

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Favor

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We are in a season of favor in the Lord. Favor is a dimension of the kindness of God that pours out upon individuals, the Body of Christ, a set time period, a nation or city. Favor pours out from heaven and it surrounds and covers. Favor acts as a buffer or shield to everyday situations and circumstances – favor can actually lessen and sometimes prevent negative impact. Favor connects resources and right timing together. Favor causes doors to be opened, causes you to be chosen above others and brings to fruition dreams and goals. Favor protects. We are marked by the favor of God on our lives – people do extraordinary acts of kindness and provide needed provision when they would not normally do so because the favor of God is on us. Favor is an accelerant for accomplishing something that is beyond what could be done in the natural. The favor of God is a supernatural dimension and benefit extended to man to accomplish the purposes of God.

When operating in the favor of God, EVERYTHING is easier. In the favor of God there is an open heaven and easy connection to His presence. God can be found. This is opposite "Ichabod" meaning God's presence has departed. When we have the favor of God operating in our response is enormous gratitude in our hearts. We know that it is the favor of God and not us that is bringing things together.

The favor of God is linked with grace, His loving kindness and with wisdom. Favor is a path, a roadway or highway that brings in the provision of the Lord.

The favor of God encourages your heart and nourishes your soul. The favor of God is not to be taken lightly or squandered. It is a precious thing that God extends into our lives. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not His benefits... (Psalm 103)

We have been operating in a season of favor for a period of time. But NOW the Lord says consecrate yourself. Consecration is a place of setting yourself apart and getting rid of everything that would come between you and the Lord. This opens the door for greater intimacy with the Lord. It also opens the door for the increase of God's favor in our lives, in our city and nation.



Favor

- Webster definition – approval, support, liking something or someone.
- Hebrew definition – be gracious to, to bend or stoop in kindness.
- Greek definition – the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of grace, divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life, acceptable benefit.

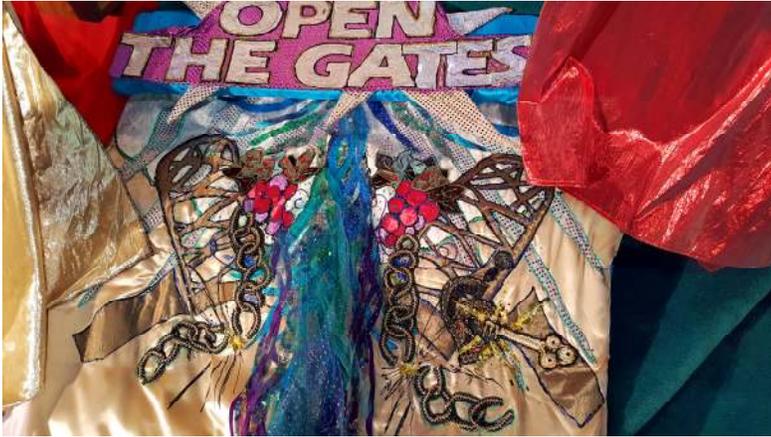
Genesis 6.8

But **Noah found favor** in the eyes of the LORD.

- Man can find favor in the eyes of the Lord.
- The favor of God then becomes a defining factor in your life.

Luke 1.30

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, **Mary; for you have found favor with God.**



Luke 2.52

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

- There is a place of increasing favor.

Acts 7.46

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

- Favor opens the door for increased influence.

Genesis 39.21

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

Nehemiah 2.18

I told them how **the hand of my God had been favorable to me** and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." So they put their hands to the good *work*.

Esther 2.15

Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai who had taken her as his daughter, came to go in to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the women, advised. And **Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her.**

- That favor was from God.



Genesis 35.2-5 NLT

² So Jacob told everyone in his household, "**Get rid of all your pagan idols, purify yourselves, and put on clean clothing.**" ³ We are now going to Bethel, where I will build an altar to the God who answered my prayers when I was in distress. He has been with me wherever I have gone."

⁴ So they gave Jacob all their pagan idols and earrings, and he buried them under the great tree near Shechem. ⁵ **As they set out, a terror from God spread over the people in all the towns of that area, so no one attacked Jacob's family.**

- This is a picture of favor operating.
- First it was the favor of God to tell the Israelites to consecrate themselves. Set themselves apart from all that would take them away from the Lord.

- Then the impact of favor is seen on the people – terror from God spread over the people. Jacob and his clan were protected from their enemies.
- Anna Aclala shared this verse with me this morning and said in regards to this scripture, “Jacob’s sons killed Schchem’s people and now were facing retribution, bringing devastation on all their tribes. But God in His great mercy told them to consecrate themselves. Because of their obedience to consecrate themselves God went before them with a FIERCE PROTECTION. When we consecrate ourselves it entails so much more than we understand. I pray that our revelation of consecration comes to a whole new level of understanding of what it all means and what God wants us to take hold of.”
 - One thing about this time of consecration is that as we separate ourselves and draw closer to God His favor will increase in our lives.
 - The favor of God is demonstrated in His fierce protection and sending terror upon the enemies of Jacob.

Psalm 90.17

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands.

Psalm 5.12

For it is You who **blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.**

Proverbs 8.33-35

³³ **Heed instruction and be wise,**

And **do not neglect it.**

³⁴ **Blessed is the man who listens to me,**

Watching daily at my gates,

Waiting at my doorposts.

³⁵ **For he who finds me finds life**

And obtains favor from the LORD.

- There is a sound of favor – that sound is heard inside of wisdom.
- The cadence of favor is walked out in obedience to the Lord’s instructions.

Proverbs 22.1b

...Favor is better than silver and gold.

2 Corinthians 1.11

You also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the **favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.**

- Favor is given – it cannot be taken. We can’t make favor happen.
- Favor can be sought for others.

Exodus 11.2-3

² Speak now in the hearing of the people that each man ask from his neighbor and each woman from her neighbor for articles of silver and articles of gold.” ³ **The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.** Furthermore, the man Moses *himself* was greatly esteemed in the land of Egypt, *both* in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.



Deuteronomy 7.1-2

When the LORD your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, ² and when the LORD your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and **show no favor to them.**

- God defeating our enemies is His favor on our lives.
- We are to extend NO FAVOR to the enemy. If we do extend favor to the enemy that favor becomes a door for the enemy to continually harass us.