

EXAMPLES OF GRACE

Message 2

Words:

Date:

Scripture: Genesis 6:

INTO: In the previous message I sought to define what grace means. Here is the definition I gave: "The grace of God is that favorable disposition in God toward fallen man which is caused by something in them that pleases Him, and this favorable disposition causes Him to freely grant them what they desire."

In the definition I gave I include that man must please God to find grace with Him. That automatically will make someone say that I have added works to grace, but that is not so. To qualify for something does not necessarily mean works. We can get nothing from God by works, but man must qualify to receive salvation or to gain power to overcome sin. That includes both justification and sanctification. The grace of God is never unilateral. It is a two-way street. God has provided all man needs for salvation, that is clear. But man must qualify to be saved, and that is also clear.

To be saved one must be converted. Conversion includes two doctrines: repentance, and faith. If these qualifications are not met, there is no grace and there is no mercy. What these two matters boil down to is humility. No man is ever saved in pride. He must humble himself, and so Scripture says God gives grace to the humble.

There is talk among theologians about all kinds of grace. In the last message I said: "You see, there is talk of common grace, special grace, prevenient grace, and sacramental grace, unconditional grace, and I don't know how many more kinds of grace." I do not find such distinctions in Scripture.

What I want to do in this message is look at cases where the phrases "found grace," or "found favor..." occur. Let me mention again, the words grace and favor are used interchangeably. I want to give these examples to impress this great truth of a qualifying factor for grace to us. The phrase "to find grace" or "to find favor" occurs 41 times so we cannot look at them all in one message. It also shows the importance of this phrase.

III. EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF GRACE

A. NOAH

In the previous message we looked at Noah. The first time the word "grace" appears in the OT is in Genesis 6:8 which says: "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." The world had corrupted until it was so bad that God wanted to destroy everything He had made, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah pleased God by his faith, and through one man and his family the Lord spared mankind.

B. ABRAHAM

We go now to Genesis 18. Abraham and Sarah had tried to help God out by works and Abraham had a son by Sarah's maid. It didn't turn out well then and still is a major sore in the world today.

Abraham had failed God but he never turned away from Him. And when we come to Genesis 18, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah have reached the state the world had reached in the days of Noah, and God was going to destroy these cities. They are a picture of what is happening in the world today. We pick up the account in Genesis 18:1:

1 Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

3 and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

Abraham said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight." He had. The Lord was pleased with him.

Verse 4:

4 "Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

5 "And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes."

7 And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it.

8 So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

9 Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent."

10 And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'

14 "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

Abraham and Sarah should both give us courage. They both failed, but both trusted God in the end. Study Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and we find failures, but we also find those who ultimately trusted God. Listen now as I read Hebrews 11:8-12:

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

In the passage we read earlier Sarah laughed. But the writer to the Hebrews assures us that in the end she received strength by faith, contrary to all natural laws to bear the son of promise.

We can take courage that though we may have failed, there is yet hope. And the purpose I am giving this is that anytime anyone accomplished anything with God it was by faith, and it is faith that pleases God and is the key to experiencing grace!

C. MOSES

We go next to Moses. You know that Moses was brought up in Pharaoh's house. He had exceedingly big privileges. I read somewhere that Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody, then forty years learning he was nobody, and 40 years finding out what God can do with a nobody. Dr. J. Otis Yoder said something like this, that God creates out of nothing, and He can't make anything out of us until we are nothing.

Well, God used a nobody and brought Israel out of Egypt. This, in itself, was a huge undertaking. And after they had crossed the Red Sea, they came to Mount Sinai. And there Moses met God on top of the mountain and God gave him the 10 commandments. He was up on the mountain for forty days and nights and did not eat. And when he came down with the Ten Commandments he found the people partying and they had made a golden calf to worship. They had left God in a short time. One can imagine how devastating that would be. Moses threw the tablets of stone down and broke them.

God then wanted to destroy the people and Moses pled with Him to spare the people. Read 33:12-20:

Ex 33:12 Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'

So listen to what Moses desires if he has found grace in the Lord's sight:

13 *"Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."*

16 *"For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."*

17 *So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."*

If one pleases the Lord and one desires that which pleases Him, then by His grace He will extend that which is desired.

D. JACOB

We are looking at examples of the phrase, finding grace or favor. To get that which we want from God we have to please Him. But man extends grace to man as well. You see, man is made in the image and likeness of God. We are like God in various ways because we are personal beings. But because our nature has been corrupted by sin, this makes us failures in many things. So let me ask you a question, and be honest with me: How many of you like to help someone in need that you really like? How many of you like to help people you really do not like?

You see, when someone pleases us in some ways, say you like their character, that creates a favorable disposition in us towards them and when they are in need we gladly help. But because we are sinful people, we may be pleased with sinful things in others.

When people ask us for help and we like them, we find it a pleasure to do things for them. God is like that and that is what causes Him to extend grace. But when God extends grace because he likes something, it is always right and just and good.

Here is how I define grace once again: "The grace of God is that favorable disposition in God toward fallen man which is caused by something in them that pleases

Him, and this favorable disposition causes Him to freely grant them what they desire."

I would say the grace of man is that favorable disposition in one person towards another caused by something in them we like, and this favorable disposition causes us to freely grant them what they desire. When we dislike someone, it is much more difficult for us to extend things to them freely.

Well, we consider first with regard to grace between people, the account of Jacob. Jacob and Esau were twins and you will remember that Esau sold his birthright for some soup. Later, Jacob took Esau's blessing through his mother, Rebec's craft. So Esau decided to kill Jacob after their father Isaac died, which would be not too long from then.

Well, Isaac and Rebeca sent Jacob to find a wife with some relatives. They were not happy with Esau's marriages. And Jacob went to Laban, his mother's brother. Before he arrived he came to the well where they watered the sheep and he met a shepherdess who was just coming to water the sheep. So he watered the sheep and told her about himself and she introduced him to her family.

Turn to Genesis 29. You know the story, how Jacob thought he was marrying Rachel, the shepherdess and got her sister. The way marriages took place allowed for this deception. Then he worked an extra seven years for Rachel. Well, in Laban he met a man more shrewd than he was. And finally Jacob got tired of being deceived and he decided it was time to go back. So look at verses 25-27:

25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country.

26 "Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you."

27 And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."

Well, Laban's words, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes" are an understatement if ever there was one. Well, Jacob caved once more, and after this

time Jacob will say that Laban changed his wages 10 times. Laban had not truly found favor in Jacob's eyes for a long time. And God used this to take Jacob back to where he wanted him.

But in going back home, Jacob now had to face Esau, and the last he heard of him, Esau wanted to kill him. And so just before Jacob got into the territory where he would meet Esau, he split his family and possessions into two parts and sent the first on ahead and he came behind. And that night, as Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord his name was changed from Jacob to Israel. Let me say this about Jacob, I think his natural character was as shady as Laban's, but he learned to walk with God and it changed him.

Genesis 32:8 says this:

28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Well, finally Jacob must meet Esau and we go now to Genesis 33. We begin in verse 1:

1 Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants.

2 And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last.

3 Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

It was in Esau's power to kill Jacob and take all he had, and Jacob knew it and he put himself down before his brother.

Verse 4:

4 But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

5 And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

6 Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down.

7 And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down. Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down.

8 Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord."

9 But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."

10 And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.

It seems Esau has had a change of heart over the years, so he asked Jacob what the purpose was of the gift he had sent ahead for Esau. And Jacob said, "I wanted to please you with those so that you would spare my life." He said it in different words, but that is what he is saying. Listen to Esau in verse 9: "I have enough, my brother..." What must that have done for Jacob!

10 And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.

What was the favor Jacob found in his brother that he was looking for? His brother could have made good his vow to kill Jacob, but instead he calls Jacob, "my brother."

E. ESTHER

We have another example of a person finding favor with another person in Esther. In the OT we have a wonderful story about a Jewish woman who became the queen of a world ruler, Ahasuerus. Daniel had prophesied about four world rulers. The first was Babylon and the second was the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. This is the kingdom Ahasuerus ruled. He ruled from about 465 BC and for about 20 years.

During that time he had a very important man in charge of many things by name of Haman and Haman plotted how he might kill the Jews. It was then, like it is now. Well, in time his wife did not perform before him as he wished, and the Persians, the Iranians, said we can't let this go or all our wives will become boss. And so

it was recommended that he set her down from being queen and they find a new beautiful woman for him.

Well there was a beautiful young lady who had lost both her parents, and her uncle Mordecai, took her for his own daughter. And in the beauty contest she won and became the queen of the then known world. She was a Jew.

Well, what had happened earlier when Esther was Queen was that two men had plotted to kill Ahasuerus, the king, and Mordechai had found out about it. He let Esther know and the king was spared. Then time went on and Haman was promoted in the kingdom and all were to bow to him. It is like the covid shot today. The world is seeking to make all bow. Turn to Esther 3. But Mordecai would not bow to Haman. And one might question Mordecai's stand. Why did Mordecai not bow to Haman? We are not told, but I believe he knew what bowing to this man would mean in the end.

When man stands in pride and thinks he is over others, and others do not bow, this infuriates. Haman's pride knew no bounds. We'll read from verse 1:

1 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.

2 And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

3 Then the king's servants who were within the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

4 Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead,

Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain.

9 "If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

11 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."

12 Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring.

13 And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions.

14 A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.

15 The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

Well, the time came close when the Jews were to be destroyed and Mordecai spoke with Esther. But she did not dare go to the king. She hadn't been called in thirty days. And as customs were, if she went in unbidden, it could cost her her head. One knows why she would hesitate. So look at 4:13-14:

12 So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.

14 "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

There are times to remain silent, and there are times one must speak, though it might mean death. I had an e-mail from a man whose church took a huge liberal step and I could tell he was hitting himself for not saying anything. I wrote back that there are times when one must remain silent. Such a time came to Jesus, and He didn't say a word.

For Esther it was a time to speak. Esther then told Mordecai to call on all the Jews to fast for three days and she would risk her life to appear before the king. They did this, and she took her life in her hands, and now look at 5:1-2:

1¶ Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.

2 So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

You see, Esther found favor in the King's sight, and now note the next verse:

3 And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!"

When she found grace in his sight she could ask for what she wished.

Now look at verse 8. Esther said:

8 "If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

Well, you know that later there was a night when the king could not sleep and he called for some of the records of the kingdom and found that Modecai had saved him from two would be killers. So he called for Haman and said, "What should be done for the man in whom the king delights?" Well, Haman's pride knew no bounds. He thought that the king was speaking about him. So he said that the royal robe should be put on that person and he should be put on the king's horse and then be paraded through the city. One cannot imagine how he felt when he was leading the horse and Mordecai, the hated Jew who would not bow to him sat on this wonderful horse, dressed a royal robe. Well, he left that event in mourning.

Just before that, Queen Esther, having been granted her desire had invited Haman and the king to a special banquet with her. So look at 7:1-3:

1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.

2 So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

3 Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews.

Well in the turn of events the king went into the garden in anger and Haman ended up begging for his life from Esther. When the king came back he saw Haman too close to Esther and now he was very angry. Two servants standing by told him about the huge gallows Haman had built and he ended up hanging on the gallows he had built for Mordecai.

And we go to chapter 8 to find out what happened a little later:

1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.

2 So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

3 Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews.

4 And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king,

5 and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

The long and short of it is that the Jews were spared. A young queen took her own life in her hands and found grace, and the Jewish people were saved.

F. HERODIAS

So we have seen that man can find grace with man. It is the lesser that is blessed by the greater. Jacob, the father of Joseph, sought favor from Joseph, his son, because Joseph was able to give that which Jacob requested, and the request was that his bones might be buried in Israel.

However, there can be a difference between finding grace with people and finding grace with God. With man, favor may be found with another in things that are not good. Unrighteous things please some people. So an evil person in need of something might find favor with a rich crook. But with God, unrighteous things can never please Him. One can never find favor with God with unrighteous, things, nor with doing great things nobody else can do. But unrighteousness can please man.

Turn now to Matthew 14. Herod has killed John the Baptist some time ago and Jesus has begun His ministry and is doing miracles. And when Herod heard of this, he was afraid John had been raised from the dead. His conscience became active. So let us read the account. We begin in verse 14:

14 Now King Herod heard of Him, for His name had become well known. And he said, "John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

15 Others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets."

16 But when Herod heard, he said, "This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!"

By the way, this is not the same Herod that had all the babies killed when Jesus was born. That Herod was long dead. Now this Herod had had John killed, and now his conscience is smiting him. He knew he should not have done that. Verse 17:

17 For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her.

18 For John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

19 Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not;

20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

If you want to live, it is not good to confront someone with having a wife he shouldn't have. John the Baptist dared and died. So listen to what happened later:

21 Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee.

22 And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you."

23 He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."

Now this passage does not say Herodias' daughter found favor with Herod. This young lady who danced was her mother's daughter but not Herod's daughter. And as far as we know, she wasn't seeking anything. But her dancing pleased Herod. Just like God gives things to people who please Him, so Herod wanted to give something to Herodias. Like Esther, she could ask for whatever she wanted, up to half the kingdom.

24 So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!"

25 Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Herodias was very angry with John the Baptist for reproving Herod for taking her to wife. She did not hesitate a moment when her opportunity came. She immediately requested John's head. Verse 26:

26 *And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her.*

27 *Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison,*

28 *brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.*

29 *When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb.*

Here is what we learn from finding grace with man. It can be any worldly thing that pleases another who is able to give to others that gets you what you want.

CONCL: Well, I must close and time fails me to tell you about some Israel's in the wilderness; Moses with God on numerous occasions; two tribes of Israel; Gideon with the Lord; Ruth with Boaz; Joseph with Potipher and later with Pharaoh's household; Saul with David's father; David with Achish; Joab with David; and Nehemiah with the king.

And since we are close to Christmas, turn to Luke 1:26:

26 *Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,*

27 *to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

28 *And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"*

29 *But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.*

30 *Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

31 *"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.*

I am always amazed that the Lord found the godliest virgin in the region of Galilee of the Gentiles, far from Jerusalem. The angel said Mary had found favor with God. How many a young woman will have desired to be the bearer of the Messiah and it was Mary who found favor with God.

Well, we conclude on the word grace. What is grace? I fully agree that it is unmerited favor. But it is that which the one in need finds favor in the one who can provide that need. There is something in the one in need that pleases and triggers a kindly disposition in the one who can provide that need.

Thus I give this definition of the Grace of God: "It is that favorable disposition in God toward fallen man which is caused by something in them that pleases Him, and this favorable disposition causes Him to freely grant them what they desire."

Here is the word for every lost person that desires to be saved: Repent and put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. That is a promise of God. Are you a Christian, then in order to receive the power to overcome sin you have to come to the throne of Grace that you may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. And those who wish to live godly in Christ Jesus will be in need again and again.