

**Transforming Daily**  
**“ . . . mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you . . . ”**  
*Jude 2*

Scholars say that this is a standard greeting of that day, but what wonderful sentiment and blessing it is for any day! However let me draw your attention to the specific words of the greeting. First there is the word “mercy.” “Mercy” is a liberating word and experience, and true mercy can only be understood through the eyes of God. Mercy is the beautiful twin sister of “grace.” In essence, from God’s point of view regarding man’s sin and the penalty therefore being death, hell and the grave, God’s mercy says, “I’m going to offer you eternal life through the shed blood of My Son, Jesus Christ, that you may spend eternity with Me in heaven.” Mercy isn’t a word to be used just to stop from losing a game or to be healed or delivered from excruciating pain. Mercy is deeply linked to love and forgiveness, inextricably so.

The next word in this greeting is “peace.” “Peace” from God is more than just the absence of noise. Specifically, God’s peace is secured by and through the work of Jesus Christ on Calvary, and the subsequent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In other words, the peace of God is the reconciliation of the sinner to the Savior, the cessation of enmity between man and God, if you will. Tom Elliff uses the term “serenity,” and says that it is the conscious awareness of the presence of Christ. That’s exactly what peace is. Peace makes it possible for every believer to endure any positive or negative faith crisis without fear or anxiety.

The third word in the greeting is “love.” First Corinthians 13 talks pretty exhaustively about love. Paul defines and describes what love is and how it conducts itself. Here Jude just mentions love in passing, but what kind of love is he referring to? In Jude’s greeting, love is used as unconditional love. Unconditional love is just what it says, love that is offered without any strings attached. It is the kind of love that God is and expressed when He sent His Son to the cross as the propitiation for our sins (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2, 4:10).

The last word, “Multiplied,” is the only verb in this greeting, and it is in the passive voice. There are two distinct characteristics of the use of multiplied here with which Jude blesses the early believers. One is the basic understanding of multiplication being greater than addition. So Jude is praying God’s lavish and abundant mercy, peace and love on them. Not just added to them, but multiplied to them and that without end. The second characteristic Jude emphasizes is revealed in his use of the passive voice, that is, Jude is indicating that this “mercy, peace and love” has nothing to do with anything they have done, are doing or will do to cause it to be lavished upon them. Oversimplified, Jude offers this sentiment as a gift of true blessing.

In its final analysis, the greeting is really praise to God for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jude’s words could be transliterated, “Praise God for the truth of the gospel that you have already received (mercy, peace and love), and may its’ effects continue to be lavishly poured out upon you.” Just as Jude’s greeting applied to the early believers it applies to believers today. All believers everywhere and at all times are abundantly blessed in the truth of the gospel. Mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you!