

Grace for Grace Outline - Mike Baird

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Christ - Grace for Grace

- Christ was sinless – grace was not for compensation of sin
- Grace for grace and suffering to empower personal growth
 - D&C 93:12-13
"grace for grace"
 - Hebrews 5:8-9
"being made perfect"
 - Luke 13:32
"the third day I shall be perfected"
 - Elder Russel M Nelson:
"... let us consider another highly significant statement made by the Lord. Just prior to his crucifixion, he said that on “the third day I shall be perfected.” Think of that! The sinless, errorless Lord—already perfect by our mortal standards—proclaimed his own state of perfection yet to be in the future. His eternal perfection would follow his resurrection and receipt of “all power ... in heaven and in earth.” The perfection that the Savior envisions for us is much more than errorless performance. It is the eternal expectation as expressed by the Lord in his great intercessory prayer to his Father—that we might be made perfect and be able to dwell with them in the eternities ahead.” (“Perfection Pending,” Ensign, Nov. 1995, 86)
 - Bruce Hafen:
"Jesus taught that we should be perfect as he is perfect. His experience suggests that his own developmental process was marked by his being a recipient of the Father's divine grace. His experience also shows that being free from sin is not the same thing as attaining a state of perfection." (The Broken Heart, p. 164.)
- Christ moved from a sinless (neutral) to a "completed" (exalted) state receiving grace for grace

Us - Grace for Grace

- Our relationship to Father can mirror Christ's!
 - D&C 93:19-20
"grace for grace "
- However we move negative -> neutral -> positive
 - Bruce Hafen:
"We grow in two ways—removing negative weeds and cultivating positive flowers. The Savior's grace blesses both parts—if we do our part. First and repeatedly we must uproot the weeds of sin and bad choices. It isn't enough just to mow the weeds. Yank them out by the roots, repenting fully to satisfy the conditions of mercy. But being forgiven is only part of our growth. We are not just paying a debt. Our purpose is to become celestial beings. So once we've cleared our heartland, we must continually plant, weed, and nourish the seeds of divine qualities. And then as our sweat and discipline stretch us to meet His gifts, "the flow'rs of grace appear," like hope and meekness" ("The Atonement: All for All," Ensign, May 2004, 97)
- Negative -> neutral: *Atonement* and our repentance free us from sin (neutral state) (see justification – "Justification & Sanctification – Outline" by Mike Baird <http://mikebaird.net/Church/GospelTopics/JustificationSanctification.pdf>)
- Neutral -> positive: *Atoning* grace can move us beyond remission of sins to perfection
 - Moroni 10:32-33
"perfected in him... by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ "
 - D&C 76:69
"Just men made perfect "
 - Bruce Hafen:
"Through the Holy Ghost, the Atonement makes possible certain spiritual endowments that actually purify our nature and enable us to live a more "eternal" or Godlike life." (Beauty for Ashes: The Atonement of Jesus Christ," Ensign, Apr. 1990, pg 7.)
 - Charity & Hope are both endowments of grace