The Opportunity
Favor (Part 1)

The Purpose of This Series: Few people ever learn how to walk in the favor of God. Others have been walking in His favor for years and did not recognize it. In this series we will learn how to identify activate the key components that attracts the favor of God and the favor of man toward our life as a believer. Too few have enjoyed the rich blessings that God has for each of His children, it's time we engage in this open opportunity to find favor!

The Purpose of This Message: Today's message is to open up our understanding to the purpose and power of God given favor. God's deliberate plan for mankind by sending His Son to die for our sins didn't end there. He provided for us an opportunity to grow in His Favor. It would be an absolute waste to know that we all had a wonderful opportunity to have the best of God and walked right by it. Today we are going to stop and take notice of God's continued provision for us as sons and daughters!

Favor
Here are some of the questions that we will be trying to answer during this series. What is the purpose of favor? What is this force of favor? How does it come? What are the laws and wisdom in which favor is gained and sustained in the lives of believers? How can I determine the measure of favor I walk in?

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52

• Favor/Regard H8159 - sha`ah- to look at or to, regard, gaze at or about
• Favor G5485 - charis- grace; that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech, good will, loving-kindness, favor: of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues

Favor is used 116X's in OT and 156X's in the NT.

Jesus' heavenly Sonship did not release Him from His earthly Sonship. In Jesus' developmental years He maintained His fellowship with God, & his fellowship with men.

• He increased – (προκόπτω /prokopto) The idea then is strenuous activity rather than passive development. It is to chop forward, to beat forward, to hack on.
  • Dean Farrar, “The word used here is derived from pioneers, cutting down trees in the pathway of an advancing army.”
  • Thayer, “means to lengthen out by hammering as a smith forges metals.”

Character is what we are; Reputation is what others think of us.

Jesus had favor with God and with men.

We must understand that as Christ grew in His life, so are we to grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor! You and I need favor in matters with God and man, both in the world and in our spiritual influence on this earth.

Marked By God

I want us to read and learn about how God chooses to mark you, to use you and to bless you.
In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

Luke 1:26-27

The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Luke 1:28

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

Luke 1:29

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Luke 1:30-31

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1:32-33

There is no question in this passage that the theme and main focus is on God’s purpose of sending to this earth a deliverer in the form of a man, a baby who would grow up and live a perfect life so that His death on the cross could satisfy the price of our sin. He would, once and for all, satisfy the demands of God’s justice by His shed blood. Mohammed couldn’t do it, Buddha couldn’t do it, Chrishna couldn’t do it, only God, pre-incarnate, in the form of a man could pay for the sins of the world. That is the message of the gospel. And if you are a Christian today, you know or should already know as a believer in Jesus Christ.

What I want to begin today is for us to learn how we can carry the purpose of God for our lives so we can accomplish something significant for Him. One thing you may be lacking in your life is a strong infusion of the supernatural quality of God that marks you and sets you apart from others so you can carry the purpose of God in your life and bring it to full birth, alive.

Highly Favored

As you know, God loves us. God loves everyone, but in verse 29, Mary was troubled just like many people are when they begin to discuss the topic of FAVOR, “troubled at His words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.” Notice the words in verse 28, that the angel told her, “You are highly favored! The Lord is with you!”

• Favor G5487 - charitos - to make graceful- charming, lovely, agreeable

What makes God’s love and expression toward Mary so powerful, is because He takes special notice of her. God loves us, I know that for a fact, but there are those occasions in the Bible where God takes special notice of people such as Mary.

• Daniel- Daniel was pleading with God to turn away His wrath upon Jerusalem in Daniel 9, O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

Daniel 9:19

And while he was speaking, praying out, confessing his sins and the sins of the people to God, Gabriel appears to him and tells him,
As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision...

Daniel 9:23

- **Esteemed** H2532 - chemdah- that which is desirable, pleasant and precious

Daniel was greatly desired, esteemed! There was something significant about him that appealed to God and God responded to him with favor! God loves everybody but Daniel has special attention drawn to himself from God.

Mary was someone who had the FAVOR of God. It literally means that she had the peculiar signature of God favor, honor or cherishing placed on her. When He saw her He has a special value placed for her. And when we have the favor of God on us there is a special value that is placed upon us.

If you can go there with me, wouldn’t it be exciting to be “greatly esteemed” rather than just “esteemed?” Wouldn’t you like to find “great favor” more than just “favor” from God? **To be greatly beloved is the key to favor!**

What Happens When The Highly Favor Of God Get’s On You?

When God highly loves you, there is such a level of influence that falls on you that the very charisma of God Himself rubs off on you which makes other people either like you or cooperate with you weather they like you or not!

Every person whose life depends on other relationships to get things done or things completed successfully, athletes, school principles, businessmen, mothers, fathers, needs to understand.

**Favor is the special affection of God toward you that releases an influence on you, so that others are inclined to like you or to cooperate with you!**

How Does Favor Relate To People In The Bible?

Mary was given favor and gave birth to Jesus and then Luke gives us a very important scripture that describes Jesus as a child.

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

Luke 2:52

You can have favor with God but not have very much success in walking in favor with man. There are a lot of Christians who have not discovered finding favor with man and only believe that they should be concerned with favor with God. Hear me when I say that I am not talking about have a fear of man, I am talking about having a “favor” with man.

The truth is, **God has more blessing for you than He can get to you.** I’ve met many people who have had the favor of God all over them, with the power of God, the insight of God, and the powerful to believe in great things of God.

**The Anointing brings favor and favor is in the anointing**...but when they are introduced to people, when they are placed in a setting with others, their personality offends, they can’t find favor with man. The favor of God is all over them, but they can’t get along with other people. Their anointing brings favor, but the closer you get to them you don’t really want to be close to them.

On the other side you have those who have favor with men. They have a likable personality, they get along with others and they walk through open doors because of it. But throughout time you don’t see the sustaining hand of God in their life. You may see a person who has
what is considered success, but not with God. Their life did not accomplish anything that had the signature of God on it.

I think it’s imperative that we find out and learn what it is that gives us the favor with God and man. Personally I was taught in opposition to this idea. I was taught that if you had relationship with man then you were cheating with your relationship with God. I was taught to be suspicious of people and to guard myself from ever being dependent on other relationships.

Of course that may sound strange, but I can tell you this, I have favor with God. The anointing brought favor, but I didn’t know how to operate within the two worlds. I was taught that it was compromising to be cooperative with the world and still I was expected to be submitted to it’s authorities. I’m telling you that I was confused. I missed great opportunity in my life for God to bless me and for man to bless me because I did not understand the favor of God and man, and I don’t want you to waste another day without it.

Here is something that may be a revelation for you, you don’t have to walk around unlikeed, rejected and forgotten and have Jesus. You can allow the whole work of Jesus on the cross to activate in your life. This is not saying you will become a superstar, a hero or popular, but what I am saying is that favor can be a part of your life and you can learn to walk through the doors of those relationships with confidence.

Some of you have the favor of man on you and didn’t even know it. People like you, they like to ask you questions about their situations, they like being with you and they like giving you opportunity. A person with favor on them are likable, they are thought of in a positive way.

Some of you have never experienced the favor of man over a very long time. You may have constantly felt rejection, being ignored and forgotten. It truly may have something to do with your own personality and attitude, but the truth is, you don’t have favor with man. You are not on anyone’s radar when they are looking for someone to hire, someone to confide in or someone to have a relationship with. This is not to be cruel, this is a fact, you don’t have the favor of man and that needs to change in your life!

The true men and women in the Bible who walked in favor stirred up envy and jealousy in others around them, but they didn’t stir up unjustified opposition because there was a grace on them. Jesus walked in favor with both God and man.

In John 7:25-47, Jesus was teaching in the temple courts and the people crowded around and became divided. Some said he was a prophet, to others He was the Christ, still others wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him. The temple priest sent their guards to arrest Him. When the guards came back without Jesus the chief priest and the Pharisees asked why they hadn’t arrested Him, the guards answered, “No one has ever talked like this before!”

Jesus found favor. Yes He was a gifted and anointed speaker, but something deeper leaped on the people. Jesus found favor in the eyes of the community that day...even those who wanted to do Him hard could not act on it.

Many of you have experienced favor in the most unusual situations. Favor will come when you don’t expect it, as a matter of fact it can over take you causing other people to cooperate with you, causing them the talk to you, to be nice to you, to open doors of opportunity for you.

Esther

Vashti was the queen of King Xerxes. She refused to come before him when he asked for her and so the King looked for another queen. In Esther 2:15, the Bible says that a search went out to find another queen.
When the turn came for Esther (the girl Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.

Esther 2:15

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:17

The Favor of God is what inclines people's attention toward you. It really doesn't matter what you look like or what your education is or what your background is when you have the God's Spirit of favor on you..

Daniel

Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel...

Daniel 1:9

Now here is an important point to make in relationship to Esther. Notice that both Daniel and Esther are both in a foreign country, he was in the minority, a despised people, a conquered people. In both Daniel and Esther we have evidence where God will take those who are down trodden, and those in a disadvantaged position and will cause them to be promoted. He was going to be called in front of the King just like Esther. At this time Daniel was from the age of 14-18, uprooted from his family, taken captive with the rest of Israel by the Babylonian empire.

But the favor of God was upon Daniel and he had favor with man too! Verse 9 says that God caused the official, the KJV calls him the Prince of the Kings eunuchs. And not only does Daniel have this individuals attention, but the Bible says that the official showed Daniel favor and sympathy. It's a much stronger word than that. The original says that the official had tender love, he had mercy, compassion and pity on Daniel.

The favor of God was on Daniel and the result is Daniel was going to become the vice-president of the nation, succeeding four different empires. How could this happen? God brought Daniel into favor and tender love. God provided a Spirit of inclination to give Daniel favor to the success of the kingdom.

What we want to learn throughout this series is how to walk in favor with God and Man! When you have the favor of man you can do extraordinary things with your life for God’s glory. I believe that you and I as the body of Jesus Christ needs a solid dose of the favor of God!

I believe that we should be the influencers rather than the cleaner-uppers. We should not be dealing with everyone jumping off the cliffs of sin, we should be at the top of our nation helping millions of people avoid the destructive spiral of a life without God! We should not be in the back seat but next to the driver. We have taken a seat too far from the point of the spear.

We have more faith in our children failing, our economy failing, our relationships failing that God having any influence at all. We have got to reposition ourselves and allow God to place a spirit of favor on our lives so He can have the glory of winning.

Redeemed

If you are a believer and you have made a decision to not only receive Christ, but to follow Christ, that means that you have exchanged your desires and ways to come into align with His desires and ways, then when God sees you, He sees you in harmony with His heart. The Bible calls it Righteousness, or walking upright. It's not perfection, but it is pure.
In your past, it doesn’t matter how horrible or weak or fearful you were. When you received Jesus Christ you received the full work of Jesus Christ. Jesus didn’t give you a little portion of Himself, He gave you all of Himself. God’s remedy for your past was to kill you. That’s what the cross is, Jesus Christ taking your place. When Jesus died for you He died as you and in Christ, you are dead and He is alive.

When you are reminded of something in your past you need to remind yourself that you are thinking of a person who is no longer alive. Satan attempts to bring a dead man to life by reading his biography. You should say in your heart and mind, I’m so glad that person no longer lives! Anything in your past prior to the saving grace of Jesus Christ is a biography of another person. You are free! You are redeemed!

When you receive this fully you will no longer be self-conscious, or awkward around people, fumbling your words and actions, you won’t be touchy, resentful, oversensitive, hyper, easily irritated or addicted, you are free! And here’s why, YOU ARE DEAD!

Those who have come to the fulness of God’s great love in them allow Him to do a work in them that you can’t read enough books for, get enough counseling for, go to enough seminars for and be schooled enough for. When you can fully reckon yourself dead and that you are alive in Christ and that the circumstances surrounding you do not dictate who you are because of the blood of Jesus Christ, you will find favor!

When you have ceased from trying to perfect your life to get the approval of God. You have stopped striving to get His attention and you fall fully on the Grace of God, and you receive the FULL WORK OF JESUS CHRIST. Then the Holy Spirit can lead you into the freedom that you so badly want and whom the Son sets free is free indeed!

God cannot and will not give you more, because what Jesus Christ has provided on the cross was enough to satisfy God almighty and defeat Satan totally. This is one great deal! But if you cannot grab ahold of the full work of Christ then you will continue to labor, attempting to get the favor of God and man. You will labor your hardest for Christ and will not be yoked with Him.

Joseph

Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

Acts 7:9-10

God was with Joseph and gave him wisdom and favor with the king of Egypt to become a ruler. Here is something powerful to think about. Not only does God’s favor give Joseph promotion but also supernatural ability of wisdom with the promotion.

God Enables You When He Relabels You!

1. Favor Produces Envy

The favor of God also gave Joseph wisdom to live up to the level of his favor! Why was Joseph in prison in the first place? It was because of the envy of others.

Do you really want the favor of God on your life? The other side of having an anointing of the favor of God is to be in a high degree of spiritual warfare. And when you are blessed with the favor of God there is something that you have to deal with, people who see and discern favor on you but don’t see favor on them-
selves will envy what it is that you have and will try to find something wrong with what you have.

This is the very reason why Daniel ended up in the Lion’s den. He was in the lion’s den because all the other officials and leaders began to resent the unique characteristic quality that made people like him and were inclined to cooperate with him.

So, people who don’t have favor will be jealous of you and will attempt to sabotage your favor. They will try to ruin your character, attack everything about you. They hate your success and will look at ever opportunity to discredit you.

When we look at Joseph, we also can look at Jesus. When Pilate was deliberating what to do with Jesus, the Bible says that Pilate perceived,

For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.
Matthew 27:18

Favor has a price and you must learn to walk in the boldness of the Lord because when favor is on your life there will be those who do not like it and will come against you.

2. Favor Produces Temptation

Not everyone is opposed to the favor that can come upon you. Satan is very desirous of that favor on you. He once lived in the favor of God and he wants so badly to have that back. He is especially envious and jealous of it.

In Joseph’s story, he was the leader of Potiphar’s house. He had so much favor with his boss that Potiphar’s wife was attracted to him. That favor put him in a position that could have easily caused him to sacrifice his integrity. What happens when you have too much favor? You have to make sure you are rooted and grounded in the Word of God and into Jesus’ character or you will find yourself in a compromising position...one you didn’t think you were a part of but you got blamed for.

What Does Favor Do?

King Saul sends for David, and when David stood before King Saul, verse 21, he loved him greatly! Favor is the inclination to like. There was an immediate connection between them.

Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."
I Samuel 16:22 (NKJV)

Where Does This Power Come From?

What would happen if you had the full force of favor operating on you? It would be so amazing that when you were with people and suddenly their heart would be the same heart God has toward you. Favor is people experiencing God’s affection toward you. How do I know this? Because in about two chapters later, Saul is attempting to kill David. Saul loses his affection toward him.

Can you imagine that God could trust you with this on you and you were a salesman? You could persuade people to buy or to make certain decisions or persuade them toward God! While they are in the presence of you, the presence of favor comes on them. Favor allows you to multiply your natural talent and at times it can go beyond talent all together.

It was Paul, in Acts 17 who persuaded some of the Jews to join them, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.
But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here...
Acts 17:5a, 6b

It was Paul’s influence to persuade others to follow Christ that turned the world upside down! There is an anointing that lifts you above your game. It places you at a whole other level. You would think that you wouldn’t have favor until you have some real good enemies!

**How Did Favor Get Transmitted To David?**

The transaction took place when Samuel was going through the sons of the house of Jesse. As he was looking for who he was supposed to anoint, Samuel had to ask Jesse if all the boys were there, Jesse said there was still one out in the field. See, there was one out in the fields watching the sheep. One that didn’t really make the cut in our eyes. One that wasn’t worth your time. We’ve got that one, but are you sure? See, David was the joke. David was the one that didn’t fit in. David spent a lot of time alone and none of his brothers thought anything about him.

Samuel could tell that the favor of God was not on any of those boys like he had felt in his heart. There was an awareness that he had for the right person. It was more than a gut feeling, it was an anointing!

*So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.”*

I Samuel 16:12

*So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power...*

I Samuel 16:13

The anointing is released which releases the Holy Spirit's power. The Lord’s anointing puts the favor of God on you. The moment that the anointing came on David, favor fell on David. God favored David, why, because David had something in himself that attracted God. What was it?

*But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

I Samuel 16:7

God puts His favor on those who’s heart are set in motion toward Him. There is a lot of people whose heart is in pursuit toward God.

**Two Affects of Favor:**

1. **God’s attraction to you.**
2. **The power of influence through you.**

*Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.*

I Samuel 16:23

When you are walking in the anointing of God, the favor of God, it empowers you to not only have God’s favor and man’s favor, but it gives you favor over the powers of darkness. When you are walking in your anointing, the favor of God in you can bind the power of Satan in others! **When you are walking in the Spirit of favor it produces a perimeter of divine influ-**
ence that brings everything under the authority of the agenda that God is given you to accomplish. When favor is on your life, there are those who are in the radius of your destiny, a divine perimeter is established so that your influence takes authority over the devil’s agenda and in that arena, your agenda begins to emerge supreme!

Here is the secret of Daniel, the secret of Easter, of David, Joseph and even Mary. They were all connected to Kingdom Building. Now see if this scripture looks a little different in light of what I just said,

_But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well._

Matthew 6:33

God is always and will always be involved in kingdoms. He raises and lowers a kingdom. The closer and committed you are to the purpose and principles of God’s kingdom, the more He can have favor on you. Your influence in expanding the kingdom expands with the favor you obtain. But can you weather the storms of jealousy and envy and can you overcome the temptations that come with that success?

God doesn’t give favor for people just to make more money and to have more friends. He gives them favor for the same reason that He would give Esther, Joseph and Daniel favor, so they could influence a kingdom. He put a spirit of favor on David because he was going to take over a kingdom. And God is giving you favor to take over kingdoms and influence them for Him and His glory.

**Conclusion:**

This is not witchcraft, attempting to manipulate and have our way. Their purpose is to control you. But a person who is favored by God is there to free you, to liberate you.

God is releasing His favor for His purposes. It’s not just for our own good, but for His purpose. Mary was not blessed because she was given favor to conceive the purpose of God. God wants to mark you for life, that the divine perimeter of influence around you would bring everything under the authority and agenda of God! God had anointed you for a certain arena and a certain assignment.