



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Activating the

FAVOR OF GOD

Message preached on Wednesday, Message – December 25, 2024

Merry Christmas!

I trust that you have had an amazing day with family, celebrating Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

I just wanted to spend a few minutes today, with you, and share some good news with you.

You are GOD'S favorite! God does favors for His favorites!

Psalm 5:12 – “For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.”

God's plan for His kids is to walk in the favor of God. His goodness.

It is the BIRTHRIGHT of every child of God.

There is a LAW that the world goes by, and it is called MURPHY'S LAW: If something can go wrong, it will go wrong.

This is a mentality that much of the world goes by...unfortunately, most Christians operate according to Murphy's Law instead of the Law of the Word of God.

“FAVOR” –
Regard with kindness
Afford special advantages
Give unfair partiality
Grant preferential treatment

That is what God wants to do to His kids...all the time...

Psalm 30:5 tells us it is for a lifetime!

IN OTHER WORDS: The favor of God is...If things can go right...they will go right! That's God's law!

IMPORTANT: This doesn't mean that trials, battles and opposition won't arise against you. But it does mean that God will...

- * Work on your behalf
- * Do some amazing things for you
...to see you come out on top!

James 1:4b – “...that you will be perfect and entire lacking nothing.”

Jeremiah 29:11 – God has planned for you an expected end.”

In Matthew 1 we see the genealogy of Jesus...from Abraham!

We see a list of people and families who operated in the favor of God.

We don't have time to go through everyone...but what I want you to see is in **Matthew 1:16,17**

16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, **of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

NOTICE: Abraham to David...count 'em up...14 generations.

David to the carrying away into Babylon...count 'em...14.

From the carrying away to Babylon to Christ...count 'em up...13 generations!

What? Is the Bible wrong?

THE ANSWER can be found in Galatians 3:29:

Vs. 29 – “And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

NOTICE: If you BE CHRIST'S then you are the fourteenth generation of favor and blessing! It is in your **bloodline!**

Here's the thing...too many Christians assume that this is make-believe.

That it is NOT REAL...FANTASY...HERESY!

WHY? Because they know way to many Christians (even themselves) who relate more with Murphy's Law than God's Law!

BELOVED: The Word of God is ABSOLUTELY clear that god desire to do SPECIAL THINGS for His kids. Favor for His favorites!

YOU MAY ASK: Well, why don't favors happen to every Christian? If it is a birthright?

QUESTION: Have you ever heard of someone who has an inheritance, but...

1.) They didn't know about it.

I read about a lady in Oregon in 2020 who died homeless and broke, unaware that her mother had left her almost a million dollars for an inheritance.

NOTE: Most Christians don't know about God's favor.

2.) They didn't accept it.

How crazy would it be if you had a massive inheritance and even though you had been contacted about it...you didn't believe it or accept that it was yours.

NOTE: This is what most Christians do.

3.) **OR...**what if you didn't qualify.

There are people who have left an inheritance to their family if their families do certain things in life.

The reason for this? So the money won't ruin them or hurt them in the long run.

YOU SEE: God wants you to have ALL OF HIS BENEFITS.

HOWEVER: It will NOT happen...JUST BECAUSE.

Proverbs 1:32 tells us that prosperity will destroy a fool.

THEREFORE: He will not allow thing to happen if it will destroy you.

He will not allow things to happen that you are not ready for.

Jesus' Mom, Mary

This is one of the things that we see in the Christmas story...specifically with Mary.

Luke 1:28 – “And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, **thou that art highly favoured**, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”

She walked in the FAVOR OF GOD.

THINK ABOUT IT: Every girl wanted the privilege of being the mother of the Messiah! God picked HER out of all the girls to be His mother!

Why was she chosen to enjoy this favor this major assignment?

Could it have been JUST any girl?

Well, no...Joseph.

Well, why did Mary get connected to Joseph?

I think we see several things just in this passage.

1.) She was willing to LISTEN and DO.

Look at how Mary listened to the ANGEL...asked an honest question.

Then said,

Luke 1:38 – “And Mary said, Behold the **handmaid of the Lord**; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”

Deuteronomy 28:1,2

1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Joshua 1:8 – “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

BELOVED: One of the greatest things that God is looking for is a willing heart...

NOT just willing to listen to the plan (everybody loves to listen to a good plan), but one who will do what God says.

The favor that the saints in the Bible carried with them, was not just to make life easier, but to DO WHAT God told them to do.

If you are not willing to listen or obey...you kinda move yourself away from the favor of God.

It isn't that you are not loved...but just not in a place to receive that blessing.

2.) Willing to take the BAD with the GOOD.

YOU SAY: Hold it, how is favor in any way bad.

Think about what Mary got by saying YES...she got the shame of an unwed pregnancy...she got the judging eyes of the public...she got a lifetime of people not trusting her (liar)!

YOU want that?

Mary did you know? Did you know your baby would be BRUTALLY murdered before He set up His kingdom on earth?

BELOVED: People hate people like Kenneth Copeland or Jesse Duplantis because they are wealthy. You can't read about them online without having lies or slander against them.

You want that?

YOU SAY: Well, I just want enough blessing to help me and not rile people up! Well, you will not enjoy the FAVOR of God the way He wants to give it to you.

Psalms 31:19 (NLT) – “How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You **lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.**”

In Genesis 26 we see the account of Isaac being told to plant his crops in the land of famine...no one gets a good harvest in the land of famine...

HOWEVER: He received a hundredfold in that land! The best crop he could had gotten! Guess what, vs. 14 tells us the Philistines envied him. They hated him.

They filled his wells with dirt...he moved and dug new wells (which others stole), so he dug new wells...

QUOTE: The favor of God isn't necessarily fair, but it sure is fabulous.

3.) **She was willing to DREAM BIG.**

When the angel said, "You're highly favored...you're gonna be a mama...He's gonna be the Messiah."

Many Christians would have said, "Uh, not me." "That's too much."

IN OTHER WORDS: If God said it...then I can have it!

If God said that I'm healed...then by goodness, I am healed.

If God said I'm wealthy...then by all means, I am wealthy.

If God gave me sound mind...then I have a strong and healthy mind.

BELOVED: If God said that He will do me favors...in order for me live life and accomplish what He has called me to...then I guess I will be His favorite.

UNDERSTAND: What God has called you to accomplish...can't be done without His favor in your life.

Dream big...so His favor can take you some place.

4.) **She was willing to put that favor in her mouth.**

She talked about it. This is faith.

Even beyond her answer to the angel in verse 38, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."

She went to hang out with her cousin, Elisabeth, and talked about it!

Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

NOTE: She wouldn't have even felt much at that time...but she still talked about it.

BELOVED: When was the last time you woke up in the morning talking about the favor of God operating in your life?

Not complaining about your life...but expecting it to happen.

EVEN if you haven't felt it happen?

I once heard of a pastor who had someone come up to them and say something to the effect of,
“Pastor, I’ve been believing for this thing to happen...and it hasn’t happen. I’ve been standing for it, and I haven’t seen it happen.”

The pastor replied, “Well, seriously, do you believe that everything you pray for will come to pass?
That everything you are believing for will come to pass?”

The person answered, kinda shamefully, “Well, no...I guess not!”

The pastor said, “Well, that is why you haven’t receive it.”

BELOVED: Expect it and talk it!

Conclusion

BELOVED: If you are a child of God...then HIS FAVOR is available to you. It is meant for you. You are His favorite and He wants to do favors for you.

The questions become:

- 1.) Do you know it?
- 2.) Do you accept it?
- 3.) Do you qualify for it?
 - * Listening and doing?
 - * Okay with the bad along with the favor?
 - * Are you dreaming big?
 - * Are you talking about it? Expecting it?

Once, you have accomplished these things...you will be able to enjoy the birthright that is rightfully yours.

The birthright of favor.