



# THE GREATEST GIFT



<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,  
<sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)



<sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, **O favored one**, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)



<sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, **for you have found favor with God.** <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.”

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)



<sup>32</sup> “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)



34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be,  
since I am a virgin?”

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)



35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)



<sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)



<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)



“Greetings, **O favored one**, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28)

“Don’t be afraid, Mary, for **you have found favor with God.**” (Luke 1:30)



Does God still offer this gift of His favor to us?



To what degree is God's favor based on our behavior?



For You bless the righteous, O LORD; You  
cover him with favor as with a shield.

Psalms 5:12 (ESV)



For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor. No  
good thing does He withhold from those  
who walk uprightly.

Psalms 84:11 (ESV)



Is it okay to ask God to show His favor toward  
us and others?



Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and establish the work of our hands upon us;  
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Psalm 90:17 (ESV)



May God be gracious to us and bless us and  
make His face to shine upon us, that Your way  
may be known on earth, Your saving power  
among all nations.

Psalm 67:17 (ESV)



<sup>22</sup> The Lord said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

Psalm 84:11 (ESV)



24 “The Lord bless you and keep you;  
25 the Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
26 the Lord turn His face toward you and  
give you peace.”

Psalm 84:11 (ESV)



<sup>50</sup> And Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

Luke 24:50-53 (ESV)



<sup>52</sup> And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24:50-53 (ESV)



**50** And Jesus led them out as far as Bethany,  
and lifting up His hands **He blessed them.**

**51** While **He blessed them**, He parted from  
them and was carried up into heaven.

Luke 24:50-51 (ESV)





# THE GREATEST GIFT