

**PRIVILEGED** *“God’s Favor Is for Everyone”* November 11, 2018

*“Jesus, I pray that we will be transformed today as we realize your presence in our lives. And that your thoughts & intentions toward us are good. You’re for us, not against us. There is no shame. No guilt. No condemnation because Your heart toward us is grace.”*

**Say this after me please** *“Father, I thank You for releasing grace, peace, & mercy into my life. Thank you, Jesus, that Your grace, Your love, & communion of the Holy Spirit are mine today in Jesus’ name. Amen”*

**1 Peter 4:16b** ...Praise God for the privilege (to be deemed worthy) of being called by His name!

*We are the privileged ones. We’re privileged because of God’s favor.  
God’s favor is His grace & God’s favor is for everyone!*

**Romans 5:2** Because of our faith; Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved **privilege**...

**Romans 5:2 AMP** Through Him we have our access, entrance, & introduction by faith into this grace, state of God's favor...

**GRACE QUOTES:**

John Stott - *“Grace is love that cares & stoops & rescues.”*

Alexander Whyte - *“Grace & love are, in their innermost essence, one & the same thing.”*

Matthew Henry – *“Grace is the free, undeserved goodness & favor of God to mankind.”*

Lawrence O. Richards – *“Grace is a proclamation. It is the triumphant announcement that God in Christ has acted & has come to the aid of all who will trust Him for their eternal salvation.”*

Harry Ironside – *“Grace is the very opposite of merit... Grace is not only underserved favor, but it is favor, shown to the one who has deserved the very opposite.”*

W.H. Griffith Thomas – “Grace means more, far more than we can put into words, because it means nothing less than the infinite character of God Himself. It includes mercy for the undeserving & unmerciful, help for the helpless & hopeless, redemption for the renegade & repulsive, love for the unloving & unlovely, kindness for the unkind & unthankful. And all this in full measure & overflowing abundance, because of nothing in the object & because of everything in the Giver, God Himself”

**“STORY TIME WITH PASTOR FRANK” – Oh the matchless grace of Jesus!**

**Luke 23:33** When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed Him to the cross. & the criminals were also crucified—one on His right & one on His left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” & the soldiers gambled for His clothes by throwing dice. 35 The crowd watched & the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,”; “let Him save Himself if He is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” 36 The soldiers mocked Him, too, by offering Him a drink of sour wine. 37 They called out to Him, “If you’re the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” 38 A sign was fastened above Him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.” (Mark 15:32... Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.) 39 One of the criminals hanging beside Him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—& us, too, while you’re at it!” 40 But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you’ve been sentenced to die? 41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into Your Kingdom.” 43 & Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you’ll be with Me in paradise.”

**GRACE!**

**Romans 5:20** God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more & more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. (NKJV where sin abounded, grace abounded much more) **21** So just as sin ruled over all people & brought

them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God & resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ.

*Sometimes we dwell so much on our unworthiness or our sin or our failures or shame or guilt or condemnation! We have to change our perspective! The blood of Jesus has cleansed you from all sin and you've been made a child of God!!! You have a new nature. You need to **magnify** His abundant and superior grace!!*

*Worship & praise helps us focus on Him & His grace instead of you & your failings. If you keep looking at yourself, your failures & faults that's what will be magnified, & you'll get more of it. **But** when we focus on Jesus & His favor, we'll walk in the light of His favor, living freely in the benefits of His grace & His life!*

**2 Corinthians 4:15** All of this is for your benefit. As God's grace reaches more & more people, there'll be great thanksgiving, God will receive **more & more glory**.

*This is **Grace Based Living** - daily walking in His favor. More & more strength, more wisdom & joy. Old areas of fear, guilt, shame, & condemnation - dropping away. That's Grace Based Living!*

**Acts 20:24** My life's worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. (Gospel of Grace)...**32** I entrust you to God & the message of His grace that is able to build you up & give you an inheritance with all those He has set apart for Himself.

**Ephesians 3:7** By God's grace (*undeserved favor*) & mighty power, I've been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this Good News. **8** Though I'm the least deserving of all God's people, He graciously gave

me the privilege (*grace, favor*) of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. (*in Jesus*)

### **5 Areas Where His Grace Transforms & Empowers Our Lives**

**1. Saving Grace** *is God's power to justify, forgive, & make us new in Jesus.*

**Ephesians 2:8** God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it's a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we've done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

**2. Sanctifying Grace** *is God's power to purify & enable us to live holy lives.*

**Titus 2:11** The grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people 12 We're instructed to turn from godless living & sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness & devotion to God

**3. Strengthening Grace** *is God's power to energize & inspire us to victoriously reign in life.*

**Romans 5:17** For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

**4. Sharing Grace** *is God's power to meet our needs & joyfully give to others.*

**2 Corinthians 9:8** God will generously provide all you need. Then you'll always have everything you need & plenty left over to share with others.

5. **Serving Grace** is God's power to serve Him & others.

**1 Peter 4:10** God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

*"We owed a debt we couldn't pay, & Jesus paid a debt He didn't owe."*

**Titus 3:4** When God our Savior revealed His kindness & love, 5 **He saved us**, not because of the righteous things we'd done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth & new life through the Holy Spirit. 6 He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7 **Because of His grace** He made us right in His sight & gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.