

The other day, I was on my iPhone returning a text. And, I noticed... we have become an emoticon world. For example, what does this one express? *Show happy*. This? *Show sad*. This? *Show laughter*. This? *Show angry*. This? *Show sick*. This? *Show sleepy*. This? *Show love*. This makes us ALL realize that a person's facial expression says a lot about them! It also makes me wonder, what would God's facial emoticon look like?

Today, we continue our life lesson series, "The Blessing". In Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV), God commanded Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel by saying, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance (face) upon you and give you peace." Did you notice? The Lord's "face" is twice mentioned. Today, let's look at v. 25.

First, let's examine closer... The Lord make His face to shine upon you. In this blessing, YaHWeh, JeHoVaH, the Lord promises to make His glorious face to shine upon us. The I AM who I AM, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob desires to shine His brightness, splendor, magnificence, and majesty upon us. And, note! "You", here, is singular not plural. Thus, God's promises are personal, a.k.a. from Him to you!

Second, let's examine closer... And be gracious to you. To know God passionately wants to shine His face upon us AND surround us with His lovingkindness is an incredible gift! John 3:16 (ESV) expresses

this truth to us SO well, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” This truly is an expression of God’s unmerited favor to us!

Yesterday, in our men’s Bible study (Panera), we remarked, “We wish God would speak to us face to face!” Upon reading Hebrews 1, we reflected, God does, in Jesus, the radiance of God’s glory! Think about this! In 2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV), Paul says, “God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” Wow.

So, what do we do with this truth in our lives? In Matthew 5:14a, 16 (ESV), Jesus says, “You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Today, as you go, as a Christian, embrace your part in God’s story, your calling by God to embody Jesus. You may just be the only expression of God’s face and grace people will see this week.

Let’s pray, Lord God, Revelation 21:23 (ESV) says, “And the city (The New Jerusalem) has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.” Lord God, the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty, make Your face to shine upon. Be gracious to us. And, Lord God, this week, help us share this blessing with every person we know!