

TURNING DESPAIR INTO HOPE: "FREAH" OF UGORNYKY

The probability is that most reading this have never faced the situation I am going to describe. The historical narrative of Job reveals that he lived a tormented existence punctuated by physical, emotional, economic, social, and spiritual assaults. His desperation is well addressed as he said. *"For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend; so that he does not forsake the fear of the Almighty"* (Job 6:14).

Job struggled with the desperations of earthly living that threatened his relationship with the Almighty God. Many in his situation angrily say, "God?! What God? IF God exists, WHY does He send these suffocating troubles to me?!" I can understand the dilemma of the one asking these questions. I can understand the anger prompting these questions. I definitely can understand the confusion.

Job's insightful discovery is that "kindness" should be demonstrated. The word translated "kindness" is my favorite word of the Hebrew Bible. It is translated from the Hebrew term חֶסֶד (chêsêd). This word simply cannot be translated into English. The difficulty is this term encompasses a myriad of positive emotions of one for another. It is frequently used to describe God and is often translated as God's "loving-kindness." If not for God's חֶסֶד (chêsêd) mankind would be in a hopeless predicament. Whenever it seems that mankind has no escape, no future, no security, no value, God's "loving-kindness" provides answers for the situation.

The Hebrew word communicates these concepts: kindness; piety; beautiful actions; special favor; recognized value; good deeds; mercy and pity; reproach for a wicked thing. You can see how the concept communicated by חֶסֶד (chêsêd) just cannot be given in one word. As Job struggled with horrible adversities, evil accusations, and physical abuse, he pled for "kindness." He says this is what will rescue the despairing and support one's relationship with God.

Now an up-to-date illustration of Job 6:14...

Tanya writes... "Living in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine is a girl named "Freah." She is an 11th grader. She is a good girl but her name is not common in western Ukraine. She is from the village Ugornyky.

"Her father was some kind of professor but died. Her mother hates her and has kicked her out of the house. She lives at her disabled uncle's right now. His disability happened as he was in the war that Russia has brought to eastern Ukraine. The uncle was fighting against the Russian terrorist army (he is an ATO veteran).



"Freah is a good student and dreams of a good life without fighting and hatred. She reads the Bible. When her mother kicked her out she had no place to live or clothes to wear. She lived with different families for two years and then her uncle took her. Her mother would beat her and fuss at her badly no matter what she did or did not do.

"The School teachers asked church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk to help her. When we asked Lubov about it she verified the information. We visited with her and discovered the girl did not have clothes or shoes. She said she was embarrassed to wear patched and worn out clothes that were too small, but she had no choice. We bought her a jacket and jeans from the money the congregation keep for such purposes. We found new pair of shoes that were shipped in a container from John Morrison (we thought we had distributed all shoes but then discovered this remaining pair that was exactly the size Freah needed!).

"She is thanking American Christians for help. She says that thanks to you she has been able to purchase some clothes for herself. In the photo and video you see the things she picked out herself and wept for joy!"

*"For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend;
so that he does not forsake the fear of the Almighty."*

~ John L. Kachelman, Jr
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