

*THE **ABC**'s
of
Becoming
A Better Christian*

***F**AVOR*

Key Passages

Psalms 84:11 (NIV)

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord **bestows favor** and honor...

Psalms 30:5 (NIV)

5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his **favor lasts a lifetime**...

Luke 2:52 (NIV)

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

Proverbs 18:22 (ESV)

22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and **obtains favor from the Lord**.

Exodus 3:21 (ESV)

21 And I will **give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians;**
and when you go, you shall not go empty-handed

Isaiah 49:8 (ESV)

8 Thus says the Lord: “**IN A TIME OF FAVOR** I have answered you;
in a day of salvation, I have helped you...

What Is Favor?

FAVOR Is A Term That Many People Love To Throw Around Very Loosely...

“Blessed and Highly Favored”

“This Is My Season of Favor”

FAVOR is defined as **the tangible evidence** that a person has **the approval** of the Lord
Favor Is Not Just Spoken, There Is **Some Substance** That Can Be **Seen**

Favor is *“To Show Exceptional Kindness to Someone... To Give Preferential Treatment”*
Humans know what it is like to have favorites... To Give People Preferential Treatment

This Is What God Does When He Showers His People With Favor

- *Favor opens doors that no man can shut* *Favor gives you access to things you can't afford*
- *Favor gives you treasures that thieves can't steal* *Favor gives you positions that you may not be qualified*

Favor gives you **access to the unexpected, authority over the unusual, admission to impossible...**

While Many People Are Seeking Popularity, Positions, Promotions, and Prominence
God is seeking those whom he can **SHOWER WITH FAVOR!!!**



Favor Is Not Designed To Get Something But Do Something

Favor Is Necessary For Accomplishing Divine Purpose

Genesis 6:6-8 (NIV)

6 The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

7 So the Lord said, "I *will wipe mankind*, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them."

8 **BUT NOAH FOUND FAVOR IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.**

14 "Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.

22 Noah did all that God commanded him.

9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons...

Favor Is Necessary For Accomplishing Divine Purpose

Exodus 33:17 (ESV)

17 And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do,

FOR YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR IN MY SIGHT, and I know you by name."

Exodus 3:9-10 (ESV)

9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that *you may bring my people out of Egypt.*"

Favor Is Not Designed To Get Something But Do Something

Favor Is Necessary For Accomplishing Divine Purpose

Genesis 39:2-5 (ESV)

2 The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

3 His master saw that the Lord was with him and that **the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.**

4 **SO JOSEPH FOUND FAVOR IN HIS SIGHT** and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. 5 From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had **the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake**; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field.

Genesis 39:20-22 (ESV)

20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. 21 **But the Lord was with Joseph** and showed him steadfast love **AND GAVE HIM FAVOR** in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)

20 *You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.*

Favor Is Necessary For Accomplishing Divine Purpose

Luke 1:30-33 (ESV)

30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for **YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD.**

31 And behold, **you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.**

Favor Is Not Designed To Get Something But Do Something

Favor Is Necessary For Accomplishing Divine Purpose

Esther 2:8-9 (ESV)

8 So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.

9 And the young woman pleased him and **WON HIS FAVOR**. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem.

15 When the turn came for Esther to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch advised. Now Esther was **WINNING FAVOR IN THE EYES OF ALL WHO SAW HER**. 16 And when Esther was taken to the King, into his royal palace, 17 the king loved Esther more than all the women, and **SHE WON GRACE AND FAVOR IN HIS SIGHT** more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 4:14 (ESV)

14And who knows whether **you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**"

So, When You Say You Need God's Favor.....

The Question Is....

TO DO WHAT not GET WHAT

FAVOR IS NOT GIVEN FOR YOUR PLEASURE...BUT GOD'S PURPOSE

God Is Not Obligated To Give Favor...But It Can Be Obtained

Keys To Obtaining Favor

Seek God

Proverbs 8:35 (ESV)

35 For whoever **finds me** finds life and **obtains favor from the Lord**,

Requirement ~ Seeking God must be done with your whole heart, continuously, and must be a priority

Love and Live God's Word

Proverbs 3:1-4 (ESV)

1 My son, **do not forget my teaching**, but **let your heart keep my commandments**,
2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3bind them around your neck; write them on the
tablet of your heart. 4 **So you will find favor** and good success in the sight of God and man.

Walk Faithfully

Psalms 84:11 (ESV)

11 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.

Genesis 6:9 (ESV)

9 ... Noah was **a righteous man, blameless in his generation.** Noah **walked with God.**



God Is Not Obligated To Give Favor...But It Can Be Obtained

Keys To Obtaining Favor

Give Faithfully

Genesis 4:3-7 (NIV)

- 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.
- 4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. **THE LORD LOOKED WITH FAVOR ON ABEL AND HIS OFFERING**, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.
- 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?"
- 7 If you do what is right, **will you not be accepted?**

Humility

Proverbs 3:34 (ESV)

- 34 Toward the scorners he is scornful, but **TO THE HUMBLE HE GIVES FAVOR.**

Submitting To The Will of God

Daniel 1:8-9 (ESV)

- 8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore, he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.
- 9 And **GOD GAVE DANIEL FAVOR** and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs...

Favor May Not Come In The Form Of Riches, But Relationships

Ruth 2:2-18 (NIV)

2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and **pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.**" Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter."

3 So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. *As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.*

4 **Just then Boaz arrived** from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!" "The Lord bless you!"

5 Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, "**Whose young woman is that?**"

6 The foreman replied, "She is the **Moabitess** who came back from Moab **with Naomi.**

7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She went into the field **and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.**"

8 So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here.

Stay here with my servant girls. 9 Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled." 10 At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground.

She exclaimed, "**WHY HAVE I FOUND SUCH FAVOR IN YOUR EYES THAT YOU NOTICE ME--A FOREIGNER?**"

11 Boaz replied, "**I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband--how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before.**

12 **MAY THE LORD REPAY YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. MAY YOU BE RICHLY REWARDED BY THE LORD...**

Favor Comes With Benefits

Protection

Psalms 5:12 (NIV)

12 For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; *you surround them with your favor as with a shield.*

Provision

Exodus 3:21-22 (ESV)

21 And *I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians*; and when you go, *YOU SHALL NOT GO EMPTY*,
22 but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry,
and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

Position

1 Samuel 16:21-22 (ESV)

21 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer.
22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for *HE HAS FOUND FAVOR IN MY SIGHT.*”



The Time Of Favor

There Is An Appointed Time/Season of Favor

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NIV)

2 For he says, "**IN THE TIME OF MY FAVOR I HEARD YOU**, and in the day of salvation I helped you.
" I tell you, now is **THE TIME OF GOD'S FAVOR**, now is the day of salvation.

Psalms 102:13 (NIV)

13 You will arise and have compassion on Zion, **FOR IT IS TIME TO SHOW FAVOR TO HER**;
the appointed time has come.

Favor Is Always Available For Access

Psalms 30:5 (ESV)

5 For his anger is but for a moment, and **his favor is for a lifetime**.
Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Don't Get Weary In Doing Right.... For In Due Season, You Will Reap If You Don't Give Up!!!!



In Conclusion.....

***FAVOR** is defined as **the tangible evidence** that a person has **the approval** of the Lord
Favor Is Not Just Spoken, There Is **Some Substance** That Can Be **Seen***

*Favor Is Not Designed To Get Something But Do Something
Favor Is Necessary For Accomplishing Divine Purpose*

God Is Not Obligated To Give Favor...But It Can Be Obtained

Keys To Obtaining Favor

*Seek God ~ Love and Live God's Word ~ Walk Faithfully
Give Faithfully ~ Be Humble ~ Submitting To The Will of God*

Favor May Not Come In The Form Of Riches, But Relationships

Favor Comes With Benefits

Protection ~ Provision ~ Position

There Is An Appointed Time/Season of Favor ~ It Is Always Available For Access

