

Living in God's **FAVOR**

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As you read through the Bible, you will come across the subject of the "favor of God" multiple times. Have you ever stopped to ponder what this three word phrase means? And have you ever pondered what it could possibly mean for you?

At the beginning of a brand new year, I want to seek the favor of God. So how does that happen? How do we position ourselves for such a blessing?

Favor is...

Two Hebrew words ...

Sha ah – **to gaze steadily on something with great interest**

Genesis 4:4, Abel also brought an offering from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering. NIV

Chen – **gracious kindness**

Psalm 84:11, For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. NIV

One Greek word –

Charis – **grace, undeserved favor; loving kindness**

Ephesians 1:7, *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace* NIV

Favor is the tangible evidence of the **approval** of God.

Favor is a **sovereign** act of God that is consistent with his character.

Psalm 115:3, *Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.* NIV

What Does Favor Look Like?

Favor is the demonstrated delight of God.

From the Bible, we see God's favor manifesting itself as ...

Divine **protection**

Divine **provision**

Divine **promotion**

Divine **proclamation**

Divine **power**

Divine **plan**

Should We Seek God's Favor

While a certain mystery will always be associated with the favor of God, we are taught in the Scriptures – both by admonition and example – that the favor of God can be sought after, experienced, and enjoyed.

Psalm 119:58, *With all my heart I want to win your favor. Be kind to me as you promised.* GW

We position ourselves by ...

Believing in God's favor.

Hebrews 11:6, *Whoever goes to God must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

Aligning ourselves with God's purposes and God's desires.

Matthew 6:33, *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.* NLT

God is looking for people on whom he can bestow his favor...

2 Chronicles 16:9, *For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect toward him, so that he can show his great power in helping them.* LB

Proverbs 3:1-12, *My son, never forget the things I've taught you. If you want a long and satisfying life, closely follow my instructions. Never tire of loyalty and kindness. Hold these virtues tightly. Write them deep within your heart. If you want favor with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. 6 In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.*

Don't be conceited, sure of your own wisdom. Instead, trust and reverence the Lord, and turn your back on evil; when you do that, then you will be given renewed health and vitality.

Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines.

Young man, do not resent it when God chastens and corrects you, for his punishment is proof of his love. Just as

*a father punishes a son he delights in to make him better, so
the Lord corrects you.* LB