



# FAVOR & GRACE

RECEIVING HIS BLESSING,  
INFLUENCE & PROVISION

— BY —

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WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

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# Favor & Grace

*By Pastor Vern Peltz*

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.

## **(1) 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 other words are used from 1 to 4 times each.
3. The most predominant word, #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"

## **(2) 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 effect 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 somewhere 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 Phil. 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!!!

## **(3) Pastor, what's the point?**

A. Faith and Grace/Favor operate together:

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 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) (Eph. 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."*

## (1) 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 — that is, pardon for sinners
- Turns souls to Christ
- Keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection
- 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.

## **(2) Is God a respecter of persons?**

A. Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25; James 2:9; 1 Pet. 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.)

## **(3) What does Favor do in our lives?**

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

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

B. Favor allows us to approach God when He is angry with us, with our situation, with the people we're involved with, etc. Favor gave Moses the freedom to question God and what God was doing.

1. Num. 11:10-15

C. Without God's Favor, we're eventually destroyed.

1. Josh. 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. Ps. 44:1-3

E. Fortunes/Wealth come via Favor. Forgiveness and Removal of Sins come via Favor. God's anger is removed from us because of Favor.

1. Ps. 85:1-3

F. Compassion comes with Favor.

1. Ps. 102:13; Isa. 60:10

G. Favor brings salvation, prosperity, joy, and makes us into the kind of person that gives God praise and exalts Him.

1. Ps. 106:4-5

H. Favor is to be a major distinguishing mark of the Christ and His Church/Bride.

1. Isa. 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. Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 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 the New Testament to describe our salvation.

c. Meanings include:

- 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)

#### **(4) How do we get Favor with God?**

A. Through Salvation/Jesus.

1. Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:17; Acts 15:11; Rom. 1:7; 3:23-24; 5:1-3; 16:20

2. 2 Cor. 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 section, we'll see how to increase our receiving of Favor with God, and how to walk in His FULL FAVOR.

## **Increasing Favor & Grace**

### **(1) God is Gracious, and Full of Favor**

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

### **(2) Jesus was and is Full of Grace and Favor**

A. John 1:14, 16-17; Rom. 15:11; 16:20, 24; 1 Cor. 16:23

### **(3) It is by and through Jesus that we access and receive Favor**

A. Rom. 12:3, 6; 15:15; 1 Cor. 1:4, 3:10; Gal. 2:9; Eph. 4:7

### **(4) A person can grow in God's Favor/Grace**

A. Luke 2:52 (cf. 1 Sam. 2:12-16)

B. 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 8:7; 9:8

### **(5) How do we obtain/receive/grow in Favor?**

#### **A. Old Testament Scriptures (KJV) on increasing Favor**

1. Ex. 33:13 — By Favor God teaches us. By being Teachable, we find more Favor.
2. Ex. 3:21; 11:3; 12:35-36 — God can do a sovereign work and give Favor. (cf. Dan. 1:9; Prov. 29:26)
3. Deut. 33:23 — Naphtali was satisfied with Favor and Full of the Lord's Blessing.
4. 1 Sam. 2:22-26, 29-30 — Rebellion and Misplaced Honor removes Favor.
5. 1 Sam. 29:6 — Favor is obtained by being Reliable/Trustworthy. (cf. Prov. 14:35b)
6. Ps. 5:12 — Putting our trust in God brings Favor.
7. Ps. 41:11 — We know we are in Favor when our enemies don't win over us.
8. Psalm 45:12 — "And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall *intreat* thy favour." Giving gifts intreats Favor.
9. Ps. 102:12-14 — God will give Favor to groups of people at set times. The Favor is invited by the people feeling bad about what has happened to the things of God that have been lost/destroyed/forsaken.

10. Ps. 106:1-5 — Blessing, Favor, Salvation, Prosperity, Joy come with doing what is Right.
11. Ps. 119:57-59 — Paying attention to and keeping God's word brings Favor.
12. Prov. 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.
13. Prov. 8:35 — If you find Wisdom, you obtain Favor from the Lord.
14. Prov. 11:27 — Seeking Good brings Favor. Seeking Mischief removes Favor.
15. Prov. 12:2 — A Good man obtains Favor from God. Men of Wicked Devices lose Favor.
16. Prov. 13:13-16 — A Good Understanding of the Word brings Favor (doing what it says is implied). Transgressing the Word removes Favor. (cf. Isa. 27:11, NIV)
17. Prov. 14:9 — Fools mock at sin, but the righteous stay away from it. The one who stays away from sin (the righteous) has Favor.
18. Prov. 14:35 — With Wisdom comes Favor. (Example: Acts 7:10)
19. Prov. 18:22 — A Marriage brings Favor. (A good marriage does more — 1 Pet. 3:7)
20. Prov. 21:10 — You cannot find Favor with a wicked person who wants evil. (cf. Isa. 26:10)
21. Prov. 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.
22. Jer. 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) on increasing Favor**

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

## **(6) How do we obtain/receive/grow in Grace?**

### **A. Old Testament Scriptures (KJV) on increasing Grace**

1. Gen. 6:8-9 — Noah found Grace by being Righteous, Blameless, and Walking with God.
2. Gen. 32:5 — Open Communication brings Grace.
3. Gen. 33:8, 10, 15 — Giving Gifts brings Grace.
4. Ruth 1:8; 2:10-11 — Showing Kindness and Dealing with People Honorably.
5. Ps. 84:11 — Walking Uprightly brings Grace.

6. Prov. 1:8-9 — Obedience brings Grace.
7. Prov. 3:21-22 — Wisdom & Discretion bring Grace.
8. Prov. 3:34 — Humility brings Grace.
9. Prov. 4:9 — Wisdom brings Grace.
10. Zech. 12:10 — God can choose to do a sovereign work of Pouring out Grace.

## **B. New Testament Scriptures (KJV) on increasing Grace**

1. Rom. 6:1-2; Titus 2:11-12 — By being Obedient to God and Staying Out of Sin.
2. 2 Cor. 8:7 — Financial Giving is a Work done in us by Grace.
3. 2 Cor. 9:7-8 — Grace comes & is Increased via Financial Giving.
4. Eph. 6:24 — Loving Jesus with an Undying Love Increases Grace.
5. Heb. 4:16 — Coming before the Throne of Grace (Christ's Throne) boldly in a time of need obtains Favor. (cf. Gen. 18:1-3; Job 33:26)
6. Heb. 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. 1 Pet. 5:5 — Humbleness increases Grace.
9. 2 Pet. 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)

Lev. 20:17 — Incest. (2 Sam. 13:13)

1 Sam. 17:26 — Not defeating an enemy of God when we are told to.

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

Ps. 35:26 — Pride. (Prov. 11:2)

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

Ps. 52:1 — Bragging about evil or sin we're involved in.

Prov. 6:32-35 — Sexual sins.

Prov. 14:34 — Sin. (Jer. 3:25)

Prov. 18:3 — Wickedness produces disgrace.

Prov. 19:26 — Not honoring parents.

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

Isa. 43:27-28 — Sin and Rebellion.

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

Ezek. 28:16 — Violence and Sin.

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

1 Cor. 11:6, 14 — Dishonoring the spiritual authority placed over you.

1 Tim. 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 larger picture of the 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) Gen. 39:21**

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

**(2) Ex. 3:21**

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

**(3) Ex. 11:3**

Same as under point 2, as well as being placed in the position of respect, honor, authority, and importance in people's minds.

**(4) Deut. 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) Josh. 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) 1 Sam. 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) Ps. 44:3**

We have battles won in our lives that we won't even fight — because God will fight them for us.