

THE FAVOR FACTOR

BY EDWINA FINDLEY

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."

"Favor is an unbelievably powerful gift, and has been defined as "preferential treatment" and "unmerited kindness."

At the beginning of January, I heard two New Year's messages that resonated equally in my spirit. The first declared 2006 as the "Year of Breakthroughs". The second deemed it the "Year of Audacious Goals". Now in the eighth month- the Biblical number of "new beginnings"- I see that both proclamations are just as true now as they were then.

In the last several weeks I have received so many exciting praise reports from brothers and sisters in Christ, each beaming of awesome successes, long-awaited opportunities, and answered prayers. They range from full doctoral scholarships to cross-country job relocations, and the thread uniting each testimony is the divine FAVOR of the LORD!

Favor is an unbelievably powerful gift, and has been defined as "preferential treatment" and "unmerited kindness." In preparing for this article, I was astonished to find over one hundred references to favor in the Bible. I was especially captivated by the stories of Joseph and Esther, spiritual powerhouses hand selected by God to impact the culture and transform lives in mighty ways. Both bonafied magnets of preferential treatment, the Lord continually lavished blessings upon them and caused great kings to elevate them to the highest seats of royalty and influence. Even in times of darkness and despair, "the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he

did." (Genesis 39:23)

Job, Nehemiah, Noah, and even a little known Israelite named Naphtali are other Biblical examples of people "abounding with the favor of the Lord and full of His blessing" (Deuteronomy 33:23). It was not by their own strength or power, but the Spirit of God at work in them that transformed their lives from ordinary to extraordinary. A little shepherd boy like David, an orphan like Esther, a fisherman like Peter, and a young virgin like Mary were all recipients of God's tremendous blessings and were catapulted to heights beyond their wildest dreams.

The Bible speaks of a time of favor (2 Corinthians 6:2, Psalms 102:13), and I believe that we have entered into that season. With breakthroughs and audacious blessings flowing freely, it is time for us to boldly make our requests known unto the Lord. We must be fearless and daring enough to reach beyond our current limitations and fully activate the promises of God. He's ready and willing to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20), and it's time for us to stand on the Word He has spoken!

Recommended Readings-- Genesis 39, Esther 2, Psalm 102:13, 2 Corinthians 6:2

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