

# Understanding Grace from the Orthodox Perspective

St. Mark's Servants Preparation Class



What is grace?













What is grace?





God's grace is necessary. My efforts  
are equally necessary

God gives us several gifts

Grace (free  
gift of  
salvation)

Absolute free  
will



Grace doesn't  
cancel free will

These two, namely, grace and free will, although they seem opposed, in fact are complementary...Were we to deny the one or the other, we would appear to have abandoned the Faith of the Church." **St. John Cassian**

God sent His Son to save us – to persuade us but not to compel: for force is alien to God." **Epistle to Diognetus**

50/50



**synergy**  
**together**  
**partnership**  
**team**  
**collaborate**  
**cooperate**  
**collaboration**  
**sum**  
**separate**

**strategy**  
**work**  
**management**  
**effect**  
**cohesion**  
**success**

**work**  
**effort**  
**strategy**  
**work**  
**management**  
**effect**  
**cohesion**  
**success**

**support**  
**management**  
**effect**  
**cohesion**  
**success**

**cohesion**  
**success**

**team**  
**business**  
**collaborate**

**business**  
**collaborate**

**synergy**

**synergy**  
**cooperate**  
**collaboration**

**collaboration**

**together**  
**partnership**  
**unite**  
**business**  
**collaborate**

**partnership**  
**together**  
**cooperate**

**synergy**  
**cooperate**

**cooperate**  
**collaboration**

**collaboration**

**tax benefits**  
**creation**  
**unite**  
**assist**  
**revenue**  
**together**

**together**  
**partnership**  
**cooperate**


**synergy**  
**cooperate**

**cooperate**  
**collaboration**

**collaboration**

100 100





# Synergy in scripture

- You give them something to eat. **Matthew 14:16**
- Go wash in the pool of Siloam. **John 9:7**
- With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. **Judges 7:7**





# Synergy in Scripture

- not to receive the grace [gift] of God in vain... **2 Cor 6:1**
- We are fellow workers (*synergoi*) with God... **1 Corinthians 3:9**

## What do the fathers say?

- “Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.”  
**Augustine of Hippo**
- “There is need both of that which lies in our own power and of the salvation granted by God.” **St. Gregory the Theologian**



So what....

What's in it for me as a servant?

# How are we Saved?

The Understanding of Salvation  
in the Orthodox Tradition



by  
Bishop Kallistos Ware

## Suggested read

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- Point form, SUPER easy to follow
- <https://www.orthodoxmarketplace.com/esss/product/how-are-we-saved-the-understanding-of-salvation-in-the-orthodox-tradition>