

The Favour and Fear of the Lord

You can't have one without the other

By Rev. Tim Gibson



The Favour and Fear of the Lord

There's extreme teaching in the Church today concerning both The Fear of God and God's grace (His unmerited favour).

On the one hand there are legalistic, religious Christians who say we may be saved by grace but must live under the fear of the Lord in the present, which is seen as a judgmental, heavy and condemning thing.

On the other hand, more recently coming to the forefront due to a reaction to the above, there are those who say that God's grace is king and there's no need for any fear, even a fear of God, and His favour is unlimited to us no matter what we do.

So who is right? Actually neither are!

"If you love me, keep my commandments"
John 14:15

We need to live with a balanced view of both the grace and fear of God. As a good Father showers love on his child but sets loving guidelines for them to follow, so we, as His children, must come under both his favour and his discipline so that we mature to healthy believers.



The LORD
delights in those who
fear him, who put
their hope in his
unfailing love.

Psalm 147:11

Both Psalm
147:11 and Luke
1:50 show that
the grace of God
and the fear of
God go hand in
hand.



And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Luke 1:50 (KJV)

GRACE

GOD'S unmerited favour

Different aspects of grace....

We read in 1 Peter 4:10 that God's grace comes in many forms. Most basically there are three aspects to God's grace and it is the last one that many modern teachers fail to acknowledge.

1. Saving Grace

Paul teaches us, first and foremost that we are saved by God's grace through our faith in Him and in his redeeming work for us in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). This is not dependent on any work of ours except our heartfelt belief in Him and what He has done for us that comes with true repentance. This is totally undeserved, unconditional and free towards those who truly believe. This is best summed up by the acronym:

God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms

MY GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT
FOR YOU, FOR MY STRENGTH IS
MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS"
2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

2. Sufficient Grace

After we are Born Again we find God's grace continues, especially in trying times and times of suffering. The best acronym to describe this is:

God's Refreshing and Comforting Embrace

3. Serving Grace

God's grace isn't just so we can get our tickets punched and escape future and present hell. Grace teaches us to live a godly life and serve Him and others in this present age (Titus 2:11-12). This is best seen in the acronym:

God's Resources and Corresponding Enabling


*Living Out
Titus 2*

*The grace of God brings us
salvation and instructs us
in godly living.*

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

So where does the Fear of the Lord come into all of this?

Well, the Fear of the Lord is best defined as fearing displeasing God the Father. A truly Born Again believer will show forth the fruits of repentance (Matthew 3:8) and will persevere towards greater holiness because they desire to please the Father who saved them by His grace.



It's actually God's grace that empowers us and enables us to serve Him in the Fear of the Lord. All we should do, in fact should be 'ministering in grace' - serving Him and others because we love Him and not to earn His love. This will be an easy yoke and will not lead to the stress that legalistic works brings.

NOTE: Philippians 2:12 does not say we work "for" our salvation but we work it out in the fear of the Lord. We don't serve Him to gain His love but because we are loved and we do not want to displease Him.

**Philippians
2:12-13**

...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.


5 Ways God's People Minister God's Grace



1. **By our words** (Proverbs 12:18; Malachi 3:16; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 4:15; Hebrews 3:12-14)
2. **By our example** (Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; Hebrews 13:7)
3. **By our deeds** (Acts 9:36; 10:37-38; Titus 3:8b, 13-14)
4. **By our prayers** (2 Corinthians 1:10-11; Philippians 1:1:18b-19; James 5:14-16)
5. **By our presence** (Romans 12:15; 2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:6; 2 Timothy 4:9a)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10



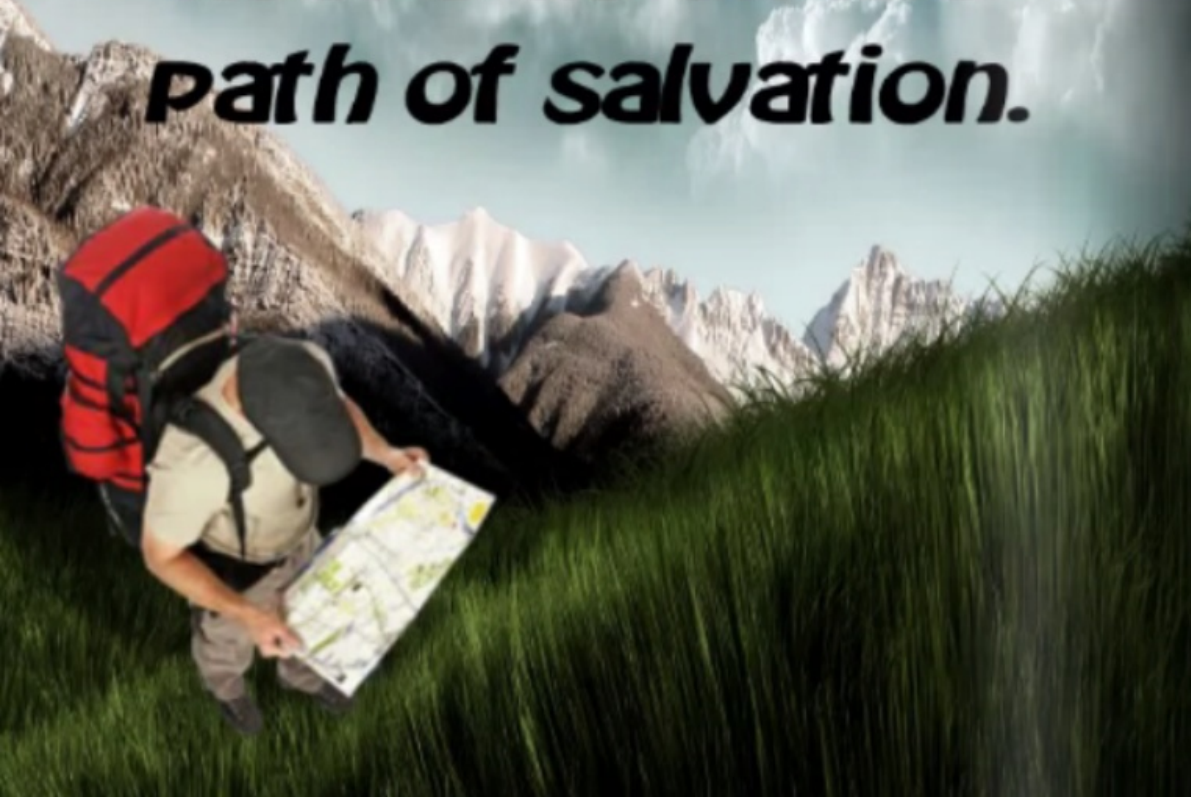
The result of being saved by His grace should be to continue in that grace by doing the works He has prepared for us.

Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

**1. The Fear of God.
leads us to salvation**

**3. The Fear of God
keeps us on the
path of salvation.**



**2. The Grace of God
saves us.**

**4. The Grace of God
makes the journey
enjoyable and
fruitful.**





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