

Beyond Sunday - Favor

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Our hope is that the living, breathing words of truth that are revealed to you become a part of your everyday life. In the book of James, we read about a key to living life with God. We are told that if we ask for wisdom by faith then we shall receive it generously from our Father in Heaven. One of the best ways to receive this wisdom is by preparing to receive it. We invite you to pray this prayer prior to the message and the study guide:

“God, thank you for your truth and wisdom. Help me to see what I need to see, hear what I need to hear and know what I need to know. Holy Spirit, help me to understand in a way that shows me the Father's true nature and heart. May this time help me to know you more and become more like Jesus. Amen.”

MESSAGE THEME

We can know, receive, and partner with God's favor in our lives.

KEY CONCEPTS/TRUTHS

Favor is defined as: 'the friendly disposition from which kindly acts proceed. To assist, provide special advantages, and receive preferential treatment.'

God's favor is freely given, not because of what you have done, but in spite of what you have done.

God's favor can get you anywhere in 24 hours. God's favor can open doors for you that would never happen without Him.

One day of favor can do more than a thousand years of labor.

A renewed mind toward favor knows that the Father has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. (Col. 1:12)

Key Verses:

Luke 2:7-14 • Psalm 5:12 • Romans 8:32 • Psalm 103:2-5

Which one truth do you already have evidence of in your life today? Ask the Lord for new ways to see even more of it for you and others around you. Write your answers out.

Which one truth is the most challenging or least existing in your life today? Why do you think this is? Ask the Lord if there are any beliefs or barriers that are keeping you from believing that particular truth. Write it out.

REAL-LIFE APPLICATION

Excerpt from "Unleashing the Force of Favor" by Duane Vander Klok

For years now, I have not left my house a single day without first praying for favor. Prayer is the best place to start when you want to grow in favor. I ask God for an abundance of His favor every day. God has an abundance to give, and each morning is a great time to ask for it.

According to Ruth 2:16, Ruth found favor with Boaz, and he directed his men to let handfuls of grain fall on purpose for her to glean. I confess "handfuls on purpose" for my family. I thank God for surrounding us with favor as with a shield (see Psalm 5:12) and for crowning each of us with glory and favor ("glory and honor" in Psalm 8:5 can be translated "glory and favor"). I pray for each family member by name: "Lord, surround Jeanie with favor as with a shield. Lord, crown Stephanie with glory and favor...."

Later in the day, I might find myself on a tight schedule. Needing to make a quick - at least I hope quick - stop at the store, I start feeling rushed. As I think about how much longer I will be standing in the checkout line, a cashier approaches and says, "I'm just opening up my aisle. Please step over; I can help you." I step to the front, knowing God's favor is at work. Favor is free for the asking, as Jesus announced one Sabbath day when He read aloud in the synagogue of Nazareth, His hometown:

And there was handed to Him [the roll of] the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened (unrolled) the book and found the place where it was written. The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity], To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound]. *Luke 4:17-19 AMP*

How would your days look this week with this same approach?

THIS WEEK'S DECLARATIONS

Life is released when your words are in agreement with God. Intentionally speaking life and biblical truth out loud is extremely powerful. In fact, you have that very life in the power of your tongue. These words below, when spoken out loud, will cause an acceleration of the reality of God's words in your life. We encourage you to speak the following with an expectancy to renew your mind and see God's fullness.

God, thank you that I am in Jesus and He is in me. Father, thank you that I can increase just as Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, and favor with you and with people.

I walk in God's favor every day.

I am a child of God.

I believe that God's favor abounds in my life.

When the favor of God rests on me, blessings chase after me.

GREATER THINGS STRENGTH & COURAGE FOR TOMORROW

During our time of worship the Father's heart for all of us was evident. This December is going to be a John 14:1 season. A season where the troubles of our hearts will be met by an

increasing peace as we rest in Him. This is a season of great joy, abundant favor, and lives restored for all of those who are willing to receive it.

Why would God be so good? This is His nature and you are His child. Take time to pause and listen to the worship set this week and let these words wash over you. Step into this invitation from the Father.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References used in the message '*Favor*'.

Favor

Luke 2:7-10 NKJV

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

Luke 2:11-13 NKJV

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

Luke 2:14 NIV

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

2 Corinthians 5:19 NKJV

that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Luke 2:14 NIV

...and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Favor = the friendly disposition from which kindly acts proceed; to assist, to provide with special advantages, and to receive preferential treatment.

Luke 2:52 NKJV

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 4:17-18 NKJV

And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

Luke 4:19 AMPC

To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound].

Leviticus 25:9 NKJV

Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.

Leviticus 25:10 NKJV

...It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.

Hebrews 10:1 NKJV

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things...

Romans 14:17 KJV

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Psalms 5:12 NKJV

For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

Isaiah 57:19 NKJV

“I create the fruit of the lips...

Ruth 1:20 NKJV

But she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

Ruth 2:2 NKJV

So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor.”

And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.”

Ruth 2:16 NKJV

Also let *grain* from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave *it* that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”

Romans 8:32 NKJV

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Colossians 1:12 NKJV

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Psalms 103:1a-5 NKJV

Bless the Lord, O my soul...And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

John 10:10 NKJV

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Job 10:12 NKJV

You have granted me life and favor, And Your care has preserved my spirit.

Deuteronomy 28:2 NKJV

And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

Acts 7:46 NKJV

who found favor before God and asked to find a dwelling for the God of Jacob.