

PRACTICE and Extend God's grace to others Giving HOPE, acceptance and coming together.



May 28, 2022

Philip Shields

www.LightontheRock.org

All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: Practice grace, Barnabas, Paul, David, Mary Magdalene, 1 Cor. 5; John Mark.

Summary: *We happily receive God's grace and favor over our sins but how good are we at extending God's hope, love, and favor to others, especially those with sinful pasts or who struggle spiritually? Do we take them "under our wing" and encourage them, giving them HOPE – or gossip about them? I believe this is a vitally important topic for God's children.*

*** *****

In the mid-90's, a certain pastor called me, encouraging me to watch a TV expose of a televangelist involved in some shameful moments. I told him "no way" and he seemed disappointed. (I discuss). "What if he's poured out his heart in deep repentance," I asked. His reply, "Oh, he's not repentant. You oughta watch this to see how bad he really is."

Jesus said this paraphrased: "Here's my new commandment and by THIS shall everyone know you are my disciples, by the way you love one another as I have loved you" – Jesus' words! (John 13:34-35). And what was His love like? That while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (**Romans 5:8**).

The church of God is splintered. Forget "branches" of the church, as Jesus described ("I am the Vine, you are the branches" – John 15). We're splintered. Many members of sabbath-keeping COGS (church of God) refuse to recognize others as God's people, or let their members attend anywhere else. Whaaaaat? We do that largely because we don't offer God's grace to one another.

And, many of you refuse to realize there are scores of thousands who keep 7th day Sabbath and God's holydays among the Hebrew Roots and Messianic groups and many of them clearly have God's Holy Spirit. But you won't offer the hand of fellowship because their services have too much praising and dancing you think, and they say Yahweh or Yehovah or Yeshua. And their services are all about reading the Torah year after year. And some of them

want nothing to do with the *COGS* – *the church of God splinters* – who mostly won't come together either.

This is sheer nonsense. Christ will not marry a Bride made up of brethren who won't come together. The Bride of Christ is ONE body. It will not have a leg over here, an arm there, and a back or belly somewhere else. *We've GOT to come together. A lot of that has to do with this sermon today.*

John 10:16

“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be ONE flock and ONE shepherd.”

And then on top of that, many refuse to fellowship with, or certainly not listen to, anyone who's had a bad past! We'll talk about that a lot today – and I speak generally. (But then again, have we not all sinned?)

We've just come through Passover when we are reminded of God's grace and love – but also of God's big dreams and hopes for each of us, regardless of our past. See my 2 sermons recently on God's grace and favor.

As we children of the Highest receive God's grace for all our sins, no matter what they were, isn't it great that God believes so much in what He can do in us, that **HE** lets us start over again. He sees the end from the beginning, and He knows he definitely will complete in you and others what he's started (Philippians 1:6).

Think of it: Practically ALL the great leaders of the Bible were also terrible sinners at various times. But with God's spirit and grace, and knowing God believed in what HE could do in them, they were able to be used greatly by God, in spite of their past.

In fact when we read of the men and women of Hebrews 11's Hall of Fame of Faith, we don't read about any negatives about those listed. Just their faith!

One man, who jailed, tortured, and murdered people, ended up writing much of the New Testament, for example. God brought “the son of Encouragement” (Barnabas) into his life to give him hope and a new start. **Where would WE be without people like Barnabas showing up, believing that our life story isn't finished yet and thereby helps us experience and evidence God's grace, love and hope in spite of our past sins.**

I'm Philip Shields, a forgiven sinner basking in our Father's acceptance and love – and host of Light on the Rock. As a forgiven sinner – I feel comfortable with you, because so are you. Forgiven sinners, that's what we all are. The not-so-greats of the world (1 Cor. 1:26-27) but we're the ones God chose to be what he calls first fruits. We're the early crop, by his grace.

We receive God's grace. When God gives us something, he expects us to use His gift and share it. When he blesses us materially, we are to share. That's including his grace and favor. He shows us His love – he expects us to use it and share it too. But do we extend love and favor to just about everyone?

This concept of US sharing God's grace and favor in particular -- seems to be a novel concept to those I've tested this topic on.

Yes, I know God is the one who dispenses grace. But he also wants **US** showing that same spirit to one another – to accept in our fellowship any repentant flawed human beings – yeah, even people like you; to encourage, give hope to, love and be gracious to others who have had awful sins in the past. God wants us believing – and conveying that belief to others -- that God isn't done with them; that God in them or God's spirit working in them, can change them, can let them still be useful in God's work once again. Our message to those people must be, "Hey, don't give up. God's not done working in you yet! Don't give up on God!"

I'll give several examples as we go along. Some of those who fall terribly in sin can still become great leaders! You watch! Especially if God's family – *you* -- give them hope, encouragement, love, and God's grace.

He wants us inspiring them that no matter their past – they still have a future with GOD, rather than destroying their reputation further by spreading garbage about fellow brethren. True love does not rejoice in iniquity or keep records of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13).

How do you feel about those who may start coming to your fellowship group? Are you as welcoming of people who have been in jail, or were drunks, or are indigenous people, or who have tattoos on their arms and legs and who knows where else? Will you encourage those folks? Or do we reek of bias? The fact is, even any attending with you who *look* respectable-- frankly are also sinners.

If someone in your fellowship is dis-fellowshipped (put out of the church), how encouraging are we to that person to help them feel they can come back without gossip going on?

As you hear this, realize I am speaking generally – not about anyone specifically and not about me. This is much bigger than all that. We've got to come together and refuse to listen to trash talking about one's past or what people believe about those God is calling into the Body. Remember again, he's not calling the great of the world but "nobody" types, including you and me.

And who among us has been sinless? A single sin, no matter how grave or "harmless" *still requires the death of the Son of God*, just as the truckload of awful sins someone else committed requires his death. **Same penalty. So how can ANY of us refuse the right hand of fellowship with anyone GOD has called to be in the body of Christ?**

Are you waking up to see a big area you may need to repent of?

Ananias and BARNABAS' EXAMPLE with Paul

Let's look at some examples of what I'm referring to.

Paul – previously under his Hebrew name SAUL - was notorious for his brutality to new believers in Christ. He persecuted them even "unto death" (Acts 22:4; Acts 9:1). Even GOD told him it would be hard for him to do much in Jerusalem because of Paul's reputation there. But Paul repented, but it still took a long time for Jews in Jerusalem to accept him. Notice how God used his people to help Saul/Paul be accepted by the apostles and brethren.

Acts 4:36-37

And Josès [or Joseph], who was also named **Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement)**, a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

That's our first introduction to this man Barnabas, whose name means "son of encouragement." I'm going to encourage us all to be more like a Barnabas, someone who can give hope and encouragement to others.

When God called Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus in Acts 9, the leading disciple there – Ananias – did not want anything to do with Paul at first. But God told him to go welcome Saul into the brotherhood; Saul – who had ordered the killing of some believers (Acts 9:1-2; 22:4)! Study Acts 9 on your own, but here are the salient parts once Christ appeared to Ananias:

Acts 9:13-19

Then Ananias answered, "Lord, *I have heard from many* about this man, *how much harm he has done to Your saints* in Jerusalem. 14 And

here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

(See how God was intending to use Saul despite his brutal past!]

17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "BROTHER Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

(First thing Ananias did was touch him and then call Saul "brother")

18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. **Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.**

ANANIAS was living and practicing God's grace. The disciples in Damascus were also living and practicing God's grace. Would YOU have been part of the joyful acceptance of Saul?

Acts 9:20-25 Tell us of Paul preaching Christ in Damascus until he had to flee.

Acts 9:26-28

And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him and did not believe that he was a disciple.

27 But BARNABAS took him and brought him to the apostles.

And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. 28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out."

Thank GOD for people like Ananias and BARNABAS, whose name meant "Son of Encouragement." You and I should be like him. Giving any disgraced people hope, another "shot" at it, accepting God's acceptance of this person. We would encourage them to become like King David, like Apostle Paul, still usable by God. Where would Paul have been without Barnabas?

So Barnabas and Paul went on a missionary journey, and then later Paul took Silas and Barnabas took Mark... and Barnabas' hope and grace continued.

Even John Mark – I've told the story before. Mark had quit on a journey with Paul and Barnabas, and at first Paul was done with Mark. But Barnabas wanted to give him a 2nd chance.

In the end, even Paul saw the changes in Mark and accepted that this was the new Mark. **See Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11.** Mark eventually teamed up with Peter and wrote the gospel of Mark.

Thank God for people like Barnabas who gave him his 2nd chance or more. Can WE be more like Barnabas?

Jesus' OWN EXAMPLE

Of course our Savior lived this, extending grace to known sinners. I mean way even before and beyond the grace on the Cross of course.

- Christ absolutely forgave Peter who denied Him so vociferously 3x. Peter obviously felt Yeshua's grace and favor. And look how Peter was so transformed, from denying Christ 3x first, then becoming the leader of the 12 and declaring openly that Jesus the Christ was their Savior.
- **John 4** - The Samaritan woman at the well. Yeshua haMashiach ((Jesus the Christ) revealed to HER – a “loose woman,” that he was the promised Messiah, meaning “anointed one.” Of all the people he could have picked, I believe he picked her to be the messenger of this hope – for her sake, yes – but also for our sake. You and I might have picked someone else. Women were not accepted as witnesses back then, and especially not this kind of woman. But this is whom Jesus picked.

Are you a woman who feels disgraced? Take heart. God still has a plan for you. Are you a man who has disgraced himself? Take heart. Jesus came bringing “grace upon grace” (John 1:16-17). Where there's sin, there's even more grace (Romans 5:20-21). Let's not forget that!

- Another woman anointed his feet with precious oil, expensive, and Yeshua publicly said her sins, which were many, were all forgiven. Read **Luke 7:44-50** on your own.
- Mary Magdalene, the “crazy woman” who had 7 demons cast out of her, (Luke 8:2) was one of Christ's most ardent followers, and the first to see and talk to the risen Christ, in spite of all the past stories. See **John 20.**

There are so many more examples we could use. But instead of reading their examples, you know what? I'd like to someday be hearing and reading about your example; how you started practicing God's grace and favor, how you let people shine through using God's spirit to let them know they've been forgiven, and God has a purpose for them – like Barnabas did for Paul and Mark.

So when we wash feet each Passover, I actually say out loud to the person whose feet I'm washing: "By washing your feet, I'm acknowledging our Savior washed your feet and mine too. I do not and never will see you as anyone but washed in the blood of the Lamb, no matter what I ever hear or find out about you. You are washed. I am acknowledging that." OK?

I often wonder what would have happened to Mary Magdalene, John Mark who wrote the gospel of Mark, the apostle Peter, and Paul himself – had it not been for brethren who gave them hope, gave them another shot at it, who told them they believed in God working in them, despite what they had done wrong. You'll see what I mean as we go along.

As it is, so many brethren struggle with grace because we all know how far short we each fall in our daily walk with God. I've given a couple sermons lately on God's grace that I hope you've heard. We still can sometimes wonder if God can cover us with his grace once more – when we feel and see our stumbles and temptations.

But one thing is certain: it's far easier to FEEL and believe God has covered you with his favor and grace when God's children ALSO cover you with God's grace. They accept you. They don't discuss any sins they know about you or others. No, they want you to know they see you as cleansed, washed, redeemed, and accepted by God – and by the Body of Christ, the church.

So have I just described you?

We're between Passover and Pentecost as I record this. It's a good time to check our hearts and see if we believe in God's power to completely transform people – or what God can do in people, regardless of their past, or even where they're from, color of their skin, or other things that might distract some people.

Do you practice accepting people whom other brethren might reject – for any reason? Are you practicing grace and Favor and believing in what God can do in people – or are you practicing disgracing people? We "DIS-grace" by gossiping about others or listening to that gossip.

CAN GOD'S SPIRIT COMPLETELY TRANSFORM PEOPLE?

With Pentecost here, are you one who believes that God by his Spirit can totally transform anyone, of ANY sin or sinful habit – or do you believe God's spirit is weak and once you're a certain type of sinner, you always will be?

It's commonly believed, for example, that certain sex orientations are for forever, as is alcoholism and other sinful patterns. No doubt that is true in the natural world. But I believe God by his spirit totally transforms all of us when we are LED by God's spirit.

I believe God CAN transform us and other believers from any and ALL our past. Do YOU believe that too? If not, then that person will forever be "that drunk" or "that sex pervert" in your mind. Would you not want certain ones to be seen with you? Would you refuse to fellowship people with certain pasts? Would you wash their feet at Passover? OR, do you disclose what you think you know about certain ones to other brethren (gossip, in other words)? I hope brethren are not learning about others' pasts – through you! God have mercy is you're doing that.

Now if brethren in the church are NOT changing and right now are still getting drunk, STILL committing adultery or fornication, etc. – we're told not to mingle with them until they repent and stop.

But still, should we be talking about them?

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

"I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people OF THIS WORLD, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who **IS** sexually immoral, or covetous [greedy-NIV] or an idolater, or a reviler [**slanderer** – NIV], or a drunkard, or an extortioner [swindler or cheat] – not even to eat with such a person."

[Notice "covetous" and slanderer. How many of us could that apply to at times?]

12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? 13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person."

Notice the word "IS". If they're currently indulging in sin as their way of life – if someone "IS" immoral or IS a drunk or living in sin now as their way of life -- then have nothing to do with them.

But this does not apply to people **who WERE** a certain sinful way before. And besides, we ALL stumble in sin, don't we, don't you? He goes on to say in verse 12-13 that we can't apply that same standard to people in the world, of course, and we should be able to have friends in the world.

And notice chapter 6...

1 Cor. 6:9-11 describes a host of sins – take a look at them - - sins that society tells us we can never ever overcome. But Paul says in verse 11:

1 Cor. 6:11

"And such **WERE** some of you. **But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**"

God's spirit CAN change people, no matter what their sins are – or else this verse is a lie and God is not all powerful! He *can* transform us, no matter what our past sinful behavior was. Or it will be overcome if we LET God transform our lives. Otherwise how could Paul say, "such WERE some of you"?

And if anyone is being transformed, then their past should stay in the PAST.

Now, remember the man with terrible sex sins in 1 Cor. 5? Paul said to disfellowship him. But then what does Paul say in 2 Corinthians 2, sometime later? He admonishes them: "why is this man still out there by himself? Bring him back in. Show him some grace, some love...Extend God's grace to him. Give him some HOPE."

2 Corinthians 2:6-11

"The punishment by the majority is sufficient for such a person, **7 so now you should forgive and comfort him instead; otherwise, this one may be overwhelmed by excessive grief.**

8 Therefore I urge you to confirm your LOVE to him. 9 It was for this purpose I wrote: so I may know your proven character if you are obedient in everything. 10 Now to whom you forgive anything, I do too.

For what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for you in the presence of Christ, **11 so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his intentions.**

It's hard for someone to fully accept God's grace - if they don't experience God's grace in their interactions with God's children, you, and me. This is what Paul is basically teaching them.

Notice verse 7: people who are isolated from the body of Christ can become very forlorn, even wondering why they should continue to live. But when you've repented, and the church takes you warmly and joyfully back in – like the Father did to the returning Prodigal Son – then that person has a much better chance of moving on to righteousness and being used by God.

Keep asking yourself: are you LIVING God's grace and favor to PEOPLE God is working with? Yes, even those who sinned horribly. ARE you?

Remember YOU'VE sinned too! ALL sin – yours or anyone else's – required the death of your Savior! And when he forgives, he forgives it ALL – whether you do or not. But if YOU won't forgive a brother or sister but are out there gossiping about those sins, then it's YOUR sins that won't be forgiven.

Now, someone with such past grievous sins, is God DONE being able to use her or him to His glory?

Could you attend church with King David?

What do you think of a man who commits adultery while a woman's husband is away? And what if he has that man murdered so you can bury the evidence and consequences? (**Carefully read 2 Samuel 11 and 12**). David was such a man. But even after all that, don't we all read and love his Psalms? Won't we gladly come under him as the King of Israel in the Millennium?

David also numbered Israel and YHVH was so upset with that, that he, through the Angel of the LORD killed 70,000 Israelites, knowing that would spank David the hardest: realizing HIS sin caused 70,000 of his "flock" to have to die! **If you're not familiar with the story, please read 2 Samuel 24, especially verses 14-18.**

So what David did was pretty bad! *But you still accept HIM.* But how about forgiving, in the same way, "common folks" *who committed sex sins or did terrible things some years ago?*

I'm speaking generally, not about anyone in particular. But my point stands. We all need God's grace, and we ALL must be extending God's grace in the way we interact with others who have had terrible sins.

REPEAT: It's hard for someone to fully accept God's grace - or feel GOD loves them, if they don't experience God's grace and LOVE in their interactions from God's children -- you and me.

Some are so bad at not letting people have a new life that they even produce an industrial grade gossip machine through emails and internet to get the NASTY word out about someone to as many as possible. It's going on. And God have mercy on those people. I too, have to extend them God's grace when they repent.

*This next paragraph is SO important: GOSSIP and DIS-gracing others is terrible in God's eyes. It separates friends from one another. **We should not be listening to or reading ANY of it. Just tell such people trying to gossip to you that you're NOT interested and tell them not to try again.** If you're not brave enough to do that to protect the children of God, then just leave, go get a cup of coffee... just leave. **Or change the subject. They're not stupid.** They'll catch on. But don't INDULGE IN IT yourself or you become an accessory to the sin.*

Seeing BRETHREN and others in newness, in the SPIRIT

So are you and I living out the lessons of Passover as we come to Pentecost?

To put it another way: Are you still looking at people from an "in the flesh" perspective, or an "in the spirit" perspective? Are you allowing people to change in the way you see them?

Or when you know someone was a terrible drunk but having not seen her for many years, as she approaches you – do you instantly think, "Oh – I know her. She's that terrible drunkard!" – even though you smile and shake her hand. Or do you LET That person start over with a gracious welcome!?

I bring this up because I see example after example where GOD'S people are NOT so willing to extend God's favor and grace to others who have done terrible things, committed terrible sins in the past. It's especially difficult if or when that person's sins were directed right at YOU or affected YOU!

Paul says Christ died for all of us, as we've **ALL** SINNED. We were ALL in the same boat because we all sinned, needing forgiveness and acceptance. But

those who peddle gossip and slander don't seem to know that. From now on we're supposed to be working for Christ's army – not Satan's.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Holman

*“For Christ's love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: **if One died for all, then all died.** 15 And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised.”*

*People who won't reach out in gracious favor to someone whose sins are known and forgiven by God himself -- are in grave danger. **If we don't forgive, neither shall we be forgiven.** I have sermons on that. Don't risk not being forgiven!*

You and I have been tasked with the ministry of RECONCILIATION. Bringing people back together.

2 Corinthians 5:16-19 ESV

*“**From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.** Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.*

God is telling each of us: “STOP thinking of one another as you once were. Repentant sinners, now my children, have been washed, have been forgiven, have been redeemed.” And therefore none of us has ANY RIGHT to question God's total forgiveness of someone, in spite of any sin he/she has committed. When we refuse to give the right hand of fellowship and forgiveness, when we spread the details of someone's sins to others – it puts US, the one spreading gossip, in mortal danger with God himself.

*17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. **The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.***

*18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself **and gave US the ministry of reconciliation;** 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

Are you and I letting the “old” pass away for ALL children of God? How are you doing with your ministry of reconciliation?

You whisperers of gossip, you who send pages of detailed trash to other brethren about someone's past forgiven sins, whether they're neighbors, or brethren, ministers or televangelists or neighbors – **for your own eternity's sake, STOP!**

Proverbs 16:27-28

*"An **ungodly** man DIGS UP evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire.
28 A **perverse** man sows strife, And a **whisperer** separates the
best of friends".*

Don't be in the "ungodly" category! Don't be among the "perverse"!
Do we want anything like what I've just read to apply to you or me?

When you tell others about the sins of a child of God, especially one who has changed and repented, do you know who you're working for?

Who are you working for?

As a believer, for whom do you want to work? I want to work for God.

*We know we have an adversary. **Satan's means "enemy" or "Adversary."** How about "DEVIL"? It's from the Greek "diabolos" – and it means, are you ready, "Accuser! Slanderer." **Satan the Devil means "Our enemy who accuses and slanders" God's people.***

When you tell others about someone's sins or send me info about other's sins – especially from many years ago – you are working for the "Enemy who Slanders and Accuses" – which is what "Satan the Devil" means.

Satan, the serpent of old, is called "the ACCUSER of the brethren" (Revelation 12:9-10) who accuses God's family day and night. Don't be part of that!

And any time you READ or WATCH slander that others send or listen to the slander about other children of God – you are standing with Satan the accuser of the brethren, and against God's children, against the One who DIED for us all – including that person slandering. Our goal is to be one loving BODY. Since we're between Passover and Pentecost, we should want nothing to do with the Accuser. We should all be about grace and favor.

If someone tries to tell you, or give you slanderous information, RECOGNIZE that person as working for the Devil, the Accuser – and TELL that person to not try that again and that you will NOT be part of his sin of gossiping TODAY about someone's sin from long ago. If you can't stand with Christ and be that strong, then at least change the subject or just walk away. He/she will get the point.

Proverbs 17:9

*"He who covers a transgression seeks love,
But he who repeats a matter separates friends."*

Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. His people, repeating accusations of past sins that could even be TRUE – have a lot to repent of!

An accuser of the brethren – Satan and his workers – will have to face off against Jesus himself, who defends us day and night (1 John 2:1-2). Remember that Yeshua wants to lead us to repentance and wants to acquit us and take away our guilt, as far as east is from the west.

DO you remember the story of JOSHUA the high priest in Zech. 3?
Watch how our Savior likes to forgive, to clean us up, restore us to good standing with him:

Zechariah 3:1-5

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

*3 **Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments** and was standing before the Angel.*

*4 Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "**Take away the filthy garments from him.**" And to him He said, "**See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.**"*

5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head."

So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by."

Whose side do you want to be representing? ALL of us probably have some repenting to do. DO repent. Stop fighting God's grace. Start living and demonstrating God's grace. Start practicing God's favor and grace. Stop being a slanderer or listening to or reading any slander. I apply this also to the tabloids. Just don't read that slop.

Praise the Lord, praise our Father, and I hope ALL of you who hear this will STOP working for the Adversary, Satan who accuses the brethren – and get on the right team, exercising hope, grace, love, favor – maybe even ESPECIALLY to God's children who have sinned badly in the past. We PRACTICE extending God's favor!

And may our fabulous Father bless you greatly for showing others – even very sinful others -- through YOUR actions – the grace and favor of our God.

Closing prayer.