

FAVOR

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I am not sure if you believe that God has favorites or not?

I believe that there are certain things that we can do to attract God's 'favor' into our lives, and things that we can do to appropriate such.

Favor can be another name for 'Grace'

You don't have to read very far in the New Testament to discover such lavish out-pourings of God's amazing grace, or favor as the word also means.

FAVOR CAN BE DESCRIBED AS:..

Excessive kindness:	Partiality
I like to call it:	The divine factor
	The God factor in our lives

Isaiah spoke out prophetically in his day, foreseeing by the Spirit of God, the day the Messiah would fulfill this scripture: "*The year of his favor*" Isaiah 61:2,

The Living Bible says: "*That the time of the Lord's favor has come*"

I feel challenged by Holy Spirit to make people aware again as Isaiah did in his day, the proclamation and the focus on the message of 'Favor'.

The message of God's favor runs as a thread throughout the whole bible.

I believe with all my heart that this is the time for Gods favored ones to come forth and be shown by the Lord to the peoples of this earth, something of the aspect of the favor of God.

God wants to show His favor, and will do so through His people.

ISAIAH'S MESSAGE WAS NOT A NEW ONE:..

Look at Lev 25:9-23

⁹Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. ¹⁰And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. ¹¹A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed. ¹²For it is the jubile; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. ¹³In the year of this jubile ye shall return every man unto his possession. ¹⁴And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought of thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another: ¹⁵According to the number of years after the jubile thou shalt buy of thy neighbour, and according unto the number of years of the fruits he shall sell unto thee: ¹⁶According to the multitude of years thou shalt increase the price thereof, and according to the fewness of years thou shalt diminish the price of it: for according to the number of the years of the fruits doth he sell unto thee. ¹⁷Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God. ¹⁸Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety. ¹⁹And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety. ²⁰And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase: ²¹Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years"

This scripture mentions that on the Day of Atonement, the trumpet was to be sounded throughout all the land, and to all of the people, announcing Jubilee.

A **Jubilee** is a time of [celebration](#) or rejoicing. It is defined in Leviticus 25:9 as "[Yovel](#)" in Hebrew, as the sabbatical year after seven cycles of seven years.

[Jubilee \(Christian\)](#), the year of Jubilee is a special year for the remission of sins and universal pardon where debts are forgiven, slaves and prisoners freed, and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest.

A Jubilee year is to occur every fifty years.
In fact, no blessing of the Jubilee could be appropriated until the sounding of the trumpet had been blasted on the day of Atonement. (What a picture of the gospel) Rom 1:16

The blessings of Jubilee were for every person.

Even slaves could claim the benefits of Jubilee.
Slaves could walk away free on this day.
Those who were slaves to debt were freed.
Poverty and sickness lost its grip.
Nobody needed to remain a victim!!!
All because of the Atonement.

Of course all this points to Christ, our wonderful Savior and Redeemer.

Through the cross and the shedding of His blood, (pictured in the Atonement,) The Redeemer Atoned for our sins.

Through Him, It is now Jubilee year and the captives are set free.

THAT DAY ARRIVED IN Luke 4:18-

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. ¹⁷And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, ¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. ²⁰And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. ²²And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

This was the day when the Messiah stood up and said in His own words, I am here to tell you all something about favor Vs17 *"He found the place where it was written"*

My friends: LET ME REMIND YOU WHAT WAS WRITTEN HERE.

What was written was none other than Gods perfect and powerful will for all mankind, not just for that generation, but for you personally

TOO OFTEN, our thinking can eliminate us from the blessings of God, simply because we think that God just blesses others.

NOTE THE FIRST WORDS FROM JESUS HERE:..

1. *"The Spirit of the Lord IS UPON ME"*

If only we could get a greater understanding of just how life changing the person and power of Holy Spirit is. The Spirit was upon Jesus for the reason of setting us free from the law of sin and death.

2. *"BECAUSE He has anointed me"*

Jesus declares here that He was anointed for a reason. The anointing received from Jesus Christ, through His word and by His Spirit, liberates our lives more than anything else in this world.

WE NEED TO BE BOLDLY DECLARING THIS IN OUR GENERATION, AND FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME:

JESUS, YOU HAVE AN ANOINTING FOR ME:.,

You have an anointing for my freedom from sin.

You have an anointing for my sickness

You have an anointing to prosper me.

You have anointing to set me free from satan's power and from darkness.

Isaiah 10:27 ²⁷And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing"

Acts 10:38 ³⁸How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him".

Today, favor breaks forth over my life.

Vs20 *"He closed the book"*

WHY DID JESUS CLOSE THE BOOK?

Because all that Jesus had been talking about, was now available to be fulfilled in their midst and in ours also.

Jesus did not have to add to what was said.

They did not have to wait for another sermon.

This was the sermon of sermons.

There was no need for them to wait for another person to come and give them the same message.

Jesus Christ had said it, and what Jesus says does not need to be added to!

The day had arrived and Christ was in their midst.

Vs21 *"Today, this word is fulfilled in your hearing"*

BUT NOTE: Now it was up to them to appropriate what Christ had said.

Vs22 **NOTE THE EFFECT AND POWER OF THOSE WORDS:..**

"They marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out Of His mouth"

CHRIST HAD JUST PROCLAIMED TO THEM:..

"The accepted, and the acceptable year of the Lord."

WHAT DID THOSE 2 WORDS SIGNIFY?

Accepted and acceptable.

Accepted, regardless of what we had done or not done.

Acceptable, when there was no way that we could make ourselves acceptable.

Words about favor coming to people who did not deserve it.

Undeserved blessings.

Total forgiveness.

Complete and perfect salvation.

The right to healing and deliverance from bondages and things that have imprisoned us.

The right to be free from our most vicious enemy, satan himself, the prince of darkness.

Power to release people from their prisons and their past.

Released to enable us to embrace our destinies and future with hope.

(This is that day, said Jesus)

*"The day when salvation and free favors of the Lord **profusely abound**" (Amp Bib)*

Was Jesus speaking only to the Jews and those of the synagogue when He said these words?

Absolutely not.

Who are the accepted ones? The ones who accept Him.

Those who become the acceptable ones on the basis of what He has done?

Those to whom free favors would profusely abound to?

MY FRIEND, IT WAS AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL

PROFUSELY MEANS:

Copious amounts of.

Copious amounts of salvation, healing, deliverance, power.

In fact an unlimited supply of grace and favor would be implied.

Jesus made it abundantly clear about the abundance factor in John 7:37, when He said: *"Out of his belly will flow rivers of living water"*

This scripture implies plentiful, or certainly more than enough. Extravagant on its object

MY FRIENDS, THAT'S FAVOR...HALL

TO PROFUSELY FAVOR SOMEONE WOULD MEAN TO:..

Absolutely lavish that person.

STORY:

We were in a church in the States some years ago. After we had preached the word, they wanted to anoint us with oil before we left. They proceeded to put towels all around our neck and shoulders. We did not want to ask what they were planning on doing, but had an idea what was about to happen.

They began to pour copious amounts of oil on us. It began to run off our heads, down our faces and dripped off onto all of the towels.

That was the end of a controlled moment on our part. We did not just receive a little dab of oil on our forehead; we received copious amounts of oil that flowed upon us.

It was a moment that we will never forget.

That is the picture of 'profusely' blessing someone.

Ps 23 God puts a table before us in the midst of our enemies.

Ps 68:19 "Who daily loads us with benefits"

Ps 103: 1- "Forget not all His benefits"

I am feeling blessed right now.

BECAUSE, THAT'S WHAT FAVOR DOES

THE DICTIONARY DEFINES THE WORD 'Profusely' this way.

It would depict: the ultimate prodigal party giver

LET ME GIVE YOU SOME EXAMPLES OF FAVOR.

1. **FAVOR CAN BE RECEIVED WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN DOWN AND OUT.** Luke 15

There is no chapter in the Bible that depicts the fathers favor like that shown to the 'prodigal son'.

THAT'S FAVOR...HALL

2. FAVOR CAN BE OVERLOOKED. Luke 15

In this same passage of scripture, we also have one called the older son. He had access to all the favor of the father, but over-looked it and never appreciated such.

3. FAVOR CAN BE LOST. Ps 85:1 Here the people started crying out to God again with a sense of desperation for His favor having recognized that they were not walking in Gods favor as they had once known.

4. FAVOR CAN BE DENIED, BECAUSE WE THINK THAT GOD HAS FAVORITES. Well He does and you are one of them.

5. FAVOR CAN COME WHEN YOU GET SICK OF WHAT YOU ARE MISSING OUT OF. (1 Chron 4:9) *"And Jabez was more honorable than his brothers: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him with sorrow. ¹⁰And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested"*

Jabez was born into a blessed tribe known as the tribe of Judah. But regardless of his inheritance in that tribe, he unfortunately got called at birth, Jabez, or one who causes pain. He just got sick of living like one who causes pain, so he began to call upon the name of the Lord. He began to invoke Gods favor on his life, and God granted him what he had requested.

FINALLY: Zechariah 4:6-10

⁶Then he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, said the LORD of hosts. ⁷Who are you, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace to it. ⁸Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁹The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ¹⁰For who has despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth."

Zerubbabel was living at a difficult period of time in the bible. We are told that the building of the temple had ceased for a great period of time. But God came to this man to introduce him to the power of 'Favor'

After telling him that he was not going to advance by the power of his own might or by the power of an army, but by the power of God's Spirit.

Zerubbabel was then told to shout out God's favor.

Grace here means: 'Chen' and it means favor

It was like he was told to shout God favor to get the project accomplished.

Ie: Shouting grace, grace, would be like letting God know that you need to find favor in His eyes for every part of your life. Mountains give way to 'Favor'

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ATTRACT GODS FAVOR:..

- An attitude of feeling privileged does.
- An action that boldly pursues what others neglect does.
- Jacob is an example. "*Jacob I loved*"...Esau I hated.
This is an 'idiom' which means that although Jacob did not deserve the 'birth right' he wanted it more than anything. It was that aspect that God loved. Esau on the other hand did not value his 'birth right'.
- There is a law that a lot of people have copied from the bible called; 'The law of attraction.' This law states that you will attract into your life what you think the most about. If we walk through this life with a clean heart and seek God for favor, that is what will come to us.

FAVOR:..

I AM HIS FAVORITE

How could I not be such when he has gone to the uttermost to get me?

He has paid the ultimate price to rescue me and make me all that I don't deserve to be.

He paid a debt...I could not pay
I needed someone to wash my sins away.

That is why I sing a brand new song...Hall
I AM HIS FAVORITE.

MY BROTHER:..

He was the youngest in our family
We used to say that he was spoilt
We called mum and dad's favorite.

He used to blatantly agree that he was.

Wow! How many of us would dare to believe the same?

MY DAUGHTER TESTIMONY:..

There was period in her life when she hit the bottom of the barrel. When she was at her lowest, she began to cry out saying: 'I am blessed and highly favored by God'

The most amazing displays of Gods favor began to appear in her life. She found herself in positions and places that could only have been arranged by God Himself.

MY SON:..

Just a couple of months back, I felt really prompted by Holy Spirit to phone my son and speak Gods favor over him.

He was going through a difficult period and needed to sell some real-estate that he was developing and it was taking longer than expected to sell.

Within days of speaking God's favor into that situation, there were sales on 2 properties. Just speaking the word of favor brought about such a release that it was so obvious that God had got in on it all.

TESTIMONY:..

I recently spoke at a conference on 'Favor'

Within a couple of weeks I received this wonderful testimony.

Hi Ross

Just wanted to share a testimony with you.

While we were at the GFM conference at Ranfurly with you I had a call from my 15 year old son's math teacher telling me about his disruption and bad behavior in class, this has been a bit on going with our son

On our return home from conference I got a call from the dean of his year telling me that at the year 10 teachers meeting all his teachers were discussing the problems they were having with

He was wondering if we knew what was going on and what could be done.

WELL your teaching about positive declaration and God 'favor' and your testimony of your daughter came to mind!
The next morning as I put on the bus to school I said to him ""you are blessed and highly favored of the Lord". This I did for four mornings and on the fifth I added "and the teachers like you".

I just kept sending him off with "you are blessed and highly favored of the Lord and the teachers like you, in fact they like you so much that you will become their favorite".

Well after a few mornings of this, I am talking 7 days altogether here, we had a call from the same teacher that called me while at conference saying "I don't know what happened to, he has changed his attitude and he is being so good in class etc, etc and then she added he has almost become one of my best students".

Wow! At the end of that week the dean of year 10 pulled aside to say how well he was going and how pleased they were with him!

I have to confess all we did was declare this over him. We didn't council him to change or bribe or even really talk much about it.

I believe the confession changed the spiritual climate around him and attracted positive things rather than negative.

Praise God and thanks Ross for your teaching. Hope this testimony blesses you and helps others.

As you can see, favor from God changes our lives and circumstances in ways that reveal the God factor.

It is the God factor in our lives that can take us from the pit to the palace like it did in Joseph's life. He went from prison to become the most powerful man in the land under Pharaoh.

Favor can bring you before people and into position and places that could never happen by your own efforts.

I pray that in the days to come, you will find doors opening to you that will cause you to say; 'God, I am blessed and highly favored'

Ross Monk