

Distinguishing, Disarming, Deceiving and De-Weaponizing

God, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — everlasting grace and the unequalled favor He shows.

We should long for Jesus, His grace, and His uncommon favor... you and I NEED Him, His redeeming grace and uncommon favor.

Favor with the Lord always makes a difference... sometimes it multiplies, sometimes it overcomes and other times it overrides the simple or complex things that families, friends, or foes use to bless or limit our lives.

Jacob understood this... and said,

"...but the God of my father has been with me. And you know that with all my might I have served your father. Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, BUT GOD DID NOT ALLOW HIM TO HURT ME." (Genesis 31:5-7)

Favor with God has a way of making a servant stand out...without needing them to show out.

I cannot pass up the opportunity to rejoice in the precious and priceless works of grace that my God fulfilled in the lives of His people. I love the picture that Joshua paints when he stood before the people and spoke of the time when God — TOOK Abraham — a gentile like me — and made him His very own. Think about it... it wasn't by accident that the seed of the Messiah, my crucified and resurrected King and Redeemer, was in Terah and Abraham's loins. And that didn't just happen, no sir, it was the eternal purpose and decree of the God who would one day supernaturally clothe Himself in flesh to rescue the very ones who carried His seed from the other side of the Jordan into the very land that He would one day be born in.

My God is sovereign... and I'm grateful to know, love, and trust Him. And it blesses me to know He didn't leave His eternal plan and purpose up to chance or the choice of mortal men. He MADE it happen... and He didn't ask anyone if He could!

I'm so encouraged by what Joshua proclaimed in chapter 24. Take a minute, when you can, and read the prophetic word he shared. You'll find things like this, (and ALL that I mention is in direct reference to what God MADE happen): He said, "I TOOK, I LED, I MULTIPLIED, I GAVE, I GAVE, I GAVE, I SENT, I PLAGUED, I DID, I BROUGHT, I BROUGHT, I DID, I BROUGHT, I GAVE, I DESTROYED, I DELIVERED, I DELIVERED, I SENT, I HAVE GIVEN." And the neat thing about it all this God NEVER asked anyone if He could. I'm so glad to know He doesn't have to ask or poll this world to do what

He wants. If He did, He'd be no different than us. But He is holy, and He is the One who chose to intentionally and selectively weave His way through the seed of a handful of men to fashion a chaste virgin, with an unopened womb, that He would favor and one day plant Himself within her, to save a people who would have NEVER been able or even want to save themselves apart from His amazing grace.

Don't believe it when someone says that God will never force men to do anything? Just read your bible and take captive that lie, unto the obedience of Christ, and keep looking to Jesus. I'm going to keep serving a God and King who can, who does, and who will make men do what He wants, whenever He wants them to do it. Does He give us choices and consequences? You better believe it... but don't settle on the lie, that He can't MAKE men and nations do what He wants them to do. C'mon, He's God! If He can't MAKE people do what He wants, He's not God, and you ought to quit praying and asking Him to do what man can't do. And, as Jeremiah said, "It's not in man, who walks, to direct his steps." Our choices are limited to what HAS or IS influencing our lives. No one walks to the beat of THEIR own drum... someone or something is directing all of our steps. We all make choices, and so does my God. And He often makes choices to MAKE men, which are His creation and accountable to Him and under His authority, do what He wants them to do. And He can... for He is God! And the choice I make is to believe and follow Him. (Joshua 11:20; Deuteronomy 2:30).

"Listen to Me, you who [a]follow after righteousness, you who seek the Lord:
Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you;
For I called him alone, and blessed him and increased him." Isaiah 51:1-2

Listening... to the Lord is still the most essential and elemental work of faith for every new creature in Christ Jesus.

For [it] allows all other perceptions•passions•practices and people to be better understood — and put in their proper place — within the faith and framework of God's will for our lives. And no one modeled it more carefully and clearly than Jesus. (Mark 15 & 16; Isaiah 50:4-7; Isaiah 51:1-2; Hebrew 12; Isaiah 42; Romans 12:1-2)

Just a little something to chew on, while you look to Jesus and run the race He's set before you.
Have a great evening, my friends.

Genesis 31:42

If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my

hands, and last night he rebuked you.

Motives of wealth and war... both deceptive and both wanted to disarm and de-weaponize the other.

#nestingwithjesus #genesis #genesis12 #genesis27 #genesis28 #genesis29 #genesis30
#genesis31 #genesis32 #genesis33 #genesis34 #genesis35 #joshua24 #isaiah51and1thru2
#abraham #isaac #rachel #leah #jacob #esau #jacobandesau #repentance #tears #blessings
#rights #hebrews12 #love #hate #hatred #envy #jealousy #favor #shechem #succhoth #bethel
#laban