

Divine Favour Sunday August 31, 2008

(spelling favor and favour used interchangeably) What is divine favour? What happens when the favour of God is upon a person? What causes the favour of God to come upon a person?

Examples of the favour of God coming upon people

Nehemiah

Neh 1:11 O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and <u>grant him</u> <u>mercy in the sight of this man</u>." For I was the king's cupbearer.

Neh 2:5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

Neh 2:8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Neh 2:18 And <u>I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me</u>, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

Neh 2:20 So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

Joseph

Gen 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and <u>He gave him favor</u> in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Gen 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

Gen 39:23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

Act 7:9 "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him Act 7:10 and delivered him out of all his troubles, and <u>gave him favor and wisdom</u> in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

The People of Israel in Egypt

Exo 3:21 And <u>I will give this people favor</u> in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.

Exo 3:22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Exo 11:3 And <u>the LORD gave the people favor</u> in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

Exo 12:35 Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing.

Exo 12:36 And <u>the LORD had given the people favor</u> in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Exo 12:37 Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.

What does divine favour cause to happen?

- 1, Influence among people
- 2, Access to people, places or things
- 3, Unusual opportunities



- 4, Brings exaltation
 - Psa 89:17 For You are the glory of their strength, And in Your favor our horn is exalted.
- 5, The favor of God releases life into what is dying. It turns circumstances around

Psa 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

Psa 30:11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

What is divine favour?

Divine favor is an endowment of God that is released upon a person that gives the person influence, access to people, places or things, unusual opportunities, exaltation, divine intervention, etc.

What causes divine favour to be released on a person's life?

1, Favor is connected to your assignment

The favor of God comes upon you for an assignment.

Mary

Luke 1:30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. God could have chosen any young maiden to be the vehicle for the birth of the Messiah. He chose Mary. Mary became the "favoured one" for a specific assignment – to birth the Messiah.

Jesus

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Nehemiah experienced divine favour because he had an assignment to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Esther experienced divine favour because she had an assignment to bring deliverance to the Jewish people.

We must keep in mind that even after a moment or season of divine favour, we must continue to work and do all that we must do in the natural to work towards the assignment God has given us. In a moment of divine favour the king granted all of Nehemiah's requests. But Nehemiah had to follow it up with hard work, working past a lot of opposition, false accusations, internal problems, etc, until he saw the assignment completed.

Be careful not to waste the favour of God released on your life. Saul (1 Samuel 15:10,11,16-22) wasted the good favour God had shown him. So God had to find some one else, David, to fulfill the assignment.

2, Favor is connected to the set time

Psa 102:13 You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come.

There are set times in our lives when the favour of God is released upon us for a specific assignment. Our times are in His hands (Psalm 31:15). In between these set times of favour, we must remain faithful to the assignment given to us. We must continue to work in the natural with the grace given to us to fulfill the assignment.

3, Favor is connected to righteousness

Psa 5:12 For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.



Pro 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,

Pro 3:4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

Pro 12:2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.

Daniel is a great example of a man who stood for righteousness. He walked in righteousness through difficult situations. God called him "greatly beloved" (Daniel 9:23, 10:11,19).

4, Favor is connected to wisdom and understanding

Pro 8:35 For whoever finds me *(wisdom)* finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD;

Pro 13:15 Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.

Pro 14:35 The king's favor is toward a wise servant, But his wrath is against him who causes shame.

Pray for divine favour to be released

Psa 106:4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor You have toward Your people. Oh, visit me with Your salvation,

Psa 119:58 I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.

Pro 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Pray for divine favour. Position yourself for divine favour. Expect to receive divine favour.

Sermon Notes





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