Images for the Journey

1. A picture of a very serious person hanging on the wall
2. A very large parlor that was full of dust
3. Passion and Patience
4. A fire burning against a wall
5. A beautiful, stately palace
6. The man in the cage
7. The man who dreamed about the final judgment
“Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”
A Picture of A Very Serious Person
A Very Large Parlor Full of Dust
Passion and Patience
A Fire Burning Against a Wall

4th
“Then I saw in my dream that the Interpreter took Christian by the hand and led him into a place where there was a fire burning against a wall. There was one standing by it who was always throwing water on it to put it out. Even so the fire burned higher and hotter.”
“‘This fire is the work of grace that is done in the heart. The one who throws water on it to extinguish it is the devil. But you also see the reason the fire continues to burn higher and hotter.’ So he took him around to the back of the wall, where he saw a man with a bottle of oil in his hand. He was secretly and continuously throwing this oil into the fire.’”
“This is Christ, who continually, with the oil of His grace, maintains the work already begun in the heart. So even though the devil does what he can, the souls of God’s children continue to receive His grace. And when you saw the man standing behind the wall to maintain the fire, it was to teach you that it is hard for those who are tempted to understand how this work of grace is maintained in the soul.”
Five Key Truths from Bunyan

• The fire represents the **work of God’s grace** that is done in the heart.
• The fire continues to burn **brighter and hotter**.
• The work of God’s grace is done **secretly** as well as **continuously**.
• Christ’s grace **maintains the work He has already begun** in the believer’s heart.
• When tempted, it is hard for believers to understand how **grace sustains them**.
“The doctrine of the true believer’s final perseverance is here stated in so guarded a manner as to preclude every abuse of it. The emblem implies, that the soul is indeed quickened by special grace, and endued with holy affections; and this heavenly flame is not almost extinguished or covered with ashes for many years, and then revived a little at the closing scene; but it ‘burns higher and hotter,’
notwithstanding the opposition of depraved nature, and the unremitted efforts of Satan to quench it; for the Lord secretly feeds him with the oil of his grace...The instruction especially inculcated by this emblem is, an entire reliance on the secret but powerful influence of divine grace, to maintain and carry on the sanctifying work that has been begun in the soul.”
God’s Goodness

• God’s goodness toward those who are in misery is called *compassion* or *pity*.
• God’s goodness manifested in patience toward those who are deserving of punishment is called *longsuffering*.
• God’s goodness in self-communication is called *love*.
• God’s goodness shown to those who deserve nothing but evil is called *grace*.
Definition of Grace

• Greek Lexicon authors Arndt and Gingrich define the Greek word for grace as “favor, grace, gracious care or help, goodwill.”

• Liddell and Scott: grace, graciousness, kindness, goodwill for or towards one.

• Kittel’s Theological Dictionary of the New Testament: “In Paul charis (grace) is a central concept that most clearly expresses his understanding of the salvation event.”
“It is repeatedly pointed out in books and sermons that the Greek New Testament word for grace, like that for love, is a wholly Christian usage, expressing a notion of spontaneous self-determined kindness which was previously quite unknown to Graeco-Roman ethics and theology. It is staple diet in the Sunday School that grace is God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.”
Definition of *Grace*

“Grace is God’s voluntary, unrestrained, unmerited favor toward guilty sinners, granting them justification and life instead of the penalty of death, which they deserved.”

Dr. Herman Bavinck
1854-1921
Grace in the New Testament

• Grace came through Jesus Christ: “For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ” (John 1:16-17).

• Salvation is by grace alone: “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ...” (Acts 15:11).
Grace in the New Testament

• After salvation, believers must continue to live in the grace of God: “…Paul and Barnabas, who speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God” (Acts 13:43).

• Grace builds believers: “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).
Grace in the New Testament

• God’s grace is a gift which justifies: “...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24).

• Grace is received through the instrumentality of faith: “...through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand...” (Rom. 5:2).
Believers are to be strong in God’s grace: “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim. 2:1).

Grace is given in times of need: “Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).
Grace in the New Testament

• God gives grace to the humble: “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6; I Peter 5:5).

• We are commanded to grow in grace: “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18).

• The last verse in the Bible: “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen” (Rev. 22:21).
“Frankly, this side of eternity we will never unravel the good from the bad, the pure from the impure. But what I have come to see is that God is big enough to receive us with all our mixture. We do not have to be bright, or pure, or filled with faith, or anything. That is what grace means, and not only are we saved by grace, we live by it as well” (emphasis added).
“If the Pope would concede that God alone by His grace through Christ justifies sinners, we would carry him in our arms, we would kiss his feet. But since we cannot obtain this concession, we will give in to nobody, not to all the angels in heaven, not to Peter, not to Paul, not to a hundred emperors, not to a thousand popes, not to the whole world.
“If in this matter we were to humble ourselves, they would take from us the God who created us, and Jesus Christ who has redeemed us by His blood. Let this be our resolution, that we will suffer the loss of all things, the loss of our good name, of life itself, but the Gospel and our faith in Jesus Christ – we will not stand for it that anybody take them from us.”
Amazing grace – how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found –
Was blind, but now I see.
‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!
Amazing Grace

Tho' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.