

# WORSHIP AND GRACE

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**W**orship is a response to God's grace. And it is also by His grace that we can worship God.

"Amazing Grace" richly describes the grace of God in just one word. Amazing! God's grace is truly amazing for so many reasons! To give us an idea of how amazing God's grace is, let us take a look at Genesis 6, where we find the first mention of "grace" in the Bible.

The Hebrew word for grace is 'khane' which also translates to 'favor'. In Genesis 6:8, it says "Noah *found* favor in the eyes of the Lord."

Most of us are familiar with this passage because it is the account of Noah and the flood. However, the story is not about Noah, rather, it is the story of God's amazing grace and what it does!

## ***God's grace abounds amidst sin***

As mankind began to multiply, corruption also grew immensely. Man's wickedness was so great and his thoughts were continually evil. Sin had corrupted humanity so much that God planned to erase all people on the face of the earth. However, amidst the enormity

of sin, Noah found grace in the eyes of God.

## ***God's grace saves us from death***

Noah is part of the human race. Like us, he surely is not perfect and sinful in nature. But unlike his generation, Noah was spared from God's plan to erase mankind. Not just Noah, but his family as well! Noah and his family were saved from death all because of God's grace.

## ***God's grace empowers us to obey***

Now let's try to imagine Noah's situation. His community was full of wickedness. There was corruption and violence everywhere. Then suddenly, God instructed him to build an ark from scratch. There are two major problems here. One, the evil influence of the world is enormous. Two, the ark is too much for Noah to build alone. It is nearly impossible for man to survive in that kind of situation. But by God's grace, amidst the wicked generation he was in, Noah was able to live righteously before God. By God's grace even with the unfeasible project, Noah was able to build the ark and obey all that God had commanded him.

## ***God's grace leads us to worship***

Then, a few days after Noah had finished building the ark, God brought forth floodwaters which erased all mankind except for him and his family. When the floodwaters receded, everyone went out of the ark safe and sound. And the first thing Noah did was to worship. He built an altar to the Lord, took some animals and sacrificed burnt offerings on it. Noah, having experienced God's grace in enormous ways, led him to worship. And his worship was a pleasing aroma to the Lord!

Noah's generation is similar to ours. Wickedness can be found everywhere and is finding ways to influence mankind. Sadly, we too are guilty of committing sin against the Lord. So, we too are condemned to eternal death. But the good news is this - the grace of God that delivered Noah from his generation is the same grace available for us today! It may be difficult to live righteously in our world, but God's grace will surely abound. By God's grace we are saved. By God's grace we are empowered. And as we experience God's amazing grace, it will lead us to offer a kind of worship that is pleasing to the Lord! ✱