



Unfailing Grace: Means of Grace

Tom Deviney



Grace – “God’s unmerited, unearned loving action on our behalf”



1 John 3:16

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.



Free and Cooperant


 Grace is:

Unconditional – God comes to each of us with the message that He loves us as we are, no matter what

Transformational – God does not leave us as we are but rather transforms our hearts and lives

Invitational – the Lord Jesus calls us and empowers us to join Him in the work of the Gospel

Andrew C. Thomson, The Means of Grace

 **Instituted Means of Grace – present in the teaching and example of Jesus Christ**

Prudential Means of Grace – biblical witness in conjunction with practical wisdom for our context

General Means of Grace – more inward, contemplative disciplines



Corinthians 11:23–25

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”



Mark 1:35

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.



Instituted Means of Grace

Baptism

Searching the Scriptures

Prayer

The Lord's Supper

Fasting

Fellowship













Prudential Means of Grace
Class Meetings
Band Meetings
Arts of Holy Living
Works of Mercy

 Whatever I know to do me hurt, that to me is not indifferent, but resolutely to be abstained from;

Whatever I know to do me good, that to me is not indifferent, but resolutely to be embraced.”

John Wesley
“Letter to the Rev. Samuel Wesley”
Works of John Wesley



As the love of God naturally leads to works of piety, so the love of our neighbor naturally leads...to works of mercy. It inclines us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to visit them that are in sick or in prison; to be as eyes to the blind and feet to the lame; a husband to the widow, a father to the fatherless."

**John Wesley
"The Important Question"
Works of John Wesley**



General Means of Grace

Exercising the Presence of God

Self-Denial and Cross-Bearing



each of these examples, the power that the means of Grace might otherwise convey would be nullified by my absentmindedness or hardness of heart. With no inward sense of intention, God's grace will never reach me. For grace to really have an impact on us, we must be open to it. And for the means of Grace God has provided to act as channels for that Grace, we have to have a desire to meet God in those means. That is Wesley's point by saying that we can use all of the instituted and prudential means in a way that makes them useless."

Alexander C. Thompson
The Means of Grace



We are encompassed on all sides with persons and things that tend to draw us from our center. Indeed, every creature, if we are not continually on our guard, will draw us from our Creator.”

***John Wesley
“On Dissipation”
Works of John Wesley***



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