

[16] "For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?" [17] And the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight, and I have known you by name." [18] Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" [19] And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

[Exodus 33:16-19]

As we begin, please consider the Hebrew noun קָנָה (khane)^{1a} which has the meanings of 'favor', 'grace', or 'acceptance'. Genesis 6:8 stands as the fundamental application of this word, meaning to have unmerited favor in God's sight. This Hebrew noun also conveys a sense of 'acceptance' or 'preference' and therefore a 'special standing' or "privilege" with God or people.

Also consider the Greek noun χάρις (kharece),^{1b} which is grace that causes 'favor', 'joy', 'pleasure', 'gratification', or 'acceptance'. It is a 'favor' done without expectation of return. It is the absolutely free expression of the loving kindness of God to people finding its only motive in the bounty and benevolence of God the Giver. It is 'unearned' and 'unmerited favor'. God's 'GRACE' affects our sinfulness by not only forgiving the repentant sinner, but by bringing joy and thankfulness to them. It changes the individual into a new creation without destroying their individuality [2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:8,9]. When received by FAITH, it transforms people and causes them to love and to seek after the righteousness of God.

For our purpose in this series of Thoughts, grace is initially the work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration into a spiritual life. The maintenance of this condition requires an unbroken and immense supply of grace. Grace remains constant in, and basic to a believer's fight against the devil and his struggle against sin. Renewal is stimulated and impelled by God's illuminating and strengthening of the soul. This will continue and increase so long as the soul perseveres. God's grace ensures that those who have been truly regenerated will persevere until the end of life. This entire work is called sanctification, a work of God where the believer is renewed in whole; and is enabled to die daily to sin and to live in righteousness. It is the unmerited favor that is made available to the sinner for salvation; and the redeemed for victorious living.

As we move on into Part One of this series on DIVINE GRACE, consider what John 1:14-17 teaches us concerning GRACE, the Old Covenant Law, and Jesus. Here we learn,

[14] *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of GRACE and truth.* [15] *John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"* [16] *For of His fulness we have all received, and GRACE*

¹ "Grace" in the Hebrew is the noun קָנָה (khane), Strong's Hebrew dictionary noun number 2580. In the Greek it is the Greek noun χάρις (kharece) Strong's Greek dictionary noun number 5485.

upon GRACE. ^[17] For the Law was given through Moses; GRACE and truth were REALIZED through Jesus Christ.

This does not mean there was no FAVOR or GRACE under the Old Testament. It simply emphasizes that FAVOR or GRACE were FULLY "REALIZED" through Jesus Christ!

It was through this FULLY REALIZED GRACE that in Acts 4:33 we learn that,
... with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and ABUNDANT GRACE was upon them all.

This ABUNDANT GRACE was not just "upon" the apostles, it "was upon them all", that is all of the believers.

Also consider Acts 11:20-24 where we are taught that,

^[20] ... there were some... of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ^[21] ... the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number WHO BELIEVED turned to the Lord. ^[22] And the news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. ^[23] Then when he had come and WITNESSED the GRACE of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; ^[24] for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

Did you see the result of Divine Grace in Acts 11:23,24? The result was that,
"considerable numbers were brought to the Lord!"

I have to wonder what God would do today if more of us who claim to be believers understood and gave WITNESS to the GRACE of God in our own lives and the lives of others today.

As we close Today's Thought please consider Romans 5:20-21, which teaches us,

^[20] And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; **BUT** where sin increased, GRACE abounded all the more, ^[21] that, as sin reigned in death, even so GRACE might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord willing, please meet me here tomorrow, when we will consider Part Two of Thoughts on Divine Grace and Favor.

Now please join me in prayer.

Heavenly Father, I come before You Today thanking You for defining Your Grace and Favor for us Today. I pray that You will move us to open our eyes, so we might see and understand Your Grace and Favor in our own lives and the lives of those around us day by day. I pray this prayer of thanksgiving in Christ's Holy Name! Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things! Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

BECAUSE I WANT TO FULLY REALIZE GOD'S FAVOR AND GRACE
IN EACH DAY OF MY LIFE! - tom