**WHAT IS AMAZING GRACE - REALLY?**

**A SERIOUS LOOK AT WHAT IS NOT RELIGIOUS**

 This most important truth-expounding teaching was inspired by the Spirit as I listened to Michael Lake’s presentation November 3, 2020: “The Kingdom of God Suffers Violence” | Understanding the Kingdom Series | UTK 82 | Biblical Life TV

 I went on to do study on my own. What I present here can be life-changing for you, if you let it. I hope it helps you see yourself in a different light – so that your thinking about who you are aligns to what Abba Yahuwah thinks about you.

 Dr. Lake said, “Repentance is humbly submitting to receiving God’s grace,” – i.e. forgiveness. Our salvation begins by humbly receiving His “grace.” So let us do some studying on what this old-timey English word really means to us now. There are basically four types of “grace” that we live by, or we don’t live free.

 **1)** Grace comes when we humbly receive His unmerited favor. His grace humbles us … and causes us to love Him more so that we do not want to sin against Him. Grace is not a license to keep sinning … but an escape mechanism of Abba that allows us to be want to be free of sin (and empowers us to be free and stay free)

 **2)** Saving grace gives us empowerment to stay free – our deep feeling of “I don’t want to sin against You.” **It frees Him to free us**!!!

 **3)** Transforming grace – the Spirit’s power to transform us into the nature, ways, and thinking of Yahuwah to give us power to not want to sin so that we don’t

Only the Spirit by His favor can do the transforming as we yield to Him to do it.

Until we have an attitude change, we are our own worst enemy. The Spirit wants to help us see things the way He sees them.

When we realize what Yahushua has done for us, our honor and respect of Him activates His transforming grace to transform our life

**4)** Empowering grace following being transformed by transforming grace

Zechariah 4 – The “temple,” our temple, is built within by grace. It is there that we receive the authority and power of the Spirit to go forth triumphantly victorious

**5)** Enduring grace – it gets us eternity in the eternal Kingdom

 “Grace” is not a license to sin! It is a means by which we rise above sin to receive His empowerment and transformation and strength to overcome and enter the Kingdom. The church’s modern message of “gooey, gushy grace” is an evil deception. It keeps people from growing up into maturity to know Yahuwah.

 “Let us serve God acceptably with reverence and fear.” The word “reverence” in Greek means “self-conscious modesty; self-conscious timidity, which fears committing an act unworthy one’s self, or representing oneself in an unworthy manner.”

 To have reverence for Yahuwah, we must have respect for ourselves first. Then our attitude will be that we don’t to demote ourselves by not reverencing our heavenly Father’s position of Highest Honor.

 Reverence has to do with “modesty.” It speaks of our attitudes, thoughts, actions, emotions - everything about us – honoring ourselves as to who we are because of our heavenly Father and His Son. Then we can reverence Them for who They are.

 Dr. Lake pointed out that not taking the Lord’s Name in vain contains the idea that how we live should cause people to run to Him, to want to know Him, because of our reverence towards Him. We become guilty of making the Name of God vain in the earth by not reflecting Him to others as He really is … a loving Father who is good. We demote Him by a carnal nature – not reflecting His nature, ways, and thinking in a dark and dying world. Thus, who would want to know Him by observing those who say they know Him but whose lives are as worldly and carnal and self-centered as the world’s people?

 As children of the King, everything we are should represent Him and His Kingdom! Our modesty of dress, our softness of speech, the light in our eyes and the peace and joy that radiates out to touch others edifying them, exalts His Name.

 How you conduct yourself should represent the Kingdom. An American ambassador wears America clothes, drives an American car - representing what America stands for in every way. We carry the family Name. “Yahuwah is written on the forehead of the Bridal remnant, i.e. Revelation 3:7-13.

 “Godly fear” is profound respect, fear of disrespecting Him, discretion, caution.

Respect for Him comes when we realize how much He has done for us in saving us and sustaining us, and how much we are loved, and how much we do not want to disrespect Him when we realize His great mercy towards us, His great patience, His great graciousness - then we are “awe” of Him, and “awe” is part of respect.

 Messiah’s death on the stake for us should earn Him our greatest respect and honor. “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and respect and esteem and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12)

 How long has He known you? He wrote your name in His Book of Life before the foundation of the world. He knew all about you. How humbling is that? What kind of respect do you live in honor of Him who chose you?

 He didn’t have to incarnate and die for you. His love for us sent Him to the stake. He knew your name. He carried you on His heart on that stake. There will never be an end to our adoration of Him.

 The honor and respect we pay to the King gives us more favor with the King. He knows who really loves Him, who submits to Him as Master because it is the driving force of our life. He is “yedid” - the Beloved. Our gratitude towards Him causes our honor and respect, our passion, our deep love, and our enthusiasm for His return.

 Lake spoke of **II Corinthians 10:3-6** about spiritual warfare. He said, “**the strongholds are on the inside of us**.” Transforming grace drives out the “high things.” “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not fight according to the flesh.

[4](https://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/10-4.htm)For the weapons we fight with are not fleshly but mighty in Elohim for overthrowing strongholds, [5](https://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/10-5.htm)overthrowing reasonings, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of Elohim, taking captive every thought to make it obedient to the Messiah.”

 Lake brought out: “There will be a lot of people who will hear `I never knew you’ out of Messiah because they did not seek to know Him, or respect Him as Master.”

 “The Kingdom of God is within you,” Messiah said. If the King is within, the Kingdom is within. As a citizen of the Kingdom, our loyalty and faithfulness and love for the King must rule our life. When we are so full of the Kingdom, we live in the Garden of Eden in two dimensions … we stand with the King on Mount Zion (**Revelation 14:1-5**)

 Michael Lake spoke of Smith Wigglesworth’s death. Smith knew he was being called home. He was speaking before an audience one night. He had not given his altar call yet for those to be born again. He felt death coming as he was about 15 minutes away from concluding. He stopped speaking, turned to the unseen entity, pointed his finger at it, and said “not yet.” He concluded his meeting, prayed for people to be saved, then went and sat down in a chair with other ministers. As he sat down, he took one last breath, sighed, and was gone – to heaven. Remain faithful … to the end because you respect the King.

 Here is some of my research about the original-language meaning of “grace.” It is surprising, for it is not some ambiguous religious terminology but has real solid foundation that a child can understand.

 There are 25 words in “Christianese” English which come from pagan-culture words and names, yet still align in meaning to the original meanings of the Hebrew and Greek. Sadly, their meanings in English have taken on Christian denominational religious concepts through the centuries and thus have weakened since the first English Bibles were printed. Most Christians cannot really define their meaning because they became somewhat philosophical concepts. Yes, the 25 words even have pagan-language roots, like “grace,” “holy,” and “church,” which come from names of pagan female deities.

 Should we not use these words? That’s up to you, just don’t judge those that use them. There are English words that better describe the Hebrew and Greek meanings without being vague or philosophical. In his book *Come Out of Her My People* by C.J. Koster, he exposes these 25 words. Yes, it is a good thing to know the real meanings of the original Hebrew and Greek words. In his translation of the Bible, which took he and his team 20 years to complete, simply known as “The Scriptures,” he takes out those 25 words and uses comparison words to the Hebrew and Greek. Again, I ask: Should we stick our nose in the air at those who still use “grace,” “holy” or “church,” etc? Of course not! But, for ourselves who want to be more astute to accuracy, we can use closer words to the original words, and share these in our teaching on His “grace.”

 Strong’s Greek: 5485 xáris (another feminine noun from xar-, "**favor**, **disposed to, inclined, favorable towards, leaning towards, to share benefit**") [5485](https://biblehub.com/greek/5485.htm) (xáris is **preeminently used of the Lord's favor – freely**

**extended to give Himself away to people (because He is `always leaning toward them’"**. [5485](https://biblehub.com/greek/5485.htm) */xáris* ("grace") answers directly to the Hebrew (OT) term [2580](https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2580.htm) */Kaná* ("grace, *extension-toward*"). Both refer to **God *freely extending* Himself (*His favor*, grace), *reaching*(*inclining*) to people because He is *disposed* to bless (be near) them**. [[5485](https://biblehub.com/greek/5485.htm) (*xáris*) is sometimes rendered "thanks" but the core-idea is "*favor*, *grace*" ("*extension towards*").]

 The Hebrew word Hebrew “chas-ed” means “**lovingkindness.**” Strong’s #2617: Hebrew i.e. “**checed**” (kheh-sed)- goodness, loving-kindness, mercy – extension of favor – also the Hebrew for “grace.” Let us look at “amazing grace” through the eyes of the Hebrew word for “lovingkindness.”

**The Hymn: “Amazing Grace” by John Newton**

Verse 1: “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2: Was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed

Verse 3: Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far
And Grace will lead us home.

Verse 4: When we've been there
Ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We'll have no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun”

The words of this song come from the heart of a man who knew what it meant to be born again, to become a new creation, to pass from death unto life! (**II Corinthians 5:17-21**) He understood that a true new birth is an extension of the mercy of Yahuwah towards us that we cannot earn.

 **Psalm 63:1-4**: “Oh Yahuwah, You are my God. I earnestly seek You. My soul has thirsted for You; my flesh has longed for You in a dry and thirst land without water. Therefore, I have had a vision of You in the set-apart place. I see your power and Your esteem. Because **Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips praise You.”**

 The word “loving kindness,” which was better than life to King David, is the Hebrew word “checed,” phonetically pronounced “kheh-sed.” To those to whom His “lovingkindness,” or “grace” is better than life, it He sustains in all situations.

 Is His lovingkindness sustaining you? I was blessed by an e-mail from a subscriber yesterday. She and her son were in desperate need of a place to live. They’ve been through a lot of hell, so know to only trust Abba. They were not having success in finding a place. She wrote me that they were at a laundromat. She felt impressed by Abba to ask her son to go next door to ask the owner of the laundromat if he knew of any houses for rent in that area. Long story short, the man not only knew of a place, he had one for rent. They got just what they needed in just the right time. She was shouting “HalleluYah.” Oh how wonderful is the timing of His help! Abba is no respecter of persons. Their faith was totally in Him, and He honored their faith.

 Can you say for yourself that His lovingkindness “is better than life?” I’ll tell you this, relationship with Him so that His lovingkindness can flow, is definitely better than earthly life – for it is an eternal exchange between a loving Father, His loving only-begotten Son, and little ol’ us. How great is that! How great is the “amazing grace” that Christians and Messianic religious deceived ones are throwing under the bus as not-important?

 The author of “Amazing Grace” was John Newton. He had been a slave trader. He owned a ship that took slaves from Africa to those who wanted them in America. He told the story of one night on the ship when he was trying to sleep. A baby of a slave was crying and keeping him awake. He went into the room, took the baby, bashed its head against the ship railing, threw it into the ocean, and went back to sleep. So, when he said “saved a wretch like me,” he meant it.

 No, “goody two-shoes” believers don’t do such horrible things - they do worse. Being are lukewarm, they could care less who goes to hell. They send people to hell out of their insensitivity to the reality and need of salvation through the One who died for us. They live carnal lives that do not represent the Master. They are the captains of their own fate, and could care less who goes to heaven or hell. Therefore, what will their judgment be?

 Newton went on to stand against slavery and to preach the Good News of “so great a salvation.” He knew what it meant to be “saved.” I can talk too. He had to show me what it meant to be saved by taking me through hell itself and back in this life, and now I know “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.”

 Here is a quote from Wikipedia. Do you see the echoing of the fallen state of modern Christianity? “In recent years, the words of the hymn have been changed in some religious publications to downplay a sense of imposed self-loathing by its singers. The second lines, `That saved a wretch like me!’ has been rewritten as `that saved and strengthened me,’ `saved a soul like me,’ or `that saved and set me free.’ [Kathleen Norris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Norris_%28poet%29) in her book *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* characterizes this transformation of the original words as `wretched English.’ making the line that replaces the original `laughably bland.’ Part of the reason for this change has been the altered interpretations of what wretchedness and grace means. Newton's [Calvinistic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvinism) view of [redemption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redemption_%28theology%29) and [divine grace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_%28Christianity%29) formed his perspective that he considered himself a sinner so vile that he was [unable to change his life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_depravity), or be redeemed without God's help. Yet his lyrical subtlety, in Steve Turner's opinion, leaves the hymn's meaning open to a variety of Christian and non-Christian interpretations.”

 That is so tragic! **II Thessalonians 2:8-12** explains it well. Most people wouldn’t be so flat “lost” in understanding “amazing grace” if it were not for attitudes of believers like those of Kathleen Norris. Most so-called “believers” of affluent Christianity and Messianic religion are arrogant against what they see as non-essential belief. Doesn’t this remind you of **Psalm 2:1-4**? “…And the rulers take counsel together against Yahuwah and His Messiah, and say `Let us tear apart Their bonds, and throw away Their ropes from us.’ He who sits in the heavens laughs. He mocks at them…”

 Newton’s new birth, as is clear from the **I Corinthians 5:17** was a true new birth – “old things passed away, behold all things have become new.” His thinking of himself as a hell-bound wretch had nothing to do with his “Calvinistic theology!” It had to do with his comparison of his old life with his new life. He knew what he had been saved out of.

 Today, in our world, as a recent Barna Group surveys concludes – the majority of Evangelicals, Charismatic-Pentecostals, Main-line Church goers, and Catholics do not see themselves, or humanity in general, as being basically evil, as sinners, but as basically good. Thus, whatever faith they have in “God” is better than no faith at all, they say. I will be writing about and sharing the statistics of the now “great falling away” from the true faith of the apostles and prophets to a “whatever you want to believe” faith in oneself.

 I recently wrote a very strong and personal article about the original Natsarim of **Acts 24**, the early believers. “They Knew What It Meant To Follow the Nazarene” Mikvah of Set-Apartness. Repentance, before a truth new birth by His “grace,” His lovingkindness, is the first act of our set-apartness.

 Shimon Kepha/Apostle Peter, for example, a man who denied Messiah three times, ended up born again and filled with the Spirit, and as bold as a lion in the face of those who coerced Rome to nail Him to the stake. He knew what it meant to be saved. Do you really know what it means to be “saved,” rescued? Unless you know what it means to be “saved” from eternal death and punishment for your sin, you don’t know what it means to live free because of Yahushua/Yeshua/Jesus - you don’t know the extent of love He has shown towards you by giving you His Son. Only those who understand they were saved from being “wretched” understand what it means to be a child of the King – taken from total degradation into a palace.

 Grace is “unmerited favor” first of all! There is no way to merit His lovingkindness in saving us. No good deeds or religious practices save us – not even the guarding of Torah. Torah is the teachings and instructions for right standing of those who are in the Kingdom by faith in His Son. Salvation was always by faith. Habakkuk wrote, “the just shall live by his faith.” The whole Torah is about Messiah, revealing Him from His birth to His second coming, revealing what He must have in a Bride.

 Having the favor of Shaddai, Elyon, the great eternal One, should be humbling. It should cause a righteous fear of displeasing Him. It should also cause overwhelming gratitude to Him to allowing you to be saved. We owe Him everything--total submission of our will to His will and obedience with joy. To know Him is real joy!

 No! Human kind is not basically good, but basically so wretched that we cannot enter the Kingdom of heaven unless our sin is washed away by the blood of our Savior. This basic truth is not “boring!” It is not a religion! It should be the exciting driving force of your life.

 Yahuwah is set-apart. **Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7, 8, 26, Hebrews 12:14, and I Peter 1:17**, “…without set-apartness, no one will see Yahuwah,” is strengthened again in **Revelation 22:11b** “let the set-apart be more set-apart.” What sets us apart is the blood of the Lamb of Yahuwah! (**John 1:19**)

 Yet, foundational truths like set-apartness, repentance, not being a friend of this world, and sin separates from a “holy God,” are totally being abandoned in most all churches and Messianic congregations in western culture. Messiah as Deity, the only “begotten Son” of the Father, and the baptism into the Spirit by Messiah after a true new birth, and our personal relationship with Them has been dumped into a religious garbage can as refuse to be hauled off. Throwing away one’s only hope for eternal life is becoming as common as clean water in western culture. Those dying for their faith as martyrs now have a different mindset, and John Newton knew what it meant to be saved.

 As shown above, quite a while back in years, lollypop Christians changed what they considered as the harsh words of the second line to “Amazing Grace.” Much effort is being done to cheapen and weaken “grace,” watering down His “lovingkindness” to us sinners, in order to enhance our goodness as human beings. Thus, the great falling away is happening full blown, as it has been subtly for a very long time. What are you doing to strengthen faith in His lovingkindness towards others, so that the lost understand their own fallen humanity, and see themselves as hopeless without Him, and so reach out for His help in a true new birth? The clock is ticking. His judgment is increasing, and our life in this world is now facing towards eternity.

In His love, shalom, Yedidah

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