

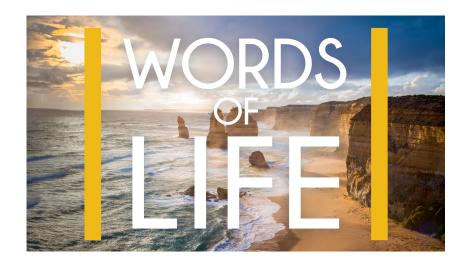
This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

#### **ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:**

- 1. Have you considered to what extent God favors you and desires to bring blessing to your life? Why or why not? To what extent do you believe God may want or not want to bless you? Why or why not?
- 2. How does knowing that (like a loving Father) God desires to bless you change or confirm your view of God and His character?
- 3. When was the last time you took inventory of God's blessings on your life and gave Him thanks?
- 4. Where do you need or want to grow in your understanding of God's blessings and favor?
- 5. How would you like to go deeper into God's Word this week?

### FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

- 1. Talk through the big idea of this series and today's message points.
- 2. Discuss the concepts of favor and blessing. Why do we want or need God's favor in our lives?
- 3. Share the story of Cain and Able in Genesis chapter 4. Discuss the differences of heart between the brothers and which path led to blessing and which to self-destruction.
- 4. Take some time pray together.



## **Today's Service**

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Series: Words of Life
Part 3: Favor

Pastor Brian Stanley



**Jeremiah 29:11** (NLT) <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

**2 Timothy 3:16** (NLT) <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

**2 Timothy 2:15** (NLT) <sup>15</sup> Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

John 8:31-32 (NLT) <sup>31</sup> Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. <sup>32</sup> And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Everyone wants the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ of God.

**Numbers 6:22-26** (NLT) <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> "Tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel with this special blessing: <sup>24</sup> 'May the Lord bless you and protect you. <sup>25</sup> May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. <sup>26</sup> May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.'

Psalm 144:12-15 (NLT) <sup>12</sup> May our sons flourish in their youth like well-nurtured plants. May our daughters be like graceful pillars, carved to beautify a palace. <sup>13</sup> May our barns be filled with crops of every kind. May the flocks in our fields multiply by the thousands, even tens of thousands, <sup>14</sup> and may our oxen be loaded down with produce. May there be no enemy breaking through our walls, no going into captivity, no cries of alarm in our town squares. <sup>15</sup> Yes, joyful are those who live like this! Joyful indeed are those whose God is the Lord.

God desires is to show us His and to us.

**Numbers 6:27** (NLT) <sup>27</sup> "Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, I myself will bless them."

**Matthew 7:7-11** (NLT) <sup>7</sup> "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. \*For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds.

And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." <sup>9</sup> "You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? <sup>10</sup> Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! <sup>11</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him."

## The Prayer of Jabez

**1 Chronicles 4:9-10** (NLT) <sup>9</sup>There was a man named Jabez who was more honorable than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez because his birth had been so painful. <sup>10</sup> He was the one who prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all trouble and pain!" And God granted him his request.

**Psalm 84:11b** (NLT) The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

The Key to Unlocking God's Blessings:	
We must desire God	than we desire His
NOTES:	

# WORDS OF LIFE