

PRIVILEGED “God’s Favor Is for Everyone” December 2, 2018

*His grace should cause us to have reverence, awe, & respect for God,
who gave us such an extravagant gift.*

*God is the giver. God is the initiator. You’re not. You can’t do anything
to make Him love you or accept you more than He always has.*

His grace & favor is coming at you right now; accept & receive it by faith

John 1:16 ESV From His fullness we’ve all received, grace upon grace 17
For the law was given through Moses; grace & truth came through
Jesus Christ.

John 1:16 MSG We all live off His generous bounty, gift after gift after
gift. We got the basics from Moses, & then this exuberant giving &
receiving, this endless knowing & understanding— all this came
through Jesus, the Messiah.

*He wants us to have more than just “head knowledge” but grasp His
grace with our hearts. “Heart knowledge” Be partakers of His grace.*

God’s Grace Transforms & Empowers All Parts of Our Lives

*God desires is for His grace to influence **every area** of your life. His
grace is empowering you to grow in spiritual maturity.*

1 Peter 4:10 NKJV As each one has received a gift, minister it to one
another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

NIV ...God’s grace in its various forms

NCV ...God’s various gifts of grace

WEY ...God’s many-sided kindness

AMP ...the extremely diverse powers & gifts

NLT ...His great variety of spiritual gifts

***The blind people who were led to an elephant; each felt a different part, & then gave their description...*

Tail = rope

Leg = tree

Trunk = big water hose

Side/Body = wall

Ear = big, floppy leaf

Tusk = pipe

**Each told only one part, but no one gave a comprehensive description.*

**None of them were incorrect, but each description was incomplete.*

One of the difficulties of describing God's grace & favor is that it isn't narrow, constricted, or one-dimensional.

People perceive & receive God's grace differently:

Deep, dark sin & bondage = Grace as His delivering & rescuing power

Early aged salvation, faithful for decades = Grace as His keeping power

Called & experienced ministry & miracles = Grace as His enabling power

Hurt, broken, & hopeless = Grace as His comfort & strengthening power

Consider these "facets & descriptions of grace" found in the Word:

**God's grace helps us...*

Hebrews 4:16 Let us come boldly to the throne of (grace) our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, & we'll find grace to help us when we need it most.

**God's grace gives us comfort, hope, strength, & forgiveness.*

2 Thessalonians 2:16 May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself & God our Father, who loved us & by His grace gave us eternal comfort & a wonderful hope, 17 comfort you & strengthen you in every good thing you do & say.

Ephesians 1:7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins.

Guilt says, "You failed."

Shames says, "You're a failure."

Grace says, "Your failures are forgiven."

**God's grace establishes & strengthens our hearts*

Hebrews 13:9a So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your strength comes from God's grace,

**God's grace makes us what we are and works in us and through us...*

1 Corinthians 15:10 But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out His special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by His grace

Romans 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins.

**God's grace is sufficient for us*

2 Corinthians 12:9 ...he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

**God's grace causes us to reign & rule in life*

Romans 5:17 ...But even greater is God's wonderful grace & His gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin & death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:32 And now I entrust you to God and the message of His grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance.

**God's grace enables us to minister the love of Jesus to others.*

Romans 1:5 Through Christ, God has given us the privilege & authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey Him, bringing glory to His name.

2 important principles about the grace of God:

- 1. Grace & graciousness pertain to God Himself. It's who He is. We shouldn't think of God's grace as an "it" as though it was some impersonal "thing" or commodity. Grace is God's nature & character flowing from His person & presence. The way light and heat emanate from the sun.**
- 2. God's grace is active and productive. Whenever His grace is received, a variety of dynamic and powerful things happens. Tangible blessings are imparted into the lives of people, and lives are lifted, transformed, and empowered.**

Titus 3:4 MSG It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid & stubborn, dupes of sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated & hating back. But when God, our kind & loving Savior God, stepped in, He saved us from all that. It was all His doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, & we came out of it new people, washed inside & out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with Him & given us back our lives. & there's more life to come—an eternity of life! You can count on this.