

## **FAVOR IN THE EYES OF THE LORD**

The Hebrew word for grace is chen. In Hebrew, it refers to finding favor in the eyes of another.

We will be discussing **favor in the eyes of the Lord** based on spiritual growth maturity to super-grace status.

We will be talking about the manifestation of the working of God's grace as a normal part of a Spiritually Mature Believer's super-grace life even when it is in great conflict with the believer's culture.

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Hebrew concept of God's grace working in the lives of spiritually mature believers by Favor in The Eyes of The Lord.**

### **1. There were two super-grace believers from the Antediluvian civilization. Both are mentioned in Heb.11:5-7 (Enoch and Noah).**

Our lesson text opens with, "But Noah found **favor in the eyes of the Lord**." (Gen.6:8)

"Noah was a righteous man" – He lived by the rules of God not man (Acts 5:28-32).

"blameless in his time" (generation) - He shunned evil in his cultural generation (Job 1:8; Prov.3:7).

"Noah walked with God." (Gen.6:9; Micah 6:8; Ps.85:16-18)

"Now the earth was **corrupt in the sight of God**, and the earth was filled with violence." (Gen.6:11)

You can see the contrast of their lives to their evil culture (Gen.6:1-7; Matt.24:37; 2 Pet.2:5).

### **2. Bible makes a distinction between "favor in the eyes of others and the Lord." It is the difference between cultural mores and Spiritual grace.**

For example, finding favor in the eyes of another may be based on cultural mores + (honesty, not lying, cheating, or stealing, doing the right thing). It may not be wrong just not spiritual or biblical.

- **Jacob** used it with Esau in an attempt to resolve relationship conflict (Gen.32:5-7; 33:8-11). If he had truly relied upon his spiritual growth maturity, God would have done it for him by waking with God.
- **Lot** used it with the angles sent to destroy Sodom in an attempt to resolve perceived hardships associated with divine judgment (Gen.19:17-22). God would have done it for him by walking with God.
- **Work System:** "Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness." (Rom.4:4-5)
  - **But for God to do it for them, He will have to do it through them.**

### **3. Esther and Joseph understood that it was their responsibility to live favorably in the eyes of the Lord; and that it was God's responsibility to make them favorable in the eyes of others to promote the plan of God.**

**Esther** shows how “favor in the eyes of the Lord” works on the principle of grace in the life of a super-grace believer (Est.2:15-16; 5:2, 8; 7:3; 8:5). “And Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her.” (Est.2:15b) (Prov.18:22)

(Est.5:2) “When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight.”

(Gen.39:2-4) “The Lord was with **Joseph**, so that he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. Now his master saw the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. **So Joseph found favor in his sight** and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge.” (Gen.21-23) [Super-Grace pattern of life] (Acts 7:9-10)

A third example could be the Israelites receiving “favor in sight of the Egyptians” (Ex.3:21-22; 11:3; 12:35-36).

**God did it because they chose to walk with Him in a specific phase of the plan of God**  
(Prov.3:1-6; 1 Sam.2:26; Luke 2:52).

#### 4. **This doctrinal concept is brought into the Gospel of Luke with Mary, mother of Jesus.**

Gabriel addressed Mary as “favored one” when instructing her on God choice of her as the fulfillment of Gen.3:15 and Isa.7:14.

(Luke 1:28) “And coming in, he said to her, ‘Greeting, **favored one!** The Lord is with you.’”

(Luke 1:30) “The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have **found favor with God.**’”

Because of her super-grace status in life, Mary was chosen by Lord to be the carrier of the Messianic seed of Gen.3:15 (Gal.3:16; 4:4).

Mary understood the doctrinal significance of this salutation and responded appropriately.

(Luke 1:38) “And Mary said, ‘Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; **may it be done to me according to your word.**’ And the angel departed from her.”

**Benediction:** “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32)