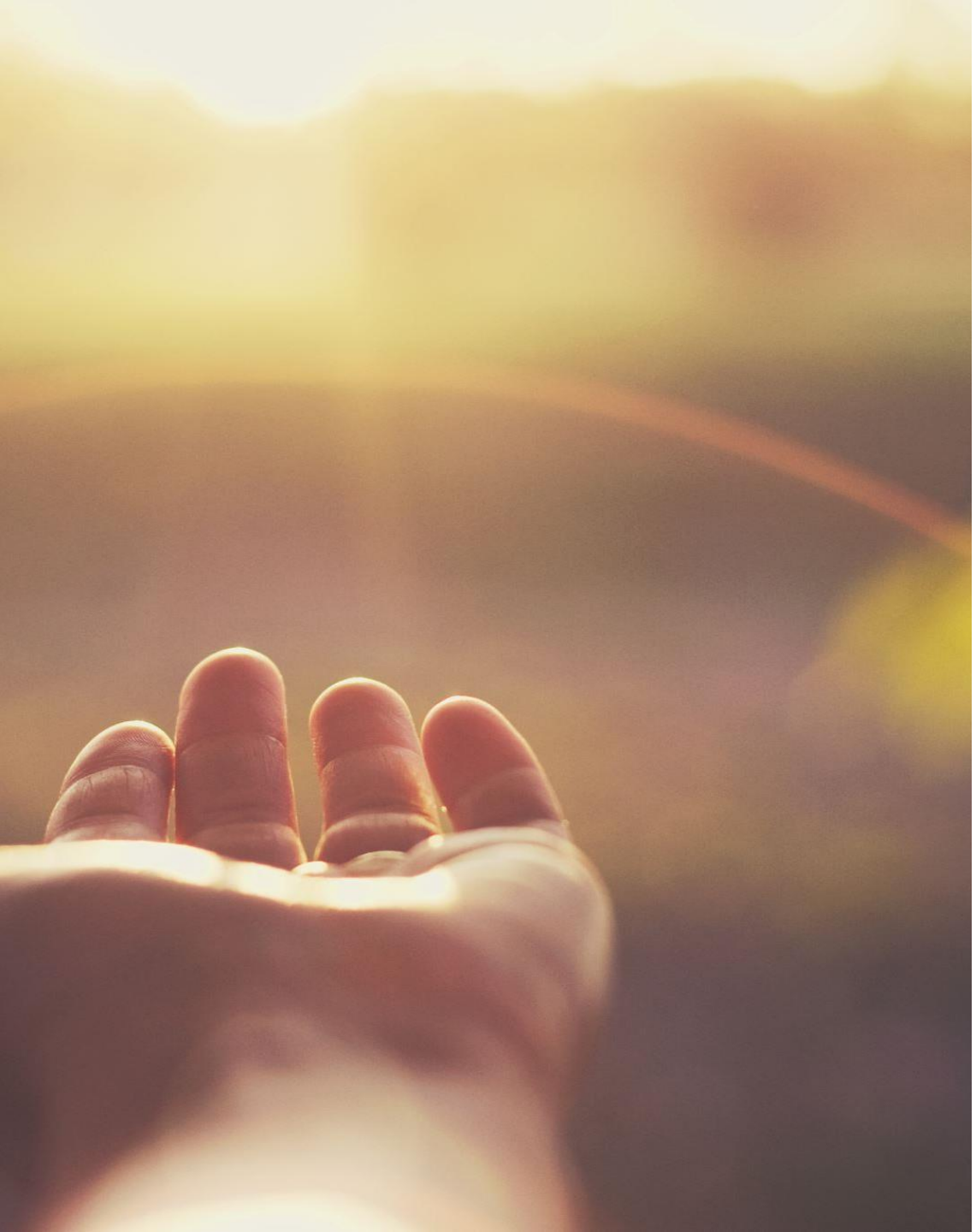

Grace ~ *charis*

seldom mentioned in the gospels, only 2 verses in John, none in Mark or Matthew, and only a handful of times in Luke.

Strong's Greek: 5485. χάρις (charis) -- grace, kindness (biblehub.com)

from **Strong's Concordance**

charis: grace, kindness

Original Word: χάρις, ιτος, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: charis

Phonetic Spelling: (khar'-ece)

Definition: grace, kindness

Usage: (a) grace, as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ, (b) favor, (c) gratitude, thanks, (d) a favor, kindness.

John 1:14,16-17

And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of **grace** and truth... From his fullness we have all received, **grace** upon **grace**. The law indeed was given through Moses; **grace** and truth came through Jesus Christ.

St Bernard ~ 778-842

Quoted in **The Living Pulpit "Grace"**

Grace is necessary to salvation,

free will equally so

- but grace in order to give salvation,

free will in order to receive it.

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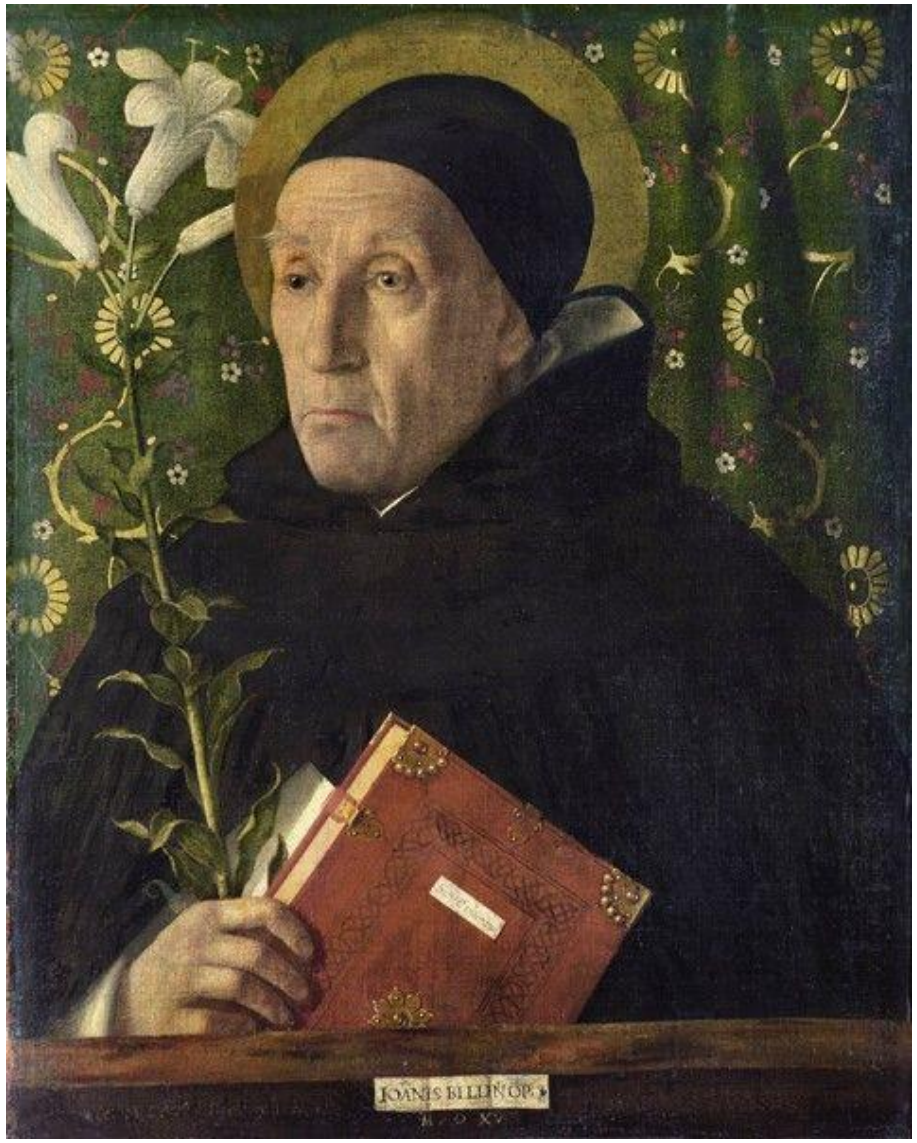


Meister Eckhart ~ 1260-1328

Quoted in **The Living Pulpit** "Grace"

Grace pours all beauty into the soul.

Julian of Norwich ~ 1343-1416

Quoted in **The Living Pulpit "Grace"**

Grace spreads widely

and shows the great abundant

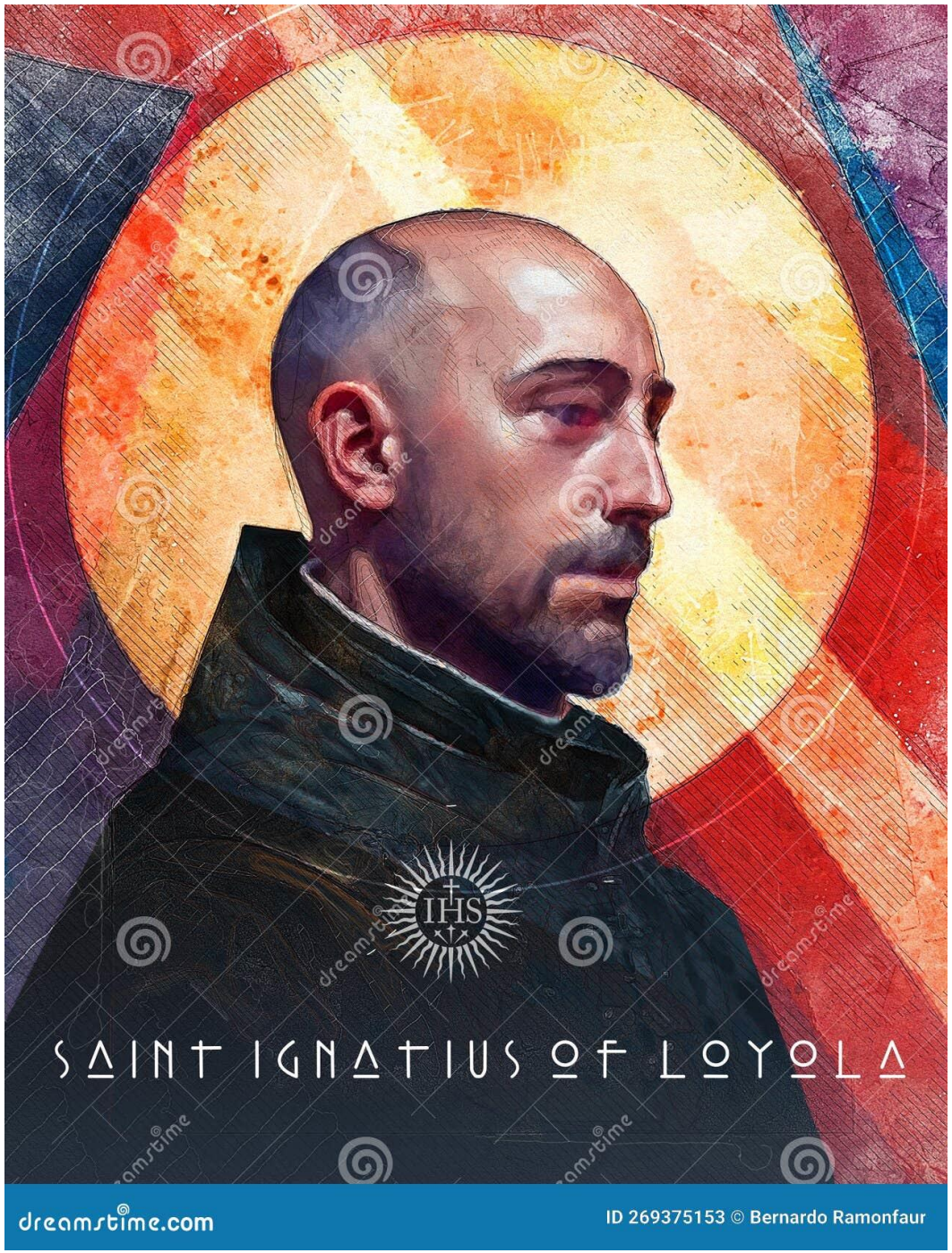
and generous hospitality

of

the royal lordship

in God's astonishing courtesy

toward us.



St Ignatius Loyola ~ 1491-1556

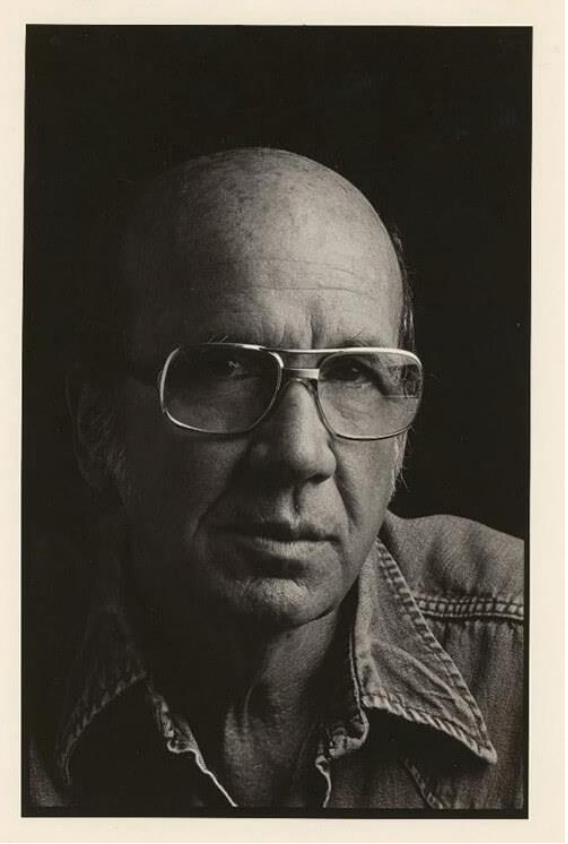
Quoted in **The Living Pulpit "Grace"**

Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them

if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to God

and

if they were to allow God's grace to mold them accordingly.



Will Campbell

Questions of Faith

~ Baptist minister, lecturer, activist & author of **Brother to a Dragonfly**

Quoted in **The Living Pulpit "Grace"**

Understanding grace does not send me into a state of inactivity and indifference.

It sends me into the streets caring for humanity in response to grace.

...Bowled over by God's gratuitous kindness toward me,

I discover that I do not know what I deserve.

Under the mysterious working of God's grace,

I get more than I give

and I give more than I have got.

My spiritual math collapses.

One plus one does not equal two

but at least three and perhaps three thousand...

Quotes from *Giving in to Grace* ~

Barbara Brown Taylor ~

Episcopal priest, teacher and author ~ article in **The Living Pulpit "Grace"**

...Surrendering to God's grace,

I surrender to a divine economy I could not manage if I tried...

The struggle is important, because giving in to grace is not a matter of accepting things the way they are. It is, instead, the dogged will to recognize God in the midst of all that is, the so-called good and the so-called bad.

If God is God, then grace is just as active in the things that threaten and reduce me. It is God's presence that makes grace, whatever the circumstances.

To give in to grace

is to surrender our ideas about who God should be

in order to

embrace God's idea of who we are

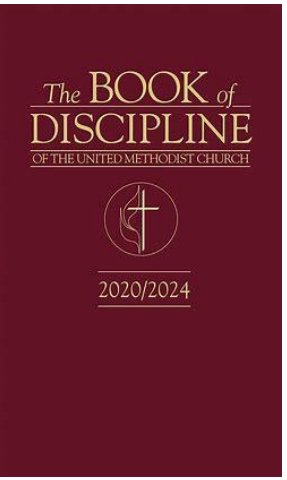
and

to have the good sense to say

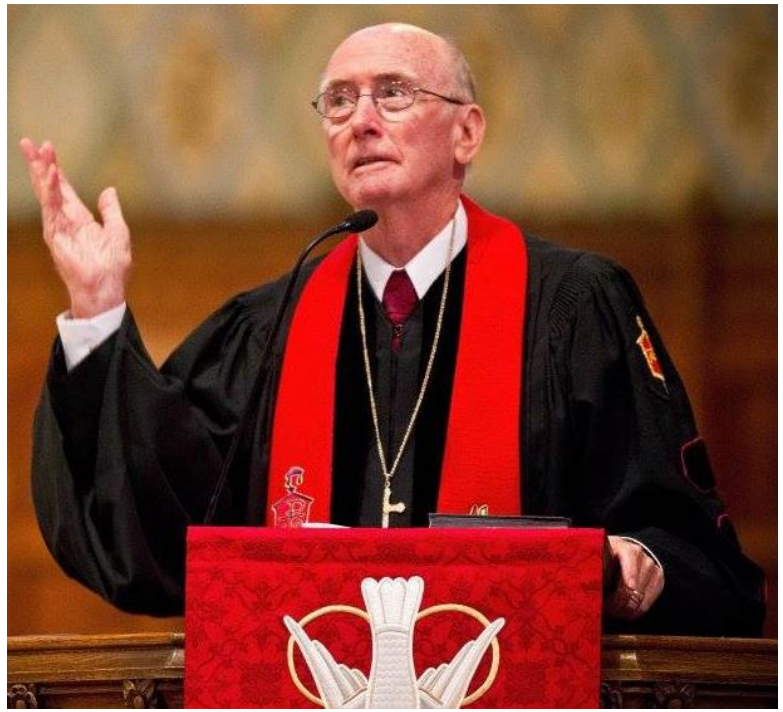
"Thank you."

John Wesley (1703-1791) defined *grace* as God's "bounty, or favour: his free, undeserved favour, ... man having no claim to the least of his mercies. It was free grace that 'formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into him a living soul,' and stamped on that soul the image of God, and 'put all things under his feet.' ... For there is nothing we are, or have, or do, which can deserve the least thing at God's hand."

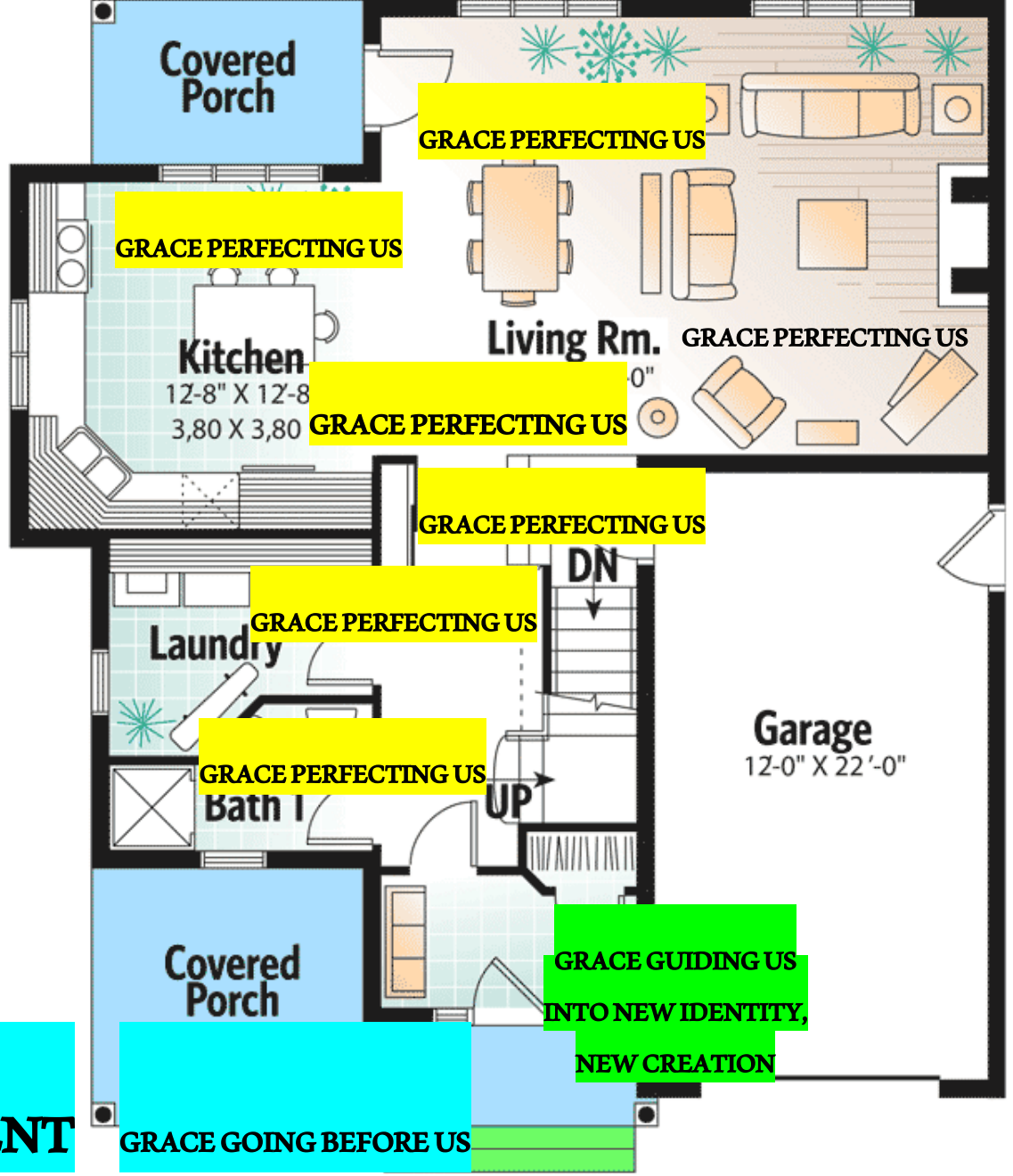
[A Wesleyan understanding of grace (resourceumc.org)]

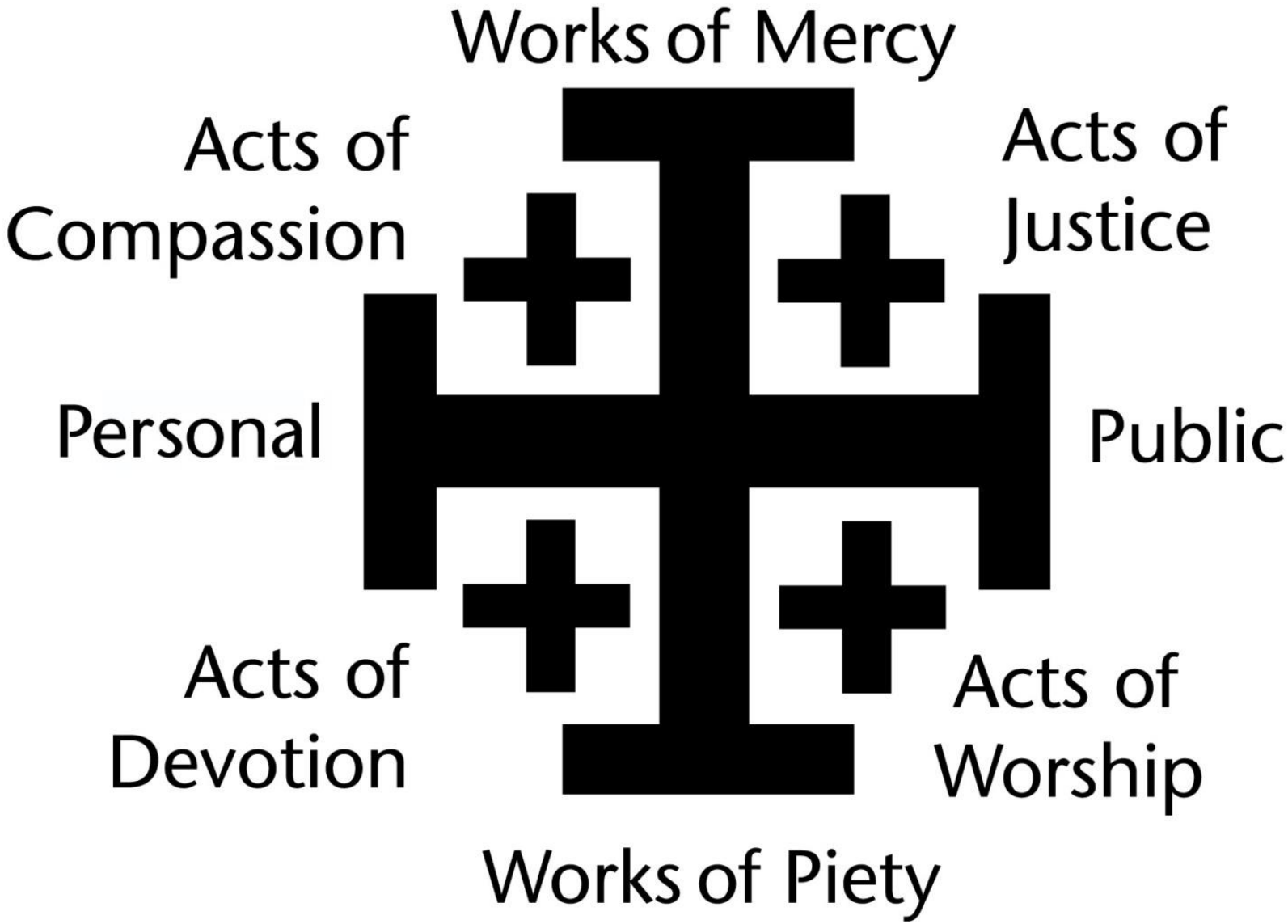


The Book of Discipline defines grace as "the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit." Grace pervades all of creation and is universally present. Grace is not a gift that God packages and bestows on us and creation. Grace is God's presence to create, heal, forgive, reconcile and transform human hearts, communities and the entire creation. Wherever God is present, there is grace! Grace brought creation into existence. Grace birthed human beings, bestowed on us the divine image, redeemed us in Jesus Christ and is ever transforming the whole creation into the realm of God's reign of compassion, justice, generosity and peace.



~ UMC Bishop Kenneth L. Carder


Covered Porch
GRACE PERFECTING US
GRACE PERFECTING US
SANCTIFYING
Kitchen
12-8" X 12'-8
3,80 X 3,80
Living Rm.
GRACE PERFECTING US
GRACE PERFECTING US
GRACE PERFECTING US
DN
GRACE PERFECTING US
Laundry
GRACE PERFECTING US
Bath 1
UP
Garage
12-0" X 22'-0"
Covered Porch
GRACE GUIDING US
INTO NEW IDENTITY,
NEW CREATION
JUSTIFYING
PREVENIENT
GRACE GOING BEFORE US


Works of Mercy
Acts of Compassion
Acts of Justice
Personal
Public
Acts of Devotion
Acts of Worship
Works of Piety

Grace: Prevenient: Justifying: Atoning: God at work before we know it:

https://www.umc.org/en/content/god-at-work-before-we-know-it-prevenient-grace

Strong's Concordance:

https://biblehub.com/greek/5485.htm

A Wesleyan understanding of grace:

https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/a-wesleyan-understanding-of-grace