

Fathers Who Walk With God in Grace

Introduction & Review

- Adam was the first human being and man to experience true fellowship with God in the garden of Eden.
- Adam forfeited that privilege for the devastating & temporary pleasure of sin – attempted to hide from God.
- As a father, Adam saw two of his first three son have true fellowship with God – Abel & Seth.
- Noah was a descendant of Adam through Seth – 10 generations.
- Noah was a father of three sons – Shem, Ham & Japheth.
- 43% of US children live w/o their fathers – increased crime, teenage pregnancies, dropouts, juveniles in prison...

I. Fathers Who Find Favor With God (Gen. 6:5-8)

A. The presence of grace

*Noah lived during a period of pervasive wickedness – no fear of God or respect for people (Gen. 6:5a). Humanity had been thoroughly infected by sin (Gen. 6:5b). But God's favor or grace was present with Noah in the midst of this awful wickedness – "But Noah found favor..." (Gen. 6:8; 1Co. 15:10). **Favor is a synonym for grace.** The grace of God always finds its way thru wickedness to the heart of its object or subject; God never fails! Grace is always larger & greater than sin (Rom. 5:20).*

B. The power of grace

Even though Noah lived in this wicked culture & society, he did not conform to it (Rom 12:1-2). The temptation & power of sin has caused serious damage to lives of many fathers & men. But Noah found favor because the power of grace kept him from yielding & surrendering to sin – "...for my power is perfected in weakness." (2Co. 12:9). God is looking for fathers & men who acknowledge their weaknesses & look to Him with the power of grace for victory in circumstances of life. The power was not in Noah, but in the Lord.

APPL: Grace is always available to Fathers & men in every situation of life – no exceptions. And the power of grace will keep & deliver in every situation of life – no exceptions. No more excuses!

II. Fathers Who Walk With God (Gen. 6:9-10)

A. The companions of grace

Enoch & Noah are the only two people whom the bible explicitly says "walked with God" (Gen. 5:24; 6:9b). Fathers & men who walk with God must be men of faith – grace & faith are companions (Heb. 11:5-7). These men also love God & value the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (2Co. 12:14). Grace, love, fellowship & faith are all companions in the father/man that walks with God.

B. The character of grace (Gen. 6:9-10)

Noah was "a righteous man" – his relationship with God. He was righteous because of what he believed, not what he did (Gen. 15:6). Noah was also "blameless in his generation" – his relationship with people. The man that trusts God, also obeys God (Jas. 2:17). Noah was a man that believed & obeyed God in a generation of people that did not; he led his family in faith & obedience; he walked or lived with God in faith & obedience. God is looking for fathers & men that will believe & obey Him in this wicked & perverse generation.

APPL: Noah was the last father to live before God destroyed the world with the flood. His character & influence were critical for the future of humanity. His sons needed to see a father walking with God in grace; his wife & daughters-in-law needed to see... Our sons, daughters, wives, relatives, church members, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, etc. need to see fathers & men walking with God in grace. This is essential in our own world to preserve a holy remnant of people for God.