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GRACE – OUR DAILY FAVOR

We often hear about God's grace. It is perhaps most often mentioned in respect to our salvation. Ephesians 2:8 says, **"For by grace are you saved through faith."** But what exactly is grace?

Grace is a manifestation of a gift from God to man. It is usually defined as "unmerited favor." *Unmerited* means there is nothing we can do or have done to deserve anything. There is no merit (or credit, or worthiness) to anything about us.

*Favor* is defined as "an act of kindness," "exceptional kindness" and "prefer," "more than "fair treatment" or a "gift."

So, God's grace towards us manifests (shows, proves to us) by giving us favor that we do not deserve, which is above and beyond what other people might receive.

Our Heavenly Father is a good and loving "Daddy" (Abba in Hebrew) who wants to shower you (his child) with all good things (blessings). However, He does not just automatically dispense those blessings to us. If they were "automatic" we may not have as great an appreciation for them as we would if we had "desired" them.

If a child earnestly desires a certain toy and asks it of his Dad, the child has deep appreciation upon receiving it, as well as satisfaction and pleasure to the Father upon granting the child's request. However, if Dad gives a toy for which the child has neither desired nor asked for it, the "appreciation level" is not nearly as great.

God's exceptional kindness (favor) is available to us every day. However, we must *desire* His favor (blessings) and *ask for* His blessings. He will give us our heart's desire if we ask for it. If we ask nothing, that is what we may likely receive: nothing. John 16:23-24

James 4:2b says, **"...ye have not because ye ask not."** Jesus said in John 16:24b, **"...ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."** Father expects us to ask (in Jesus' name) for blessings, and He will give them for your benefit and pleasure (joy). It pleases Him to please you. It is not selfish of you to ask Him every day for blessings; they are His gifts to you.

Ask Him for blessings every day. You may ask Him for specific blessings. You may ask Him for "unexpected" blessings which He chooses for you. But you need to ask.

Some people do not ask for blessings because they feel they don't deserve it; and they are right. That is why it is called "grace." Nobody *deserves* grace; it is freely *given* when asked. Daily. Daily Grace. Daily favor. For this we are grateful.