



The Smiling Maven

Grace for Grace (John 1:16)
חסד על חסד (יוחנן א'טו)



Smiling Maven Beginnings Revisited 2nd Year Anniversary

Mumble, mumble, mumble. Grumble, grumble, grumble. Blah, blah, blah. Blah, blah, blah. Blah, blah, blah. Boom!

What on earth are you talking about? Grace! Grace! Grace! It is all about grace – and after that; it is all about grace. And after that; it is all about grace too.

We live because of God's grace. We can experience forgiveness and redemption because of God's grace. We can grow in the knowledge and grace of God – because of grace.

The believer in Y'shua should grow in many ways – but especially in spiritual balance. For me, that spiritual balance has been the awakening of my heart to being a grace fanatic. It is likely that true spiritual balance may be directly connected to our excitement and amazement at God's grace. His grace should continually surprise us, motivate us and captivate our hearts. We can always grow in His grace. He will never, never, be out-graced by any of us. Hallelujah!

It is true that there are other aspects to

our understanding of God. His grace is an incredible topic. God Himself is an even bigger topic; yet the entrance to knowing Him, to being restored to Him, and inspired to genuinely serve Him from the heart comes from and through the knowledge of His grace. "And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace" (John 1:16). The word grace shows up 122 times in the New Covenant scriptures. Paul mentions it a lot. The message of His grace flows throughout the pages of the New Covenant. Actually it flows throughout the entire scriptures. (See article in this issue regarding Mercy to Grace).

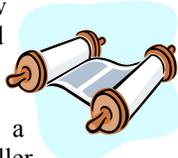
When we wander from that entrance (grace) – our understanding can become muddled. Our natural understanding (on this side of the Fall) comes from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Apart from the cross and the reality of Y'shua's redemption, apart from His incredible character we see things according to natural human thinking, and not

according to the wonder and paramount significance of His grace. Life is not always easy. In many cases – maybe most cases – life is usually hard. We struggle, we stumble, we wander (the Bible identifies, God's followers as sheep, dumb, wandering, helpless animals). We wander from that entrance; we just plain wander. We may be injured, hurting, attacked etc. Often on the surface – but always in the depth of our being – we cannot change ourselves – we cannot will, determine, or propel the healing, the health, the restoration that we desperately need. Maybe we are able to put out a bleat or a weak cry. Maybe, we cannot even do that. That is when the tremendous awesomeness of His grace can often break into our understanding. "Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying, ' (single quote s/b " you are accepted. You are accepted by that which is greater than you....."1 That light breaking through in our darkness is from Him. It is His grace.

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Mercy to Grace

In the English translations of the Hebrew Scriptures there is a predominance of the word mercy, and an occasional occurrence of the word grace. The English translation of the Greek Scriptures (New Testament) indicate a predominance of the word grace, and a smaller occurrence of the word mercy. However if you pick up an entire Hebrew Language Bible (being the original language for the first 39 books, and a translation of the Greek text in the latter 27 books) there is a consistency in the predominance of the word חסד (chesed *kheh'-sed*), usually translated in English as Mercy or Lovingkindness. חסד appears 241 times in the original text of the first 39 books of the Bible. In the New Covenant scriptures the Greek word **cariv** (charis *khar'-ece*, normally translated into the English word grace) is not translated to the Hebrew word חן *chen khane* (grace), but rather translated to the Hebrew word חסד. The word חסד appears over 130x in the Hebrew translation of the New Covenant scriptures. In a "complete" Hebrew Bible the word חסד appears over 371 times.



The words חסד and **cariv** in their original language context have a much deeper and significant meaning than the words mercy or grace seem to indicate in an modern English context. The word mercy in English seems to indicate something of a legal nature of "being let off the hook". The word "grace" is something said at meals, or something that gives you a bit more breathing space in reaching a deadline. In the Hebrew scriptures, חסד is a paramount word, and window into the understanding of God. It has to do with the very nature of God – "His חסד (lovingkindness, mercy is forever" (Psalm 136 states this in all 26 verses). In the Greek New Covenant scriptures **cariv** is a paramount word and window into the understanding of God. (We are saved by **cariv** through faith says Ephesians 2:8. **cariv** shows up 147 times in the original Greek text). When all 66 books are viewed from a Hebrew context, the word חסד is the consistent significant word indicating this paramount window into understanding God. In Hebrew, both Psalm 136 and Ephesians 2:6 use the word חסד. In In (repeated In) a Hebrew version of the New Covenant scriptures **cariv** is reg-



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The Home Front—Water, Water, Water

This is the first “Home Front” since May, so we will share some summer and fall happenings. In July; (use,) Dad, Caleb, Nephew Jason and grandparents Oma and Opa (Frank and Elfriede) drove to Vermillion Falls, Ontario, Canada for a fishing trip. Caleb had been longing for this for some time. Dad had taken a Canadian Fishing trip with nephew Jason three years ago, and Caleb was just waiting for his chance. Now old enough for such a trip, and with Dad wanting to give Caleb a memorable Bar Mitzvah present, Caleb did not need to wait any longer. Frank and Elfriede, who also love to fish, were looking to take Caleb and Jason on a vacation this summer, so it worked out for the five of us to take this trip together.

One of Caleb’s top goals was to catch his first Northern Pike. Well, Caleb caught a lot of Northern Pike. He caught the largest fish of the trip, a 30+ inch Northern. Caleb also caught plenty of Perch, Small Mouth Bass, and some Walleye. We all caught a reasonable number of fish, ate a lot of fish in Canada, and still brought home plenty of fish. We would all say that the trip was a success. As



for Caleb, who caught the biggest and the most fish; well, he is just about ready to move to Vermillion Bay.

Ruthe, usually a busy beaver, worked full time at the Lake County Sheriff’s Department during the summer. Though a student intern, she was trained this summer as the backup receptionist. Each day, when the regular receptionist was on lunch break, Ruthe would answer all incoming calls to the Sheriff’s Department (non-emergency calls). On days when the receptionist was away, Ruthe answered the phone for the entire day. Dad was quite proud that people telephoning the Sheriff’s Office were being answered by his sixteen year old daughter.

Ruthe did find time for friends and family without missing much time from work. Her good friend Stephanie (from Oshkosh) came for a visit. While Stephanie was visiting, Dad and Caleb joined the young ladies for an all day outing to Chicago. Stephanie was given her first Chicago experience. The trip included subway travel, a visit to the Hancock Observatory, a Jewish style deli (for lunch), an afternoon at Navy Pier, and dinner in Little Italy.

Ruthe also found time to go on a weekend camping trip with Dad and Caleb. We drove to Baraboo WI and camped near Devil’s Lake State Park. We just happen to go during the rainiest weekend of the summer. Ruthe and Caleb’s cousin Joshua joined us for part of the

weekend. Despite the rain, we still had a good time. We also had the experience of the Chevy Suburban being stuck in the mud. We had to work together using wood boards under the wheels until we were out of the muddy area. It was a unique and memorable experience that we will probably never forget.

At the end of the summer, Ruthe surprised Dad by an interest to swim for the high school team. Though a good athlete, Ruthe had never swam competitively. She swam for junior varsity, and made a lot of improvement during the season. Though



swimming is not her favorite sport, a solid season, and much improvement have added one more item in Ruthe’s ever increasing list of diverse experiences.

Smiling Maven Beginnings (continued from page 1)

It is free. He loves me, even at my worst, and being at my worst may be more often than I like to admit. Yet, He loves me. He helps me, He recovers me, (use ; not , here) freely, it His doing, His gift, His grace. It is liberating. God is real. The gospel is real; not because of my effort, not because of my religiousness, or my spirituality, but because God is real! His light breaks through even in the darkest moments. Often in those dark moments, when we know we do not have it, cannot do it, cannot pull ourselves up – that (do you mean “then?”) we truly experience His help, His restoration, etc. – we know it is not us. His grace is real! His love is real! Y’shua is real; He is alive. He changes us, He restores us; and we know it is Him, because we know that we were beyond our own help, beyond anyone’s help except him. Wow, what a message. I can live with that. I can share that. Wow, I can even write about it. Boom,

Mercy to Grace (continued from page 1)

ularly translated **חסד**. Almost everywhere that one would read the English word Grace, a Hebrew translation would use the word **חסד**. Another way of explaining it; (remove ;) when one properly uses the English word grace from a New Covenant viewpoint, **is** that understanding of grace more properly parallels the Hebrew Scriptures understanding of mercy. The reverse could also be said. When one looks at the English use of the word mercy or loving-kindness in the first 39 books of the Bible, that understanding more properly parallels the New Covenant English use of the word grace.

Notes:

1. Paul Tillich, *The Shaking of the Foundations* (New York Scribner’s, 1948).

The Smiling Maven is a bi-monthly Jewish flavored newsletter sharing God’s incredible grace. There is coming a spiritual atomic bomb of that incredible grace. It is an imminent spiritual explosion soon to happen in Israel that will have a wonderfully awesome affect in Israel and all the world.

Life is often hard. Suffering is a real part of life. Sometimes suffering enables us to see more clearly the reality that God loves us. He loves us unconditionally; it is not based on how we are doing. We may begin to understand the wonder of God’s salvation through Messiah Y’shua. Grace might actually be breaking through into our lives. It is the experience of grace that can generate the most genuine smiles. Maven is a Yiddish word that means a person with special knowledge or experience. Evidence of God’s grace should be characterized by an ability to smile. The Smiling Maven newsletter is an encouragement for all of us to be smiling mavens, smiling people with special knowledge of God’s amazing grace.

EditorArthur Weiner
Someone needing to Smile More

Copy Editor.....Peter Toeg
Making sure that our English keeps people smiling.

Production Assistant.....Ruthe Weiner
Often producing more smiles than her dad.

Quality Control.....Caleb Weiner
Smiling, especially while playing on the computer.

You can also visit our website at smilingmaven.com. Contact us at smilingmaven@yahoo.com, The Smiling Maven 2816 Eshcol Avenue, Zion IL 60099, or call us at 847-731-6838. Additional issues are available upon request. The Smiling Maven Newsletter is a division of Smiling Maven Ministries NFP, a not for profit corporation of the State of Illinois. Smiling Maven Ministries is supported by the gracious gifts and donations of those who have experienced the wonderful grace of Messiah Y’shua.