



Receiving God's Divine Favor

A Teaching Outline

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God's Divine Favor

The Lord gave Joseph favor with the chief jailer.

Genesis 39:21

But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

As a prisoner and slave, Joseph could have seen his situation as hopeless. Instead, he did his best with each small task given him. His diligence and positive attitude were soon noticed by the warden, who promoted him to prison administrator.

Samuel received favor from God and man.

1 Samuel 2:26

Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the LORD and with men.

Eli's sons were evil, so God chose Samuel to be the priest and prophet.

Job received God's favor and was restored.

Job 33:26

Then he will pray to God, and He will accept him, that he may see His face with joy, and He may restore His righteousness to man.

Job wanted to know what was going on, why he was suffering. In previous chapters, we sense his frustration. Elihu claimed to have the answer for Job's biggest question, "Why doesn't God tell me what is happening?" Elihu

told Job that God was trying to answer him, but he was not listening. Elihu misjudged God on this point.

If God were to answer all our questions, we would not be adequately tested. What if God had said, "Job, Satan's going to test you and afflict you, but in the end you'll be healed and get everything back"? Job's greatest test was not the pain but that he did not know *why* he was suffering. Our greatest test may be that we must trust God's goodness even though we don't understand why our lives are going a certain way. We must learn to trust in *God*, who is good, and not in the goodness of life.

You will find favor in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 3:4

So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.

Loyalty and kindness are important character qualities. Both involve actions as well as attitudes. A loyal person acts responsibly. A kind person works for justice for others. Thoughts and words are not enough—our life reveals whether we are truly loyal and kind. Do your actions measure up to your attitudes?

He who finds life finds favor from the Lord.

Proverbs 8:35

"For he who finds me finds life And obtains favor from the LORD.

God says that wisdom is primary and fundamental. It is the foundation on which all life is built. Paul and John may have alluded to some of Solomon's statements about wisdom to describe Christ's presence at the creation of the world

A good man will obtain favor from the Lord.

Proverbs 12:2

A good man will obtain favor from the LORD, But He will condemn a man who devises evil.

If you don't want to learn, years of schooling will teach you very little. But if you want to be taught, there is no end to what you can learn. This includes being willing to accept discipline and correction and to learn from the wisdom of others. A person who refuses constructive criticism has a problem with pride. Such a person is unlikely to learn very much.

Jesus received favor from God.

Luke 2:52

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

The Bible does not record any events of the next 18 years of Jesus' life, but Jesus undoubtedly was learning and maturing. As the oldest in a large family, he undoubtedly assisted Joseph in his carpentry work. Joseph may have died during this time, leaving Jesus to provide for the family. The normal routines of daily life gave Jesus a solid understanding of the Judean people.

David found favor and sought a dwelling place.

Acts 7:46

"David found favor in God's sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.

Stephen had been accused of speaking against the Temple (6:13). Although he recognized the importance of the Temple, he knew that it was not more important than God. God is not limited; he lives not only in a house of worship but also in those who are open to receive him

The Lord will make his face to shine upon you.

Numbers 6:25

The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;
A blessing was one way of asking for God's divine favor to rest upon others.

The ancient blessing in these verses helps us understand what a blessing was supposed to do. Its five parts conveyed hope that God would:

- (1) Bless and protect them;
- (2) Smile on them (be pleased);
- (3) Be gracious (merciful and compassionate);
- (4) Show his favor toward them (give his approval);
- (5) Give peace.

When you ask God to bless others or yourself, you are asking him to do these five things. The blessing you offer will not only help the one receiving it, it will also demonstrate love, encourage others, and provide a model of caring for others.

Examples of God's favor.

This is your time for Divine Favor.

Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

[2] And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

[3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Through Jesus Christ)

When God called him, Abram moved out in faith from Ur to Haran and finally to Canaan. God then established a covenant with Abram, telling him that he would found a great nation.

Not only would this nation be blessed, God said, but the other nations of the earth would be blessed through Abram's descendants. Israel, the nation that would come from Abram, was to follow God and influence those with whom it came in contact.

Through Abram's family tree, Jesus Christ was born to save humanity. Through Christ, people can have a personal relationship with God and be blessed beyond measure.

When Abraham went to Egypt, he was accepted by Pharaoh.

God gave Abraham favor in Battle.

When his nephew, Lot and others were captured, Abraham recovered them. Genesis 14.

Isaac

God gave Isaac favor in harvesting his crops.

Genesis 26:12

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year a hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him.

God kept his promise to bless Isaac. The neighboring Philistines grew jealous because everything Isaac did seemed to go right. So they filled his wells with dirt and tried to get rid of him. Jealousy is a dividing force strong enough to tear apart the mightiest of nations or the closest of friends.

It forces you to separate yourself from what you were longing for in the first place. When you find yourself becoming jealous of others, try thanking God for their good fortune.

King Abimelech asked Isaac to leave his land for Isaac was mightier.

Genesis 26:16

And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.

Jacob

God love Jacob and gave him a heritage.

Malachi 1:2-3

I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob, [3] and I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

God's first message through Malachi was "I have always loved you." Although this message applied specifically to Israel, it is a message of hope for all people in all times.

Unfortunately, some people are cynical about God's love, using political and economic progress as a measure of success.

Because the government was corrupt and the economy poor, the Israelites assumed that God didn't love them. They were wrong. God loves all people because he made them; however, his *eternal* rewards go only to those who are faithful to him.

Moses

The children of Israel took the treasures of Egypt.

Exodus 12:13

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Eating the Passover feast while dressed for travel was a sign of the Hebrews' faith. Although they were not yet free, they were to prepare themselves, for God had said he would lead them out of Egypt. Their preparation was an act of faith. Preparing ourselves for the fulfillment of God's promises, however unlikely they may seem, demonstrates our faith.

David

A man after God's own heart.

Acts 13:22

And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Because Paul was speaking to devout Jews, he began by reminding them about the covenant, Abraham, David, and other familiar themes.

Jeremiah.

God gave Jeremiah favor with Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar ordered for Jeremiah to be taken out of jail and treated fairly.

God gives favor to those who give.

1 Peter 3:12

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

The peacemaker anticipates problems and deals with them before they occur. When conflicts arise, they are brought into the open and dealt with before they grow unmanageable. Making peace is hard work—you have to search for it and work to maintain it—but it results in God's blessing.

Give and will be given unto you.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

A forgiving spirit demonstrates that a person has received God's forgiveness. Jesus used the picture of measuring grain in a basket to ensure the full amount. If we are critical rather than compassionate, we will also receive criticism. If we treat others generously, graciously, and compassionately, however, these qualities will come back to us in full measure. We are to love others, not judge them.

Prayers for Favor

Psalm 31:16

Make your face to shine upon your servant; save me in your lovingkindness.

Psalm 67:1

God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us--
Selah.

Psalm 119:135

Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach us your statutes.

Isaiah 33:2

O LORD, be gracious to us; we have waited for You Be their strength every morning, our salvation also in the time of distress. I receive these things in Jesus name.

God's favor can do more in a minute than your work can do in a life time.

The Lord longs to be gracious to you.

Isaiah 30:18

Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you for the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed.

Salvation comes from God alone. Because he has saved us, we can trust him and be peacefully confident that he will give us strength to face our difficulties. We should lay aside our well-laid plans and allow him to act.

The Lord will exult over you with shouts of joy.

Zephaniah 3:17

"The LORD your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

"If you feel rejected, remember that God can cause you to be accepted."

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

New American Standard Bible

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print

