



Living a Lifestyle of FAVOR

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I always take account of conversations that I have...many times there are good lessons to be learned in those conversations.

Especially when I talk with Christians...especially those who are a part of different fellowships...because I hang around you...we talk different...we think different (or at least we should).

LONG STORY SHORT: Spend time with a person or two this week who are born-again...but know nothing about the favor of God...is so enlightening.

The doom and gloom...the whole concept of you never know how bad things can get.

NOTE: Every bit of those things come from two areas...

- * How they grew up...they have taken those lessons into adulthood.
- * What they hear from the pulpit. God loves us, but sometimes He brings bad situations in your life to teach you, etc.

As I was meditating on these things this week, the thought hit me: There is never a time in the Word of God...from Genesis to Revelation that God didn't show favor to His people, no matter how dire the situation was...when they trusted Him to do it.

- * Children of Israel in the wilderness
- * Abraham having a child when he was old
- * Wars won by Israel
- * Nations destroyed

Hebrews 11:33-35a

- 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
35 Women received their dead raised to life again:

IMPORTANT: It doesn't mean battles didn't come against them...it just meant that God favored them to bring them out in amazing ways.

"Favor" – unfair partiality, preferential treatment; something is done for you that is not done for everyone!

BELOVED: It is safe to say consistently that you are God's favorite. Why? Because you are!

***God does things for you that He doesn't do for just anyone...
but is available to everyone!***

Favor Is a Lifestyle

BELOVED: We need to get used to getting up every morning expecting the favor of God to manifest in some way that day.

That's what it means to live in a lifestyle of God's favor. A continual expectation of His favor.

NOT waking up with dread and doom sitting on your head...but total and complete expectation of His favor.

***You may not know how or where it will come from...
but it will absolutely come!***

UNDERSTAND: God's favor is much more than a sermon or a topic I write about in a book—favor is a lifestyle.

QUICK QUESTION: Why did Jesus live how He lived?

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

“Increased” - to drive forward (as if by beating), i.e. (figuratively and intransitively) to advance (in amount, to grow; in time, to be well along):--increase, proceed, profit, be far spent, wax.

IN OTHER WORDS: Jesus lived His life constantly increasing in favor!

“By beating” – He purposely increased...it wasn't by accident.

A State of God's Favor

One of the phrases that Jerry Savelle uses for favor is, “the state of God's favor”!

Have you ever heard of someone saying, “I live in a state of fear,” or “That guy lives in a state of depression,” but what, exactly, do they mean?

God wants us to live in a state of favor!

Used in this context, I found that the word state means “a manner of standing; an attitude or a position.”

BELOVED: While most of us may be exposed to a fearful experience from time to time, we do not live in a state of fear.

HOWEVER: There are those who seem perpetually paralyzed by fear. They are afraid to leave the house, afraid to drive a car, afraid to get on an airplane.

This kind of irrational fear is not just mental or emotional; it is a demonic spirit.

2 Timothy 1:7 – “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

NOTE: Jesus has given us authority over all the power of the enemy.

Galatians 5:1 – “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage”.

UNDERSTAND: We do not have to live in a state of fear, depression, or anything else the devil tries to saddle us with. We can choose freedom, ***and we can choose to live in a continual state of God's favor.***

BELOVED: Living in a state of God's favor is not only an attitude, it is a position—a place of standing in life that we all have access to.

One of the best things we can understand about FAVOR are these FOUR CHARACTERISTICS of a continual state or LIFESTYLE of God's favor.

1. God's favor is upon you.

Psalm 3:8 - “Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: ***thy blessing is upon thy people.*** Selah.”

BELOVED: We cannot have the blessing of God on our life without also having His favor.

Check out Deuteronomy 28 (the BLESSING OF GOD)...it is His favor.

What does the world get? Vs. 15-68

What do we get? Vs. 1-14

Genesis 12:2 – “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.”

(AMP) – “And I will make of you a great nation, **and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors]** and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others].”

You cannot have the blessing without favor. If the blessing is on us, then so is God’s favor.

The FAVOR OF GOD sits right on us.

2. God’s favor surrounds you.

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

If God’s favor surrounds you, this means it’s in front of you, in back of you, and on both sides.

THINK OF IT LIKE THIS: Some people might refer to this surrounding favor as a magnetic field.

You can’t see it with the natural eye, but it goes everywhere you go.

You can see the results of its presence every day.

It draws all the good stuff to you...and keeps all the bad stuff away from you.

Isaiah 52:12 – “For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: **for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward [rearguard].**”

“Shield” – the shield of faith...keeps you from the arrows of the enemy.

3. God’s favor HUNTS you.

Psalm 23:6 – “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life”.

One of the synonyms for goodness (towb) is “favor.”

BASICALLY: My Shepherd is better than your shepherd!

BELOVED: If something shows up for just one day of your life, then you do not live in a continual state of it.

But because God’s goodness, or favor, is certain to follow you all the days of your life, you now live in a continual state of that favor.

4. God’s favor is on you, wherever you go and whatever you do.

Deuteronomy 28:6 - “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out”.

Again, you cannot have God’s blessing without also having His favor.

If the blessing is on you when you go out and when you come in, then God’s favor is on you when you go out and when you come in.

And since you are either coming in or going out all of the time, God’s favor pretty much covers your entire life at all times.

You Will Have What You Speak

Some people will think, **“Well, if the favor of God is suppose to be in my life...it sure isn’t working very well.”**

Well, there are many areas I could go into of why it isn’t working very well...but I just really want to cover ONE area that IF YOU CHANGE it...you would be surprised how much favor starts working for you.

BELOVED: Having the favor of God manifested in your life works just like everything else in the Kingdom of God...by faith!

Others will think, “Yep, I know about favor and I believe that favor will work for me...I just forget about it sometimes and don’t really push it very hard.”

Psalm 103:1,2

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, **and forget not all his benefits:**

Beloved, the benefits that you forget about will be the benefits that you don’t enjoy!

ILLUSTRATION: Insurance benefits that we get reimbursed for...we have forgotten from time to time and guess what...we don’t get those benefits until we remember and call on it!

IN OTHER WORDS: Keep on thinking about it...all the time! Don’t let it leave your heart...or mouth!

Jerry Savelle talks about when he started to see the favor of manifest in his life consistently was when he would speak all the time, ***“The favor of God surrounds me. The favor of God goes before me. The favor of God opens doors for me that no man can shut.”***

BELOVED: He did this because I wanted to plant the truth about God’s favor deep down in his heart. What you don’t continue to plant...you will stop harvesting!

QUESTION: What is in your heart? What do you think will happen to you?

Luke 6:45 – “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

You know exactly what is in your heart by what you speak!

YOU MAY SAY: Well, Pastor Thad, I planted that in my heart years ago, so I don’t need to talk about it much.

ILLUSTRATION: Your brain is wired for relapse. If you don’t keep your mind renewed, you will relapse into where you used to be and how you used to think.

That is why we have to continue speaking favor, in faith.

Faith cometh by continually hearing!

Mark 11:23 – “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, ***but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.***”

YOU KNOW: Our faith-filled words carry great power.

When God wanted to create the world, He used words.

Hebrews 11:3 – “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”.

We are made in the image of God; therefore, we too can frame our world with the words we speak.

The favor of God will not only manifested in your life as preferential treatment, recognition, honor, promotion, and increase, it will enabled you to win great victories against great odds, and it will bring about restoration of what the enemy has stolen.

The favor of God will even changed certain established rules and policies to work in your favor.

Confession

*The favor of God surrounds me.
The favor of God goes before me.
The favor of God is my REAR GUARD.
The favor of God goes with me...whenever...and wherever I go!
The favor of God opens doors for me that no man can shut.
The favor of God is hunting me down...
My job is to call it in...to talk about it...everyday...all the time!
I fully and completely...expect God's favor...to happen in my life...
constantly, everyday.
Why? Because I am His favorite.
And things work for me...even when they don't work for anyone else.*

