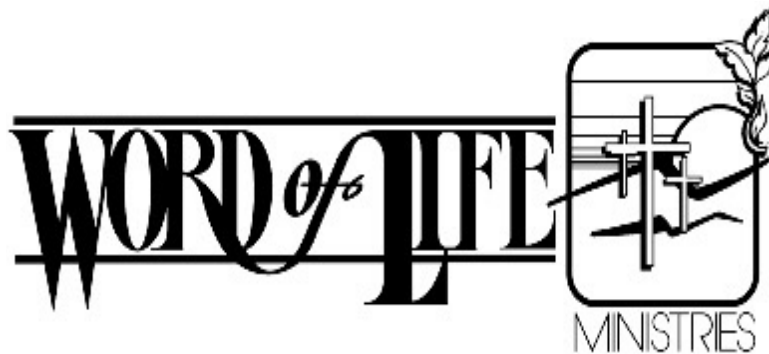


The Favor of God



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Favor & Grace

Grace and Favor are essentially the same thing in scripture. We will give the Greek and Hebrew words below to substantiate that. The reason I am tying Grace in with this study on Favor is because it may help us get a little better grasp on the concept of Favor. Grace and Favor are the core, foundation that our salvation flows from. The better we understand it, the easier it will be for it to flow in our lives.

I. So let's start by establishing that Grace and Favor are the same thing.

A. In the New Testament they are the same original Greek word. In most places it's translated Grace. A few places it's translated Favor.

- 1. Grace - #5485 ("Charis")*
- 2. Favor - #5485 ("Charis")*

B. #5485 Definition: "Graciousness, the divine influence upon the heart, its reflection in the life":

"Grace: that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech"

: "God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues"

: "Kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved"

C. In the Old Testament they are not always the same word, but the meanings are tied together.

- 1. Grace - #2580*
- 2. Favor - #2580 (Used 24 times) #7522 (Used 15 times) #2603 (Used 8 times)
Ten various other words are used from 1 to 4 times each.*
- 3. The most predominant word used #2580 is the only word used for Grace in the O.T.
#2580 is defined as: "Graciousness, favour, grace, charm, elegance, acceptance"*
- 4. #7522 is defined as: "Pleasure, delight, favour, goodwill, acceptance"*
- 5. #2603 is defined as: "To bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow; be gracious, show favour"*

As you can see, these words are stating different facets of the same thing. In essence, when you read the word 'Grace' you could replace it with the word 'Favor', and vice/versa.

- D. The layman's definition for the word Grace: "Unmerited Favor"**
: "Being given what we do not deserve"

II. Why is this important?

- A. Grace and Favor are a very supernatural thing. But they also play out in a very physical way. What we do in the PHYSICAL has a huge affect on how the SPIRITUAL impartation of Grace / Favor will play out in our lives. Let's look at just one scripture that shows this.**

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works so that no one can boast."

Eph. 2:8-9 - NIV

- 1. Grace is God's attitude/action toward us. Because of them, we are offered salvation.**
- 2. Faith is Our attitude/action toward God. Because of them, we receive salvation.**
- 3. The word 'Saved' is 'Sozo'. It means to "Deliver, Heal, Protect, and Preserve".**

- B. When we receive salvation, a very supernatural event takes place. God freely gives to us (Graces us with) spiritual life. From that every other facet of our being is affected. This came to us on the basis of our Faith (our attitude of submitting and receiving). No physical work involved. It is a gift. This is the SPIRITUAL impartation aspect of Grace working in us.**

- C. However, now that we have salvation - work is involved.**

- 1. We know this because "Faith without works is dead". (James 2:26) So some place work must accompany our Faith. In James 2:26, works is defined as: "to work; toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication an act:—deed, doing, labour, work."**
- 2. In Philippians 2:12 it says "Work out your own salvation....". Here the word work is defined: "to work fully, that is, accomplish; by implication to finish, fashion:—cause, do (deed), perform, work (out)."**

D. It's our attitude (Faith) that taps into God's attitude (Grace) and makes what God is offering to us (salvation) manifest in our lives. It's the WORK of our Faith that makes it flourish!!!

III. Pastor, What's the Point?

***A. (#1) - Via our Faith, Grace/Favor are SPIRITUALLY endowed to us.
(#2) - Via the PHYSICAL WORKS of our Faith > Grace/Favor are enhanced or thwarted.
***** They operate together. DO NOT MISS THIS POINT!!!***

B. Our Attitude of Faith (which shows up in two parts: Belief and Work) affects the amount of Grace/Favor (God's attitude) and his Works, which are able to manifest in us. If our attitude is Godly, we can live in more of the benefits that are offered to us by salvation. If our attitude is ungodly, we will find ourselves living in less of the benefits being offered to us in salvation.

C. If we REALLY BELIEVE what God has said (Faith), that attitude (Faith) will activate Grace, Favor, and the Blessings of Salvation. This happens in two ways:

- 1. A supernatural, spiritual event and endowment. (Mark 11:23-24)***
- 2. Which must direct, guide, and be lived out in our behaviors, choices, and decisions.
(Our Works & Deeds) (Ephesians 4:1, 17ff)***

******** ACCORDING TO OUR ATTITUDE (Faith and the Physical works which follow Faith),
THE ACTIVATION OF GRACE/FAVOR WILL BE INCREASED OR DECREASED IN
OUR LIVES. THIS DETERMINES THE LEVEL OF SALVATION WE LIVE AT.***

“The Favor Of God”

‘What is it? Who has it?’

Luke 1:26 - 31

“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendent of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.”

I. What is Favor?

A. “Charis” (Gr.)

- The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life***
- Good will, Loving-Kindness***
- Kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved***
- God kindly bestowing favors upon the ill-deserving - i.e. pardon for sinners --- turns souls to Christ --- keeps, strengthens, increases them in christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the christian virtues***

B. Webster

- Friendly or kind regard; good will; approval; liking***
- Unfair partiality; favoritism***

1. Favoritism - Webster

- The showing of more kindness and indulgence to some person, or persons, than to others***

- *Act of being unfairly partial*
- *The condition of being a favorite*

2. Favorite - Webster

- *To favor*
- *A person or thing regarded with special liking, or more highly than others; specifically a person liked very much and granted special privileges as by a king, high official, etc.*

II. Is God a respecter of persons?

A. Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11, Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 3:25, James 2:9, I Peter 1:17

B. Prosopolepsia - Greek

1. Young's Concordance

- *Acceptance of Faces*

2. Thayer's Lexicon

- *Respect of persons, partiality*
- *The fault of one who when called on to requite or to give judgment has respect to the outward circumstances of men and not to their intrinsic merits, and so prefers, as the more worthy, one who is rich, high-born, or powerful, to another who is destitute of such gifts.*

*******God doesn't respect certain people over others, but He does have Favorites. (Those on whom He bestows favor. And some on whom he gives more favor than others.)**

III. What does Favor do in Our Lives?

A. Favor keeps God from walking by/past us, when we're in difficult situations.

1. Genesis 18:1-3 (cf. Mark 6:48-50)

- B. Favor allows us to approach God when He is angry with us/our situation/people we're involved with/etc. Favor gave Moses the freedom to question God and what God was doing.**
1. Numbers 11:10-15
- C. Without God's Favor, we're eventually destroyed.**
1. Joshua 11:20
- D. When we are Favored, God deals with our enemies for us. He will make us solid, stable, and flourish in our lives.**
1. Psalms 44:1-3
- E. Fortunes/Wealth come via Favor. Forgiveness and Removal of Sins comes via Favor. God's anger is removed from us because of Favor.**
1. Psalms 85:1-3
- F. Compassion comes with Favor.**
1. Psalms 102:13 --- Isaiah 60:10
- G. Favor brings salvation, prosperity, joy, and makes us into the kind of person that gives God praise and exults him.**
1. Psalms 106:4-5
- H. Favor is to be a major distinguishing mark of the Christ and His Church/Bride.**
1. Isaiah 61:1-2 (whole chapter) --- Luke 4:18-19 (Amplified Version)
- I. All the facets of Salvation are brought into our life via Favor.**
1. Romans 10:9-10 --- Ephesians 2:5, 8-9
2. Definition of the word Saved. (Thayer's Greek English Lexicon)
a. Greek - Sozo
b. It is the main word used in to New Testament to describe our salvation.
c. To save, to keep safe, and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction

To make well, heal, restore to health

To preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save

To bring safe forth from

To deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment

To save from the evils which obstruct the reception of the Messianic deliverance

To save from the punitive wrath of God at the judgment of the last day

To make one partaker of the salvation by Christ

3. *Salvation begins in this life, but on the visible return of Christ from heaven will be perfected... (Thayer's Greek English Lexicon)*

IV. How Do We Get Favor With God?

A. Through Salvation/Jesus.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 --- John 1:17 --- Acts 15:11 --- Romans 1:7, 3:23-24, 5:1-3, 16:20

2. II Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2

3. When we accept the salvation given to us, we now:

- Have Favor - Live in Favor - Are Favored by God - Have the ability to live in the FULL FAVOR of God.

B. In the next handout, we'll see how to increase our receiving of favor with God; and how to walk in his FULL FAVOR.

Increasing Favor

I. God is Gracious, and Full of Favor.

A. Exodus 22:26-27; 34:4-7; (cf. 6:14)

II. Jesus was and is Full of Grace and Favor.

A. John 1:14, 16-17; Romans 15:11; 16:20,24; I Corinthians 16:23)

III. It is by and through Jesus that we access and receive Favor.

A. Romans 12:3,6; 15:15; I Corinthians 1:4, 3:10; Galatians 2:9; Ephesians 4:7

IV. A person can grow in God's Favor/Grace.

A. Luke 2:52 (cf. I Samuel 2:12-16)

B. II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 8:7, 9:8

V. How do we obtain/receive/grow in Favor?

A. Old Testament Scriptures (KJV) that tell us how to increase Favor?

1. Exodus 33:13 - By Favor God teaches us. By Being Teachable, we find more Favor.

*2. Exodus 3:21, 11:3, 12:35-36 - God can do a sovereign work and give Favor.
(cf. Daniel 1:9; Proverbs 29:26)*

3. Deuteronomy 33:23 - Naphtali was satisfied with Favor and Full of the Lord's Blessing.

4. I Samuel 2:22-26, 29-30 - Rebellion and Misplaced Honor removes Favor.

I Samuel 29:6 - Favor is obtained by being Reliable/Trustworthy. (cf. Proverbs 14:35b)

5. Psalms 5:12 - Putting our trust in God brings Favor.

6. Psalms 41:11 - We know we are in Favor when our enemies don't win over us.

7. Psalms 45:12 - Giving gifts intreat Favor.

8. Psalms 102:12-14 - God will give Favor to groups of people at set times. The favor is invited by the people feeling badly about what has happened to the things of God that have been lost/destroyed/forsaken.

9. *Psalms 106:1-5 - Blessing, Favor, Salvation, Prosperity, Joy come with doing what is Right.*
10. *Psalms 119:57-59 - Paying attention to and keeping God's word brings Favor.*
11. *Proverbs 3:3-4 - Holding on to Mercy (KJV) Love (NIV) Kindness (AMP) and Truth (KJV & AMP) Faithfulness (NIV) bring Favor. Bind them around your neck, and write them on the tablet of your heart.*
12. *Proverbs 8:35 - If you find Wisdom, you obtain Favor from the Lord.*
13. *Proverbs 11:27 - Seeking Good brings Favor. Seeking Mischief removes Favor.*
14. *Proverbs 12:2 - Good man obtains Favor from God. Men of Wicked Devices lose Favor.*
15. *Proverbs 13:13-16 - A Good Understanding of the Word brings Favor. (Do what it says is implied) Transgressing the Word removes Favor. (cf. Isaiah 27:11 - NIV)*
16. *Proverbs 14:9 - Fools mock at sin, but the righteous stay away from it. The one who stays away from sin (the righteous) have Favor.*
17. *Proverbs 14:35 - With Wisdom Comes Favor. (Example: Acts 7:10)*
18. *Proverbs 18:22 - A Marriage brings Favor. (A good marriage does more - I Peter 3:7)*
19. *Proverbs 21:10 - You cannot find Favor with a wicked person who wants evil. (cf. Isaiah 26:10)*
20. *Proverbs 28:23 - When someone does something wrong, and afterward you tell him that, you will find more Favor than if you agree with his wrong.*
21. *Jeremiah 16:10-13 - Not following and serving God, but continually living (Stubbornness) in the thoughts and desires (imagination) of evil - Removes God's Favor.*

B. New Testament Scriptures (KJV) that tell us how to increase Favor.

1. *Acts 2:46-47 - Serving God brings Favor.*

VI. How do we obtain/receive/grow in Grace?

A. Old Testament Scriptures (KJV) that tell us how to increase in Grace.

- 1. Genesis 6:8-9 - Noah found Grace by being Righteous, Blameless, and Walking with God.***
- 2. Genesis 32:5 - Open Communication brings Grace.***
- 3. Genesis 33:8,10,15 - Giving Gifts brings Grace.***
- 4. Ruth 1:8; 2:10-11 - Showing Kindness and Dealing with People Honorably.***
- 5. Psalms 84:11 - Walking Uprightly brings Grace.***
- 6. Proverbs 1:8-9 - Obedience brings Grace.***
- 7. Proverbs 3:21-22 - Wisdom & Discretion bring Grace.***
- 8. Proverbs 3:34 - Humility brings Grace.***
- 9. Proverbs 4:9 - Wisdom brings Grace.***
- 10. Zechariah 12:10 - God can choose to do a sovereign work of Pouring out Grace.***

B. New Testament Scriptures (KJV) that tell us how to increase in 'Grace'.

- 1. Romans 6:1-2; Titus 2:11-12 - By being Obedient to God and Staying Out of Sin.***
- 2. II Corinthians 8:7 - Financial Giving is a Work done in us by Grace.***
- 3. II Corinthians 9:7-8 - Grace Comes & is Increased via Financial Giving.***
- 4. Ephesians 6:24 - Loving Jesus with an Undying Love Increases Grace.***
- 5. Hebrews 4:16 - Coming before the Throne of Grace (Christ's Throne) Boldly in a time of need, obtains Favor. (cf. Genesis 18:1-3; Job 33:26)***
- 6. Hebrews 10:26-29 - Insulting the Holy Spirit by Deliberately Living in Sin, Removes Grace.***
- 7. James 4:6 - Humbleness increases Grace. Pride Decreases Grace.***
- 8. I Peter 5:5 - Humbleness increases Grace.***

9. II Peter 1:2 - Grace comes in Abundance through Knowledge of God.

Position of Dis-Grace, or Dis-Favor

Grace/Favor are constantly being offered by God. Anyone can live in them. However, we can fall short of what is available to us by getting into a position of Disgrace, or Disfavor.

Remember the definition for 'Dis' in Webster's Dictionary is:

- *"The god of the lower world: Hades"*
- *"Away, apart, deprive of, expel from, cause to be the opposite of"*

So when 'dis' gets ahold of Grace or Favor, it is literally a demonically based bringing down of God's Grace and Favor in our lives.

Below are listed some scriptures that tell us what can produce Dis-Grace in our life. (NIV Version)

Leviticus 20:17 - Incest. (II Sam. 13:13)

I Samuel 17:26 - Not defeating an enemy of God when we are told to.

Nehemiah 1:3 - When the house of God is damaged or destroyed. (O.T. > Physical. N.T. > People)

Psalms 35:26 - Pride. (Prov. 11:2)

Psalms 40:14 - Seeking to humiliate or destroy another person. (70:2; 71:13)

Psalms 52:1 - Bragging about evil or sin we're involved in.

Proverbs 6:32-35 - Sexual sins.

Proverbs 14:34 - Sin. (Jeremiah. 3:25)

Proverbs 18:3 - Wickedness produces disgrace.

Proverbs 19:26 - Not honoring parents.

Isaiah 30:1-5 - Being obstinate toward God and looking to the world (Egypt) and its leaders for help.

Isaiah 43:27-28 - Sin and Rebellion.

Isaiah 45:16 - People who make things (idols) that are designed to get people's allegiance/ worship.

Ezekiel 28:16 - Violence and sin.

Habakkuk 2:16 - Using alcohol to get people drunk so you can take advantage of them sexually.

I Corinthians 11:6, 14 - Dishonoring the spiritual authority placed over you.

I Timothy 3:7 - Being a minister (Overseer) and not guarding your reputation with outsiders.

What Kinds of Things to Believe For

Below are listed 10 general areas where scripture shows what Favor does in a person's life. These should give us a little larger picture of what kind of things God wants to do in our lives and the kind of things we should expect to see happen in our lives.

1. Genesis 39:21

Gaining positive treatment and respect (even granted authority) from those who are over us in authority.

2. Exodus 3:21

To have people act toward us in kindness, good treatment, wishing us well.

3. Exodus 11:3

Same as under point #2, as well as, to be placed in the position of respect, honor, authority, importance - in people's minds.

4. Deuteronomy 33:23

With more favor, comes an increase in blessing. These will increase our assets in the material realm. Especially in the area of real estate.

5. Joshua 11:20

When you stay in God's favor, and are dealing with people/situations who are not in God's favor - God will give you the greatest victories you've ever known. Even against impossible odds.

6. I Samuel 16:22

Recognition and advantages are given to you, even when you seem to be the least likely to receive them.

7. Esther 2:17

Prominence, Influence, and Preferential Treatment come with favor.

8. Esther 5:8

When you have God's favor, petitions are granted even by ungodly civil authorities.

9. Esther 8:5

Policies, rules, regulations, and laws can be changed and reversed to our advantage.

10. Psalms 44:3

We have battles won in our lives, that we won't even fight - because god will fight them for us.