

RECEIVING FROM HIS FULLNESS

John 1:16

There is no way to appropriately explain John 1:16 without referring to preceding verses, to the incarnation of Jesus, to His becoming a tabernacle among us, to our beholding His glory, not as one coming to dazzle us and leaving us as poor as He met us (some rich men do) but as one who intentionally grants us access like Moses to be impacted upon and transformed by the glory we see. Hence as many as come, as many as behold Him and His glory, as many as receive Him He authorizes to be adopted into God's family and begin drawing from Family account to meet their needs. This account exists in a currency called "Grace".

Our Lord whom we have received has fullness and plenitude of grace like river or ocean's waves that pushes in the direction of all who receive Him in layers, cascades, ripples and ridges, one segment following on the tail of another in continuous flow as we use. In Jesus Christ God gave the fullness of Himself to mankind such that by receiving Him and entering into partnership and intimacy with Him we have all we need to be and to do all that God ordained for us in a lifetime and beyond. This is the message of John 1:16

We shall consider three sub topics:

1. Understanding grace and its source
2. Availability and sufficiency of divine grace for all
3. Modalities for tapping into and receiving from Christ's fullness

1. Understanding grace and its source

John 1:15-16, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Psalm 103:8, Hebrews 4:16, Acts 20:32, Hebrews 13:9

Grace simply means "*favour*". Contextual use may permit its description as kindness, enablement, resource, empowerment, strength, potentials and ability. These words express different aspects and perspectives of grace as used both in the scripture and in literature. Scripturally, Grace is all that God makes available to the believer as a result of His relationship with Christ. Grace is all that Jesus Christ made available through His crucifixion, death and resurrection so that the believer can be and do all that God ordained for him to be and to do in a lifetime and beyond 1 Corinthians 15:10. Grace reflects God's nature Psalm 103:8; hence, He is described as sitting on the throne of grace Hebrews 4:16; Grace is an expression of His love. Grace is the provision of both the flour as well as baked bread coming from heaven's oven and served as occasion demands. Grace could be served as resource if and when necessary, and as power, potentials and ability if the need arise.

Our text stated unequivocally that grace comes from Jesus Christ and that with Him is fullness of grace. All the gifts of God are treasured up in Christ and are inseparable from Him. "*Fullness*" in Greek implies "*total and complete*" in absolute sense. Totality of divine

power and attributes resides in Christ. There is sufficiency with God and with Christ to reverse totally in our lives the effect of sin, pain, guilt, fear, disappointment, poor choices, regrets, hopelessness, loneliness, frustration and weakness. Grace prepares our hearts and makes the condition in it conducive for divine in-dwelling and for God's enthronement. Grace builds us up and matures us Acts 20:32, it strengthens us and make us settled in our conviction and practice of Christian faith Hebrews 13:9. It gives us a walk in the Lord that is grounded, strong, solid and firm.

2. Availability and sufficiency of divine grace for all

John 1:16, John 3:16, Titus 2:11-12, 2 Corinthians 9:8, 1 Corinthians 15:10, John 1:12

Our text boldly declares that believers' source is inexhaustible. We all come, humanity come and gather together on ocean's shore to drink with tea cup. We drank, men drink in every generation from Christ's fullness, yet the source remain unchanged. What a wonder, what an amazing experience! We also learn that Jesus as a source is a universal gift John 3:16, not for selected or privileged few. Locked inside Christ is sufficient treasure much more than the whole realm of creation can mine. Divine blessing and benefit in the kingdom is not a VIP experience. It is for every category of believers – old and young, leaders and the led, for the brand-new believer struggling to develop prayer vocabulary and for spiritual seasoned giant well advanced in age and faith. There is sufficient for the stranger far away and for the sinner provided he is willing and ready to repent and forsake his sins. The Lord is closer to all and will give sufficiently to all.

The ground is level at the foot of the cross. Access to God's grace is not based on merit or performance but on relationship. We all have access to His fullness. "*Grace upon grace*" refers to multifaceted and multidimensional grace, sufficient for different aspects and challenges we encounter in our daily lives. There is saving grace Titus 2:11, sanctifying grace Titus 2:12, sustaining grace 2 Corinthians 9:8 and serving grace 1 Corinthians 15:10. When we receive Christ John 1:12, we become children of God. The authority that comes with such position and royal privilege grants us access to be continuously replenished with divine resources and ability. Jesus is sufficient for our salvation, sanctification and empowerment for service. He is willing and can sufficiently grant us all we need to fulfill and perform all our assigned roles in the family, community, in the church and nation. He has all it takes for us to epitomize living and being in our generation.

3. Modalities for tapping into and receiving from Christ's fullness

John 1:16, Isaiah 55:1, Mathew 11:28-29, Romans 15:29, John 15:11, Hebrews 10:22, Ephesians 4:13, 3:19, Colossians 1:19, 2:9, Romans 5:2, John 1:14, 2 Corinthians 3:18

A river must flow to bless and benefit the community. On grace, this begins with incarnation, with the death of Jesus and His sacrifice, with the shedding of His blood, and by

it making salvation available, and with His resurrection making power available. Now the table is set, all things are ready, we are invited to receive. Eternal life is not hidden in a corner locked up in strong room and safe. It is available and accessible to all. Our possession of it comes with as simple an effort as stretching forth of our hands. Faith in Christ connects us with plenitude of grace and truth. They go from strength to strength, everyone who appears before God Psalm 84:7. Coming to God's presence is the basic requirement to tap into God's immeasurable blessings Isaiah 55:1, Mathew 11:28-29. Jesus gives fullness of blessings Romans 15:29, fullness of joy John 15:11, fullness of the Spirit, fullness of faith Hebrews 10:22, fullness of Himself Ephesians 4:13, fullness of God Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 1:19, 2:9,

In coming, we must come believing Romans 5:2, we must come with open face to behold the glory of God John 1:14, 2 Corinthians 3:18. There is a mechanism in God's kingdom for us to become what we see. We must come in humility (James 4:6) admitting our insufficiency and helplessness. We must come with commitment and determination to serve, to give, to love, to care, to pour out after we have received otherwise we might be rejected or ejected. There is a stop-valve on the brim of every vessel into which we receive with in God's kingdom that will make our receiving stop if we become redundant and stagnant. We learn that much from the parable of talents Mathew 25:22-30. God hates wastages.

Wastages, laziness, indifference, idleness are all economic misdemeanor in kingdom business. God will not continue to pour into your life what you do not use. Many people are familiar with praying to receive but often are ignorant or deliberately ignore the principle of giving or using to receive. We shall always receive for as long as we keep giving, and for as long as we keep using. Christ is able and have all it takes to replenish humanity's emptiness. He will replenish yours today as you submit to Him and call upon His name. Coming to Christ and abiding in Him places us on victory side and transmits to us not only great potentials for tremendous blessings but the opportunity to become immeasurable sources of blessings to others.