

Favor

Favor is a crucial thing that we all need to make it in life.

Luke 2:52 *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”*

There are two types of favors:

- a) Favor from God
- b) Favor from men

Another word for “favor” in scripture is the word “grace” (Genesis 39:4). Another way we can define favor is that it is the blessing of the LORD upon an individual. Favor like the grace of God is unearned and undeserved but we can do certain things that will position us to receive the favor of God and men. One of these things is obedience. Those who are obedient to the Lord will go places. They will receive favor and more favor. We just must be careful not to think that our integrity, godliness, faithfulness or obedience earns us right standing with God. We can't earn relationship with God nor can we work to get it. It is only appropriated by placing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing.

If it is true that favor is also the grace of God, then it is accurate to say that:

- a) Grace (favor) is strength (2 Cor. 12:9).
 - i) Our strength is released by the grace and favor of God. If we lack strength, we are lacking in grace or favor. God's grace will give us strength across the board.
- b) Grace (favor) is provision (2 Cor. 9:8).
 - i) Because of the favor of God upon our lives, provision is bound to exist.
- c) Grace (favor) is power (Acts 4:33).

- i) Grace is power. The goodness of God and the blessing of God is power. Romans 1:17 says that the Gospel is the power of God and the Gospel is the grace of God.
- d) Grace builds us up and gives us our inheritance (Acts 20:32).
- e) Grace (favor) gives us gifts (Rom. 12:6).
- f) Grace (favor) gives us consolation and hope (2 Thess. 2:16).
- g) Grace (favor) is faith and love (1 Tim. 1:14).
- h) Grace (favor) is mercy and help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).
- i) Grace (favor) is multiplied unto us through the knowledge of God (2 Pet. 1:2).
- j) Grace (favor) labors abundantly (1 Cor. 15:10).
- k) Grace (favor) lives holy (Titus 2:11-12).

It is also true to say that for the favor of God to be released in our lives it takes faith as it does the grace of God. **Being in faith releases and brings us in a place of favor.** You can't exclude faith in our dealings with God. We walk by faith and the just live by faith.

A. Favor of God

One of the common mistakes about favor is that people don't distinguish between these two favors. The favor of God is unearned and undeserved but, that is not always the case for the favor of men. The favor of God always precedes the favor of men. Without the favor of God, we can't fully experience the favor of men.

The primary thing that taps into and releases the favor of God is Faith. It is by faith that we appropriate the blessing and the favor of God. We don't just work for it.

- a) Proverbs 8:35 *"For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord."*
 - i) Wisdom is the one speaking in this verse. Wisdom is key to us experiencing or receiving the favor of the Lord. If we find wisdom, we find life and the favor of the Lord.
- b) Proverbs 12:2 *"A good man obtaineth favour of the Lord: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn."*

- i) Who is a good man? A good man is one who has a relationship with God through faith. This man through faith secures or furnishes the favor of the Lord.
 - ii) Favor is attracted by faith. When we believe, we experience favor.
- c) Genesis 39:2-4 *“And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.”*
- i) Because God was with Joseph, he found favor (Graciousness and kindness) in the eyes of Potiphar.
 - o Favor can be found—Genesis 6:8 (Noah); Genesis 33:10 (Jacob and Esau); Genesis 39:4 (Joseph); Exodus 33:12-13, 16-17; 34:9 (Moses before God); and Judges 6:17 (Gideon). This means that it can be sought after to be found. But how do we do that? From the example of Joseph,
 - ii) Relationship with the Lord. Joseph had a relationship with God which was one of the keys to all the favor he experienced before Potiphar.
 - iii) Joseph did something to find favor. He was a faithful and diligent man who served Potiphar. Because we have favor with someone, it is not a reason to goof off and do nothing. We need to continue to ride that wave of favor by being faithful.
 - Our faithfulness ought to increase as we experience favor.
- d) Proverbs 14:9 *“Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.”*
- i) The righteous is more favored than the ungodly. Through faith, they will find more favor than the ungodly. Righteousness and godliness attract and draw favor while ungodliness repels it.
- e) Proverbs 18:22 *“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.”*
- i) If we do not want to lack any good thing, we ought to be seeking the Lord (Psalm 34:10).

- ii) We are prohibited from seeking a wife or husband (1 Corinthians 7:27). We are to seek the Lord, and He will bring us that good thing—wife.
 - iii) This all doesn't happen by our strength but by the favor of God. It is through the favor of God and His grace that He brings us a wife.
- f) Deuteronomy 7:6-8 *“For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”*
- i) This is one example of the favor and grace of God. The children of Israel did not deserve it. They were not the biggest in number to be chosen.
 - God loved them
 - God wanted to keep His oath which He had sworn to their fathers.
- g) Psalm 44:3 *“For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favor unto them.”*
- i) The favor (grace and blessing of God) caused them to get those things that they could not have gotten in their strength nor deserve. Because of the grace of God upon them, they excelled not through their strength. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6).
 - ii) 1 Samuel 2:9 *“He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.”*
 - iii) Psalm 44:6 *“For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.”*
- h) Psalm 41:11 *“By this I know that thou favorest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me.”*
- i) One of the main reasons our enemies do not prevail against us is not because we are so strong, smart, prepared, and so forth, but because of God's favor and grace upon us. The horse is prepared against the day of the battle: but safety is of the Lord (Proverbs 21:31).

- ii) We have to remember that God works and flows through people. Therefore we must behave in a godly and righteous manner that allows God to flow through people hence experiencing the favor of God and men.

B. Favor of men

Favor requires preparation. When we are prepared, if we want to experience the favor. Those who are prepared will experience more favor than those who are not. Favor is attracted by preparation.

king Jehoiachin

Think of this king Jehoiachin who was in captivity for 37 years yet the king favored him. There was a reason for this. This was NOT random for the King of Babylon to reach down and elevate Jehoiachin over all other kings. Did you know that Jehoiachin means preparation. It is safe to say that this man was preparing while in captivity as his name means and this was the main reason he was elevated.

2 Kings 25:27 And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison; 28 And he spake kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon; 29 And changed his prison garments: and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life. 30 And his allowance was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.

Esther

Esther 2:15-17 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. 16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. 17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- a) Esther found favor in the sight of all that looked upon her. Yet I would point out that she did not find favor just because she was beautiful. This was not just random.
 - i) She had prepared her self before she went before the king. Verses 12 mentions preparation (purification).

- o Esther 2:12 (NKJV) Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.
- b) Esther earned favor because she was not demanding or high maintenance like other women were. How do I know that? Notice: When her time was come to go before the king, ***“she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed.”*** This shows that other women asked more than what was appointed.
- c) The king loved Esther above all the women and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the other virgins; so that he set the total crown upon her head and made her queen in the place of Vashiti.

Although we cannot earn the favor of God, there are certain things we can do, attract, and draw favor from men. If we are ungodly, sloppy, lazy, with no character and integrity, we will not be able to draw or attract all the favor there is. We will limit the amount of favor that can come to us. We live in a performance world. Your relationship with your boss is not entirely based on grace. If you do not show up to work, he will graciously let you go. This is also true when it comes to your spouse. If you mess around and do the ugly, the chances are that she will call it quits. Now, this is not the way things ought to be. We ought to deal with one another at all levels based on grace, but it is not happening that way. Therefore, our actions and behavior are essential to experience the favor of man.

- a) Proverbs 11:27 *“He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.”*
 - i) Godliness and goodness unto others will draw favor towards a person. Of course, this may not happen all the time due to persecution (2 Timothy 3:12), but on a large scale, godliness will attract kindness, grace, and favor from man. On the contrary, those who do evil to others will reap what they sow (Galatians 6:7-8)—with interest.
 - ii) Proverbs 21:10 *“The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes.”*

If we desire evil, we will hinder favor from being found.

- b) Proverbs 13:15 *“Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.”*
 - i) Understanding something can tremendously attract the favor of man. This one of the reasons that when people are being hired in most cases, the employer seeks

to know their level of experience and understanding. The more they possess these things, the more chances they have to land that job. Through their understanding they get favor.

- c) Proverbs 14:35 *“The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.”*
- i) Although all people ought to be treated without prejudice, not all people will experience promotion and favor. Only those who are wise servants and exceptional will draw and attract favor from a leader or authority. Wisdom attracts favor from man and leadership. Those who want to receive and attract favor from man and not wrath, they should seek and pursue wisdom. It will open doors for them.
 - ii) Proverbs 19:12 *“The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.”*
 - o Favor is the opposite of wrath. We should be believing God for favor because it is like dew upon the grass which causes the grass to bud and bring forth. In the same way, the favor of God which is can be exhibited through men will cause us to bud and bring forth.
 - iii) A foolish or unwise servant will only shame the king and will not receive any favor from the authority but wrath and judgment.
- d) Proverbs 16:15 *“In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain.”*
- i) There is a favor from a king (Man), and there is a favor from the King of kings (God). This favor from a king will be a refreshing and life as a cloud of the latter rain. The latter rain is only good for a prepared ground. We need to prepare ourselves to receive favor from leadership. We do this by being hardworking, diligent, godly and increasing in wisdom and knowledge.
 - ii) I'm not talking about self-promotion or doing things for the reason of receiving favor but just being faithful where you are at the moment and giving your all and your best.
 - iii) Proverbs 19:6 *“Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.”*
- e) Proverbs 22:1 *“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”*

- i) A good name will outlive riches by far.
- ii) A good name will bring riches to one without nearly the hard work that many put in.
- iii) It will open doors for people.
- iv) A good name has favor.
 - o **The best example in the word is the name of Jesus.** It brings salvation, healing, deliverance, forgiveness, prosperity, and everything we need. It is the name above all names and the name that has no match nor equal. We ought to pursue this name over great riches.
- v) In the same way that a good name is better than silver and gold, favor, grace, and kindness are much better than silver and gold. He that has favor will eventually get riches, but it is possible to have riches without favor which could, in the long run, lead to poverty.
- f) Proverbs 28:23 *“He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.”*
 - i) Correcting a person is never pleasant, but in the long run, it could pay tremendously high dividends than ever anticipated. When a person is rebuked, with time they get to appreciate the wisdom in that rebuke, and they get to appreciate the value of that rebuke, even more, having learned from it. They will extend favor, grace, and kindness to that person for having spoken the truth to them.
- g) Proverbs 29:26 *“Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the Lord.”*
 - i) We can seek the favor of men through diligence, hard work, integrity, good character, good attitude, and behaving ourselves wisely and godly.
 - ii) Joseph had the favor of God upon His life, but he was also a diligent man. He was godly and hardworking and therefore found favor in the eyes of Potiphar as well.
 - o Genesis 39:2-4,6 *“And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand;*

and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured."

Rich Kalyan