

PRIVILEGED “God’s Favor Is for Everyone” December 9, 2018

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.

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

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.**

“Grace is a catalyst to propel us into a fruitful & productive life.”

WORKS - Different types of works:

Jesus said the works of the world are evil – **John 7:7**

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil” – **1 John 3:8**

Paul warned against works as a way to obtain salvation – **Romans 11:6**

Paul said cast off the works of darkness – **Romans 13:12**

Paul speaks of wicked works – **Colossians 1:21**

Paul warns us not to indulge in the works of the flesh – **Galatians 5:19**
Repentance from dead works is one of the foundational doctrines of Christ - **Hebrews 6:1**

And yet....

Jesus said we'd be rewarded according to our works – **Matthew 16:27**

Jesus spoke of the works that He did – **John 5:36**

Jesus said our good works would be a shining light, causing men to glorify God – **Matthew 5:16**

Paul said we should be identified by our good works – **Ephesians 2:10**

Jesus said to churches He knows/recognizes our works – **Revelation 2**

Works have nothing to do with our salvation, but it does reflect our fruit.

Grace is a springboard into a life of obedience & fruitfulness.

Ephesians 2:8 TPT It was only through this wonderful grace that we believed in Him. Nothing we did could ever earn this salvation, it was the gracious gift from God that brought us to Christ! 9 No one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving. 10 We've become His poetry, a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny He's given each of us, we're joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance *our destiny* & the good works we would do *to fulfill it!*

God's grace inspires, enhances, invigorates & energizes us & our works after we're saved! ****Our works should express our salvation!!****

Colossians 1:10 The way you live will always honor & please the Lord, & your lives will produce every kind of good fruit-all the while, you'll grow as you learn to know God better & better.

Titus 3:8b ...all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good & beneficial for everyone.

*Are works the root of our salvation? **No.** *Are works the intended fruit of our salvation? **Yes.** *Do works produce our salvation? The Bible says **no** to any work on our part. *Do works express salvation? The Bible says **yes** to good works generated by God's grace.

Titus 2:7 You yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your (Pastor Frank's – Ha!) teaching.

Titus 3:14 TPT Encourage the believers to be passionately devoted to beautiful works of righteousness by meeting the urgent needs of others & not be unfruitful.

Basically, Jesus says, "Now that you're forgiven, accepted, & saved, I'm going to work in you & empower you to fulfill God's plan for your life."

Ephesians 2:8,9? By grace you've been saved through faith... BUT...?

Philippians 2:12b ...Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence & fear. 13 For *God is working in you*, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.

*True saving faith is not dead, lifeless, & unproductive.
Grace came through faith. Faith is acting on what you believe.
Genuine faith is inseparable from the actions it produces. (Fruit)*

James 2:18 MSG I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department." Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith & works, works & faith, fit together hand in glove. **19-20** Do I hear you professing to believe in the one & only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use

your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith & works in two & not end up with a corpse on your hands? **21-24** Wasn't our ancestor Abraham "made right with God by works" when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? Isn't it obvious that faith & works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are "works of faith"? The full meaning of "believe" in the Scripture sentence, "Abraham believed God & was set right with God," includes his action. It's that mesh of believing & acting that got Abraham named "God's friend." Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works? **25** The same with Rahab, the Jericho harlot. Wasn't her action in hiding God's spies & helping them escape—that seamless unity of believing & doing – what counted with God? The very moment you separate body & spirit, you end up with a corpse. Separate faith & works & you get the same thing: a corpse.

*God's good works are inspired & empowered by His grace.
Let's live from the grace of God within us.*

Hebrews 10:24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

God's grace enables us to fulfill His will with joy & gratitude in our hearts.

Matthew 5:14 TPT Your lives light up the world. Let others see your light from a distance, for how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop? ¹⁵ And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it's placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light. ¹⁶ So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven.