

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUMBER FIVE IN THE SCRIPTURES

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The number five occurs quite often in God's Word.

For example:

- 1Sam 17:40* As David crossed over **no man's land** to face Goliath, he chose for himself **5 smooth stones** from the brook.
- Gen 43:34* When Joseph wanted to show his favour towards his brother, Benjamin, he gave him **5 servings of food**, whereas the other brothers all received one serving.
Also Gen 45:22.
- Lev 1:1-7:38* Describes **the 5 sacrificial offerings** that Israel was to present to God, to maintain a right relationship with Him, and to receive His mercy and **grace**.
- Jn 20:25* Some make a point that Jesus Christ suffered **5 major wounds** to His body on the Cross, for our salvation.
- Mk 16:17,18* **There are 5 signs** that follow those who believe in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Eph 4:11,12* There are 5 ministry gifts that Christ gives to the church, to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, and to edify the body of Christ.

From these references, and others like them, the number **5** is associated with the idea of **GRACE** or blessing.

We may think of grace as all God's mercy, kindness and help to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we are merciful and kind to others, helping them in whatever way we can, we are extending grace to them, or being **gracious**.

We use our hands to help others. The helping hand is the work of our 5 fingers.

In Isaiah 41:10 God says to us, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with **My righteous right hand**"
God's hand of **grace**

God's "righteous right hand" may be regarded as the Holy Spirit, our Helper, or Comforter.
Jn 14:26 He is the "**hand of God**" to assist and strengthen us.

When the musician played for Elisha, the anointing of the Spirit came upon him, and he prophesied. In *2Kings 3:15*, the anointing of the Spirit is called "the hand of the Lord."

The Holy Spirit is the One who brings God's grace into our lives.