Grace is not static. What does it produce?

Titus 2:11–14 — What does grace teach or train believers to reject?

What kind of life does grace train believers to live?

Why did Yeshua give Himself according to Titus 2:14?

Titus 3:5 — Are believers saved because of righteous deeds they performed?

Titus 3:8 — After emphasizing mercy, what are believers told to devote themselves to?

Galatians 5:13–26 — Does freedom become an opportunity for the flesh, or a life shaped by love and the Spirit?

Same Abraham. Different Questions.

Read Romans 4:1–5 and James 2:14–26.

What part of Abraham's story does Paul emphasize?

What part of Abraham's story does James emphasize?

What question is Paul fighting? What question is James fighting?

Can living faith produce obedient action without that action becoming the purchase price of salvation?

Finish the thought: Paul rejects _____ as wages. James rejects _____ faith.

Knowing, Loving, Enduring

Read 1 John 1:5–2:6; 5:1–5; Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

1 John 2:3–6 — How does John describe knowing Him?

1 John 5:2–3 — What does love for God look like?

How does 1 John hold obedience together with forgiveness and advocacy when believers sin?

Revelation 12:17 and 14:12 — What two ideas appear together in the description of the faithful?

At the far end of Scripture, do faith and commandments appear as enemies?

Let Scripture Pressure the Slogans

Do not answer from memory. Use the passages.

Claim	Passages to Test	What did I conclude?
"The Old Testament was law; the New Testament is grace."	Genesis 6:8; Exodus 3–6; Deuteronomy 7; Psalm 119	
"Israel had to obey in order to be redeemed."	Exodus 2–20	
"Because salvation is by grace, obedience does not matter."	Romans 6; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2; James 2	
"If obedience matters, salvation must be earned by works."	Romans 3–4; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3	
"Not under law but under grace means sin no longer matters."	Romans 6:14–15	
"Faith and works contradict each other."	Genesis 15; Genesis 22; Romans 4; James 2	
"Love is all that matters."	John 14:15–24; 1 John 2:3–6; 1 John 5:1–5	

Put Grace and Obedience on the Same Page

Use only what you can support from the passages you studied.

GRACE / SALVATION	OBEDIENCE / TRANSFORMATION	QUESTIONS STILL TO STUDY

Which passage most challenged the way I previously thought about grace?

Which passage most challenged the way I previously thought about obedience?

Now Answer the Original Question

Show your work. Do not rush.

Did grace/favor exist before Sinai? Give an example.

Was Israel redeemed before or after Sinai?

What does the New Covenant put on the heart, and what does the Spirit produce?

Does Paul teach that works earn salvation?

Does Paul teach that grace makes continued sin irrelevant?

What relationship do I now see between grace, faith, obedience, and good works?

Finish in one sentence: Grace does not _____; grace _____.

What Changed?

Return to your "Before You Study" answers and compare.

What did I believe at the beginning that I would now phrase differently?

Which passage affected me most, and why?

What unresolved question do I still need to study?

What is one practical way this study should change how I walk with Yehovah?

Extra Notes

Use this page for cross-references, questions, word studies, or observations.

