

PRIVILEGED “God’s Favor Is for Everyone” October 28, 2018

I want to **pray** this scripture over you...

Ephesians 3:17b ...Your roots will grow down into God’s love (grace) & keep you strong. ¹⁸ May you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, & how deep His love (grace) is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love (grace) of Christ, though it’s too great to understand fully. Then you’ll be made complete with all the fullness of life & power that comes from God. (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 grace.
God’s grace is His favor & God’s favor is for everyone!*

“Grace is God’s unrelenting dependability – in spite of our sin, our unfaithfulness, & failures. He remains faithful...whatever, regardless!”

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

Romans 5:2 AMP Through Him also we have our access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace, state of God's favor, in which we firmly & safely stand...

“Some things that seem to annoy people about God is His willingness to: unconditionally love, freely forgive, and graciously restore those whom we’ve decided deserve the exact opposite.”

Many of us see God as angry, judgmental, & disappointed in us. We don’t see God as a loving Father & Helper, but more of a faultfinder.

Many of us think that our continued acceptance with God is based on us doing everything perfectly.

We try to live this Christian life on our own strength & we struggle with our flesh & we fail. We NEED Jesus. We need His 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.

Grace Based Living is 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.

His grace & favor isn't just for initiating you into the Kingdom of God, but also for your continued living & walking in the Kingdom.

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.

Consider these “descriptions of grace” found in the Word:

**He’s the God of all grace (1 Peter 5:10)*

**His throne is a throne of grace. (Hebrews 4:16)*

**The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of the Grace of God (Hebrews 10:29)*

**The prophets prophesied of the grace that should come to us (1 Peter 1:10)*

**Grace came by Jesus (John 1:17)*

“The law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love & faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.”

**God’s favor was on Jesus. (Luke 2:40)*

**Gracious words came out of His mouth (Luke 4:22)*

**Jesus was full of grace and it’s from His fullness that we receive one grace after another (John 1:14a,16)*

“The Word became human & made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love & faithfulness... 16 From His abundance we’ve all received one gracious blessing after another.”

The Word teaches us and tells us to:

**Rely on the grace of God (Acts 13:43)*

**Abound in grace (2 Corinthians 8:7)*

**Be strong in grace (2 Timothy 2:1)*

“...be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus.”

**Grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18)*

The Bible associates grace with such words as:

**Great grace/blessing (Acts 4:33)*

**The abundance of grace (Romans 5:17)*

**His overflowing grace (2 Corinthians 9:14)*

**His glorious grace (Ephesians 1:6)*

**The riches of His grace (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.”

**The wealth of His grace (Ephesians 2:7)*

**His grace and mighty power (Ephesians 3:7)*

**The grace of life (1 Peter 3:7)*

**The true grace of God (1 Peter 5:12)*

**The manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10) AMP*

“As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as befits good trustees of God's many-sided grace [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor].

Grace can be:

**Found (Hebrews 4:16)*

**Shown (Ezra 9:8)*

**Poured (Psalm 45:2)*

**Received (Romans 1:5)*

**Seen and perceived (Acts 11:23; Galatians 2:9)*

Grace saves us and empowers us to live a life pleasing to God:

**We're saved by grace and through grace (Acts 15:11; Ephesians 2:8)*

**It's through the grace of God that we believe (Acts 18:27)*

**Grace builds us up & gives us an inheritance (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"

**We are justified freely by His grace (made right) (Romans 3:24)*

**Grace makes sure promises are received by faith (Romans 4:16)*

**Paul ministered by the grace that was given to him (Romans 12:3)*

**We have differing gifts according to the grace that is given to us (Romans 12:6)*

**Grace causes us to be enriched by Him in every way and in all knowledge (1 Corinthians 1:4,5)*

**Grace makes us what we are and works in us and through us (1 Corinthians 15:10)*

**It is the generous grace of God that makes us rich (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

“You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.”

**God’s grace is sufficient for us (2 Corinthians 12:9)*

**God’s grace causes us to reign in life (Romans 5:17)*

**We’re called by grace into grace (Galatians 1:6, 15)*

**Grace enables us to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ (Ephesians 3:8)*

**Our words can impart grace to others (Ephesians 4:29)*

**We’re partakers of His grace (Philippians 1:7)*

**We sing with grace in our hearts, and our words are to be seasoned with grace (Colossians 3:16; 4:6)*

**Grace gives us eternal comfort & wonderful hope (2 Thessalonians 2:16)*

**Grace teaches us to live holy lives (Titus 2:11,12)*

**Grace helps us in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)*

**Grace enables us to serve God acceptably (Hebrews 12:28)*

**Grace establishes & strengthens our hearts (Hebrews 13:9)*

**Grace is multiplied to us through the knowledge of God & of Jesus our Lord (2 Peter 1:2)*

**Grace is obtained by coming boldly before His throne (Hebrews 4:16)
“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, & we’ll find grace to help us when we need it most.”*

Warnings about how an individual can misuse grace:

**Receive grace in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1)*

**Fail to receive grace (Hebrews 12:15)*

**Fall away from grace (Galatians 5:4)*

**Insult the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29)*

**Turn the grace of God into immoral living (Jude 4)*

**Set aside or treat as meaningless the grace of God (Galatians 2:21)*

“I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.”

Grace is not a peripheral issue or an afterthought.

His grace is the empowering force behind who we become & all we're enabled to do for Him.

Every aspect of who we are is to be touched & transformed by His grace

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.