

SCHOOL OF FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTE®
THE PURPOSE & POWER OF GRACE
FAITH 701: SESSION THREE

GRACE & FAVOR

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2 Corinthians 9:8

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

One of the strongest aspects of grace deals with *Divine Favor*. This is a word that has become synonymous with most peoples' understanding of grace. The only thing most people understand about grace is its' association with God's unmerited favor. We only see grace this way we have a tendency to limit the capacity of grace and to minimize the power of divine favor.

AN ILLUSTRATION OF GRACE AND FAVOR

Genesis 39:2--6

2 And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. 6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

- Here is an example of the Grace of God demonstrated as the BLESSING [or an empowerment or an enabling grace] of God on a man or a woman. God, through his grace endows the BLESSING upon Joseph as a prototype of us all.
- This BLESSING [grace-empowerment-enablement] will cause other people to grant you favor [excessive kindness, special privileges or special advantages]
- The favor of God is designed to assist you in the fulfillment of your assignment in the earth.
- So favor, specifically lends itself to the empowering side of grace majoring on “**divine assistance**”.

FAVOR MANIFESTED

Exodus 3:21

21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty:

Exodus 11:2-3

2 Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold.³ And the Lord gave the people favour 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.

- Notice again, how the grace of God is producing a manifestation of favor in the lives of God’s people for the purpose of “assisting” them in the advancement of their assignment.

- God has determined that it's time for His people to be delivered out of Egypt and creates a plan of departure that includes the possessions of the Egyptians
- God causes the Egyptians to favor the Israelites as they are being delivered. The Bible says that the Israelites "spoiled" [stripped them of all] the Egyptians.
- It is interesting how God can use your enemy to confer the manifestations of God's favor on your life when you simply obey.

FAVOR IS THE INHERITANCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Psalms 5:12

12 For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

- The righteous have a right to expect God's favor in their lives. This is where your faith to receive favor becomes necessary.
- You can expedite favor in your life through retrieving God's wisdom through the Word.

Proverbs 8:35

35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord.

- You can expect for favor to increase in your life with God and with man.

Luke 2:52

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

DIVINE FAVOR PRODUCES RESULTS

Esther 2:15,17

15...and Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. 17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- Esther receives unconventional favor in the sight of the King to be his queen because of God's grace [enablement] resting upon her.
- Not only does the King favor but everyone that looks upon here favors her.
- This is orchestrated by God in order that He may use her to assist heaven in saving the Jewish people.

Esther 7:3-7

3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

- The favor of God on Esther saved the people from destruction. God wants to use you to do the same.

Esther 7:5-6,10

5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? 6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

END OF SESSION