

(Numbers 6:22-27, NIV84)

The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: " ' "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." ' "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Have you ever heard (or spoken) these words: "Get out of my sight, I even can't stand to look at you!"? Maybe these words were spoken in anger at a naughty pet, or at a loved one who did something that outraged you. Or perhaps you were on the receiving end of those words because of something that you did or said. In the face of such anger it could be hours or even days before tempers have calmed enough to allow for a reunion.

This is essentially how the holy God in His righteous anger has to respond to us sinners: "Get out of my sight, I can't stand to look at you!" Because of our sinfulness and moral shortcomings, we could never have hoped to appease God's wrath. It's been said that "time heals all wounds." But this was a wound that, if left for eternity, time could never heal.

Thankfully God is as merciful and loving as He is holy and just. He made a way for His wrath to be satisfied and His anger to be appeased. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). The Lord Jesus was placed on a cross where the full righteous wrath of God was poured out upon Him. He suffered the penalty that our sins deserved. He paid the debt that we all owe to the holy God.

In view of Jesus' sacrifice God can now look on us with favor and blessing and give us His peace.

Basking in the light of God's face with you in Christ,  
Pastor Golm

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May 18

The Assurance of His Face

The Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you. 2 Chronicles 30:9

It was well past midnight. Little, four-year-old Tommy had been asleep for hours. Suddenly he awoke from a bad dream. Not knowing whether he was alone

in the large, dark bedroom, he whispered into the darkness: "Daddy, are you there?"

From the other side of the room came the comforting voice: "Yes, Tommy, Daddy's here." For a moment Tommy lay silent, still not quite sure his bad dream was imagined. Once more he whispered: "Daddy, is your face toward me?"

And once more the kind voice of his father assured him: "Yes, Tommy, my face is toward your bed." With that assurance the little fellow turned over, closed his eyes, and drifted back to peaceful slumber.

How much like little Tommy you and I are when the thick, impenetrable darkness of fear settles upon our little lives. Is our heavenly Father near us? Is he really watching over us? Does he see our plight? How comforting in such moments to know that "the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers."

On Calvary's cross God showed his face to us: a face of love, of tenderness, and divine compassion. Or, as St. John writes: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

Because of Calvary we can know, with an assurance that will not waver, that "the Lord our God is gracious and merciful and will not turn his face away from us." Like little Tommy, we can rest assured as long as we know that our Father is with us and that his eyes will be upon us throughout all the changing scenes of life. We have his word for that!

In Thee I place my trust, On Thee I calmly rest;  
I know Thee good; I know Thee just; and count Thy will the best.  
Let good or ill befall, It must be good for me;  
Secure of having Thee in all, Of having all in Thee. Amen.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)