

I. Intro

Favor: approval; support; an act of kindness beyond what is due or usual; to give confirmation to; to afford advantages for success; to befriend; to encourage; to give aid; an act of grace or goodwill.

Acts 2:46-47 (NKJV) So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

II. Following God is the pathway to gain favor

Genesis 18:19 (NIRV) I have chosen him. He must direct his children to live in the way that pleases me. And he must direct the members of his family after him to do the same. So he must guide all of them in doing what is right and fair. Then I, the LORD, will do for Abraham what I have promised him.”

Because God is omnipresent, his favor has been and always will be available to each generation.

Genesis 26:1-2 (NKJV) There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar. Then the LORD appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

A. We see some parallels in this story with his father

1. Famine
2. Faith and Obedience
3. Fear
4. Prosperity and Favor
5. Dug Wells

B. Both were under an OT covenant

1. God's Presence
2. God's Blessings
3. Lands
4. Nations of Descendants

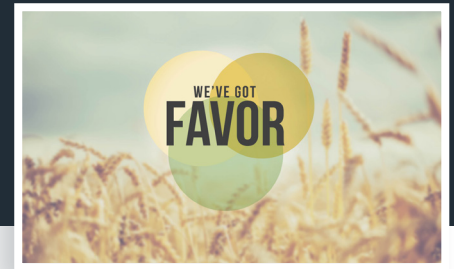
Psalms 5:12 (TPT) Lord, how wonderfully you bless the righteous. Your favor wraps around each one and covers them under your canopy of kindness and joy.

“In God's favor, we find true strength and endless possibilities.” – Unknown

III. Concern and compassion call for favor to act

A. We received supernatural adoption that includes favor

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NIRV) God chose us to belong to Christ before the world was created. He chose us to be holy and without blame in his eyes. He loved us. So he decided long ago to adopt us. He adopted us as his children with all the rights children have. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it. All those things bring praise to his glorious grace. God freely gave us his grace because of the One he loves.



- B. We activate favor through the choices we make

God chose us but with a free will to believe, trust and obey, or to reject, refuse and ignore, what is available to us through Christ.

Proverbs 3:3-4 (NIRV) Don't let love and truth ever leave you. Tie them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will find favor and a good name in the eyes of God and people.

- C. Our favor can be hindered or deterred because of:
1. Not walking in love
 2. Not being truthful and honest
 3. Unforgiveness
 4. Negative thoughts and words
 5. Refusing to grow spiritually

IV. Because we have favor, opportunities find us

- A. We don't always recognize favor when it's happening
- B. Favor persists in the face of adversity

"At this very moment, God's working behind the scenes in your life, arranging things in your favor. Stay in faith!" – Joel Osteen

V. Favor increases our desire for praise and worship

"If you have God's presence, you have favor. One minute of God's presence can accomplish more than 20 years of your striving." – Heidi Baker

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that He is* a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

VI. Favor brings results that blesses and influences

Psalms 33:18 (NIRV) But the LORD looks with favor on those who respect him. He watches over those who put their hope in his faithful love.

- A. Relationships
1. Marriage
 2. Family
 3. Co-workers
 4. School
 5. Neighbors
- B. Finances
- C. Health