

Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations are taken from the NEW KING JAMES VERSION of the Bible.

**THE SPIRIT
OF
FAVOR**
- Esther's Story -

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DEDICATION

To everyone who feels stuck in what seems like a hopeless situation. God gave me the vision to write this book because of you.

I believe you will experience the power of God that accelerates life and processes through the revelation in this book. I welcome you into a new season of favor.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to specially acknowledge two Generals of God that have been used to open my eyes to the revelation of divine favor.

Dr. Jerry Savelle, thank you for your obedience to the call. You are indeed an Apostle of divine favor.

Dr. Mike Murdock, thank you for not holding back on this generation. Your wisdom on divine favor is simply revolutionary.



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PREFACE

It all happened between 486 BC and 465 BC. At this time, Israel had been captured and was under the control of King Ahasuarus of Persia, the reigning empire of that time with 27 provinces spreading from Ethiopia in Africa to India in far-east Asia. King Ahasuarus and his wife Queen Vashti ruled this vast kingdom from Sushan.

Persia was a heathen kingdom that reigned over the Jewish race, the covenant people of God. This seemed like a perfect setting for the Devil. It was how he wanted it and he was looking for the opportunity through his agents to further inflict greater affliction on the Jews, or eliminate them completely.

But God had a different idea. The Israelites were His covenant people. He had obligations by covenant to protect, preserve and prosper them. It was just right for God to ensure the enemy's moves against His people were checkmated and His own program of elevation was realized.

God did not start a war to make this happen. He did not turn the Persian kingdom upside down.

He only introduced an influence of favor, working in such a way that one could easily mistake it for coincidence. To fulfill His plan and purpose in a heathen kingdom, God only needed to reshuffle human resources such that His own people moved up to positions of influence.

This is a classic story of supernatural acts of favor. The stage is set for a series of scenes that changed the face of the then world through the main character, Esther, a lowly Jewish young lady!



INTRODUCTION

The dictates of this book are not from your regular news materials. You may not readily come across it in the media. As a servant of God, I have not come to declare the opinion of men but to express the mind of the Most High. God is saying “My children need not think, talk and act like the world but like Me.” The world sees limitation, for instance, but God sees opportunities. The world is seeing recession right now, but looking with the eye of God, there is wealth and abundance.

I believe God is giving us this message so that we can connect with Him regarding what He is set to do on earth in this season. As the “time” approaches, things are going to get increasingly difficult for those who are moved by fear but increasingly rewarding for those that live by faith. The manifestations of evil will be greater in these last days but as many as will learn how to release the spirit of faith, they will enjoy the blessing more than ever before and faith is the key.

Heaven is tired of unbelieving believers who are children of God but live in worry and anxiety, just like people of the world who have not come to identify with the message of redemption. Not living by faith to God is as serious as fornication, stealing, killing and all the terrible acts that come to mind when you mention the word sin. God is displeased by it.

Anytime and anywhere his children are anxious and worried, He is not delighted. He hates such sights. This dissatisfaction is in harmony with the parent nature in Him. It hurts the heart of any parent to know his child does not trust him. No parent who is all out to give to his children will like watching them crawling and begging, when he is willing and yearning to give them everything they will ever need. God is the perfect example of parenthood.

Parental instinct that is present in human beings has its origin in God. So, you can imagine the pain in the heart of God, when His children don't trust Him. When faith is not in place, receiving things from God becomes difficult. But faith is simply based on the Word of God. There is a direct relationship: Much focus on the Word produces much faith; little or no

focus on the Word readily causes doubt, worry and anxiety. And lack or absence of faith allows the evil trend of happenings of this world to play itself out in one's life. For there to be a difference, there must be faith that will carry through. For there to be faith, there must be constant meditation on and affirmation of the Word of God. The good news of God must overshadow the news of this world.

The good news from God that I have brought you in this book is centered on one word, "Favor". By simple definition, favor is that godly distinguishing influence that comes upon a man causing him to stand out in his environment. To be favored means to be accepted, to be singled out for good, to be admired and sought after, to be respected and honored. When the spirit of favor is upon you, men will prefer you.

We will be looking at this anointing of favor through the biblical story of Esther, a young slave girl. She became the queen of the reigning nation of her days and she used her position to set her people free all by the favor of God. This study is set to make you believe God for favor just like you would believe for anything.

It will make your faith stable until manifestations of grace arrive at your doorstep. You will receive favor, just like anything that God supplies, by faith.

In just a matter of time, as you develop your faith for favor through this book, things are going to be happening in your life beyond your wildest imagination. God will work out something great for you. According to His Word, this is the set time to favor you. God, who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we could ever ask, think or imagine, has decided to favor you. He is committed to your elevation in life. He is not trying to make up His mind about this; His mind is already made up.

Get ready for a lifting. There is a spirit of favor upon you. No matter what is happening out there, no matter what news is being carried around, this is your hour to be honored. Contrary to the reports of men, for you this is the best time to live.

Kayode Ijisesan



Chapter 1

Favor: The Believer's Heritage

Of all the creations of God, man has always been God's favorite. God prefers you and I! When God made everything in the beginning, He made man with the intent and desire that he should have dominion and control. Of all God's creation, man was the only one made in His image and likeness. In addition, God gave man the authority to exercise dominion on earth as He does in heaven (Genesis 3:16-24). But man disobeyed God by partaking of the forbidden fruit and thereby losing favor with God. This is where disfavor came from. It became difficult for God to express His favor on earth through mankind.

However, God made special provision through the covenant. Covenant was designed by God to have favorites on earth that will carry out His desires. He separated a set of people for His favor: Abraham,

Isaac (Abraham's son), Jacob (Isaac's son) and their descendants, the children of Israel. All through the Old Testament, it is observed that these men lived extraordinary lives because they were specially favored by God. The plan and purpose of God continued through His chosen people.

As a Christian, you are God's favorite because you are a child of Abraham. There are many promises in His word that distinguishes you as God's favorite. Some are: None of the diseases of the Egyptians will come upon you (Exodus 15:26b); A thousand will fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you (Psalm 91:7); You will be the head and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13a, 44b); amongst so many others.

Some may ask, "What about the rest of the people?" Actually, it is not your prerogative to think or plan for God. His word says, as many as will receive Him, He will empower to become His sons (John 1:12-13). As a believer, God has accepted you in the beloved. That means you are highly favored. You are part of God's chosen in the present.

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Factor in Favor

So, favor is the Christian's heritage. It is something that has been bequeathed by covenant. The life of a Christian is such a life that should bring glory to the Lord's name. It should be a good life that is not bound by sin, sickness, or lack. A life that literally communicates God's goodness to his environment.

If God says you are chosen, therefore, He expects you to accept it. It is not your duty to figure out how you will make it in life. You cannot fathom how He will make you great. He is the controller of heaven and earth. He has the ability to change your situation without breaking a sweat. Your natural background and experiences should not determine where you end up in life. You have a supernatural background of favor in God's covenant!

This concept of favor needs to be well understood so that you can consciously factor it in daily. Despite your natural background, walk as God's favorite because of your inheritance in Jesus.

Favor Heritage Proven... Esther 2:1-8

Esther grew up to find herself in rather gloomy circumstances. Father and mother were no more; she was raised by her older cousin, Mordecai. In addition, she was a slave girl in a foreign land. Everything pointed to a low life to be lived under oppression.

However, Esther did not allow the situation in which she found herself to determine her future. She realized she was a child of the covenant, and because of that she should be preferred, her background notwithstanding. When the position of the queen opened up in the palace Esther did not disqualify herself. She believed in her heritage of favor and put it to work to become the queen of the most powerful nation of her time.

Esther had a covenant perspective of favor in spite of the circumstances around her.

Some Christians have missed God's plan by a thousand miles thinking it is so right to say everything they had in life was a product of their sweat. Instead of saying, "Everything I have is a product of my sweat", what about saying, "Everything I have is a product of divine favor?" God expects you to live off His favor and rely less on your natural efforts.

So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Romans 9:16

In the first place, your sweat is not meant to be the primary thing that produces for you. Work is commanded by God, but it is different from toiling. Work has been greatly abused. Work is primarily designed to release your potentials.

Toil and sweat in relation to work was only introduced when Adam sinned. It was a result of sin that God said, "...from the sweat of your face, you will eat all the days of your life" (Genesis 3:17-19). However, in Christ Jesus, things have been restored.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13-14

Instead of toil, you now have abundance of grace to function by.

God says:

“I have replaced toiling for favor. You are going to be aided supernaturally; you are going to be preferred. People will just look at you and say I don’t know why I’m doing this but i just want to do this for you.”

This is not a strange lifestyle. It is yours.

When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Proverbs 16:7

There is a spirit of favor hovering upon God’s people.

When you factor it in, things will begin to line up and work for you, and you wouldn't even know how You will just enjoy the manifestation. It is a work of grace which Jesus has already done for you. You have been qualified and called to enjoy the riches of His grace.

That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:7

There are levels of God's grace and favor that have been experienced and enjoyed in times past. However, in this age, we will experience them at the greatest depth. The level of favor manifestation that the Jews experienced when Moses led them out of Egypt is much lower to what is available for us in this present dispensation.

And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.

Exodus 3:21

Testimonies we have heard that got us so thrilled and

excited will seem like child's play because of God's favor that will manifest in our own days. You and I are in a better position to shine because we have a better covenant based on better promises.

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

Hebrews 8:6

You are God's chosen. You are highly favored. And all God needs you to do is to accept that truth. By God's inheritance, you have made it already. It does not matter what your bank account reads now, you have the anointing of favor upon you that brings all the wealth you need to you.

Child of God, your mind is not developed enough to calculate God. You don't need to evaluate yourself based on your level of income right now. God does not need your salary to increase you. Your paycheck must be separated from your capacity for wealth and favor. Accept who you are and leave the path of manifestation to God.

God Says:

“As far as your provision is concerned, I am your shepherd. I will supply your needs according to my own account in glory.”

There is a concept of inheritance God wants you to gain. You have a heritage of favor. You are preferred and special. That is who you are. In this world you are meant to be celebrated by favor.

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- You were chosen to be favored before the foundation of the world.
- Embrace your identity as God's chosen one. You are His beloved.
- Be conscious about your favor heritage in order to maximally profit from it. Factor it in.
- Irrespective of your circumstances, God can turn things around to favor you.
- The manifestation of God in this generation will surpass all the previous generations. This is the best time to live.



Chapter 2

Favor: The Solution to Affliction

If indeed the spirit of favor is upon us as Christians, why do we still face so much adversity? Now, the Bible does not say the child of God will not be opposed. In fact, opposition is part of the deal but at the end you are promised the manifestation of your victory.

However, opposition does not imply the absence of favor. The enemy of your soul will always challenge the spirit of favor on your life. For as long as you are standing on the principles of the Word, God has you covered. He is working to deliver and honor you. As far as God is concerned, your trouble is a set-up for your glory.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Psalm 34:19

It's all a set-up. The devil in his dumbness may be thinking he is winning your case. The hosts of hell may be rejoicing thinking they are having their way. But God's wisdom and operation is far above theirs. Eventually, what they think is victory for them will be loss, proving their eternal failure.

Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1 Corinthians 2:8

So many times, people of God get so affected and disturbed about things that are happening on the surface. They get distracted by what is going on in the natural. However, when you are established in the revelation that God is a caring father, you will be in a position to trust Him. You will be confident that situations are going to turn around in your favor so that His name can be magnified.

The devil will regret ever putting you through the situation you are going through today because at the end he will be sad and mad at your victory.

God Says:

“At the end of the day, I will be glorified. I need you to have courage and be encouraged. I need you to get to a place that you know I am working things out for you.”

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls; Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Some people are fond of magnifying their problems :
“This is too much, I can't take it,” they say. Don't ever say you can't take it.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the

comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

God is interested in making a ministry out of the situation you might be going through. He wants to comfort you so that you can comfort other people in similar situation. He literally wants to give you a message out of the so called “mess.”

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

You are unstoppable if you will not give up, cave in or quit. No situation can overcome you. The favor of God is always there to put you over in life.

The presence of opposition is not the absence of favor. God knows you have the strength to take it so don't let Him down. He is working behind the scenes and watching over His Words to perform it.

God Says:

“Don’t get carried away by the natural. I’m God that works behind the scene. I’m not a hasty God but God of eternity. Time will pass away and I will still be there. Whatever you are going through will pass away; there is no trial that lasts forever.”

This is well echoed in the written Word.

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.

Psalm 30:5

It may look so dark at 1 a.m., still dark at 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. But after 5 a.m. something begins to happen. The darkness begins to clear. At 6.30 a.m. rays of light begin to show. By 8 a.m. light is everywhere. No condition of darkness will last forever.

Favor out of Disfavor...Esther 3,6

It was very dark for Mordecai and the Jewish people. They were being threatened by Haman, the King's right hand man, who was all out to destroy them. He got the king to sign a document to destroy the Jews. It seemed Haman would have his way and there was nothing anyone could do about it. But God showed up for Mordecai and his people. He laid his hands on the king and he could not sleep until something was done for someone whom he delighted to honor.

Haman was asked to name the reward and his request was high, thinking it was for him. He was in for the shock of his life when the king declared the recipient of such a huge reward – Mordecai the Jew. Haman was devastated as he watched Mordecai get promoted supernaturally. He was plunged into his own darkness as light suddenly came bursting forth on the side of Mordecai and the Jews.

The story of favor does not come without opposition but victory is guaranteed at the end and so you need to

think favor all the time. Joseph, despite his dreams, had some oppositions on his path. His brothers conspired against him (Genesis 37:18-27) and Potiphar's wife accused him of wrongdoing (Genesis 39:7-20) but at the end of it all, he was made the prime minister of the land of Egypt (Genesis 41:37-42). Mordecai was opposed by Haman (Esther 5:13-14) but Mordecai ended up inheriting Haman's position (Esther 8:15-17; 10:1-3). Eventually, it was Mordecai and Esther who were promoted to take over the whole kingdom, in spite of the fact that it was a foreign land to the Jews.

So, you do not have any reason not to shine for God. Wherever you may be in any part of the world, the favor of God will distinguish you among men of different races. Your race is not a hindrance. You must realize that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). The most important thing is to sincerely love God and walk in His ways and His favor will find expression in your life in ways beyond your comprehension.

The Bible says that when a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him (Proverbs 16:7). God's Word also says that the heart of a king is in the hand of the Lord and like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes (Proverbs 21:1). Therefore, if you stay connected with Him, you will exhibit the glory of God and your testimonies are next in line.

God never promised that it will be smooth all of the time but He said you will overcome and that's what counts. How will you have a testimony to share if you don't have a battle to win? If there is no battle to fight, where will the testimony come from? Let courage strengthen your heart to overcome any opposition or adversity.

Restoration by Favor

The devil may have stolen something from you. There is no need to cry over it. You only need to understand the mind of God about that matter.

God Says:

I am the God of restoration. I will restore the years the locust has eaten. I will not just

bring it back to where it was before; I will bring it back to where it is meant to be in my original agenda.”

Can you believe God to show up for you? Can you demand your restoration off the enemy? Say “Devil, I came to recover what you have stolen from me in years past, and I will do so with interest.” Make a demand by the spirit of favor. With that bold spirit, you cannot be denied.

Speak the Word of God to harass the devil. Declare that you are favored and you don't have fear in you. The meaning of fear is 'false evidence appearing real.' The meaning of grace is unmerited favor. The truth is that you are favored so you don't fear.

God never promised you will not be opposed but in every opposition He promised you will come out a winner. You will emerge a victor. The spirit of favor will make you reap the fruits of your adversaries. Favor will come into operation and cancel the things that are against you and get you the things you need for progress.

God Says:

“I’m rich in favor and I want to show you as a specimen of exhibition. I want to tell the world that I’m rich in favor by showing the exceeding riches of favor towards you.”

Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs.

Isaiah 61:7

If someone is trying to take an undue advantage of you, God your covenant initiator and witness is watching your back (Hebrews 6:16-18). Favor will reverse policies that may want to stand in the way of your progress. You don’t have to back out because a document has been signed against your favor. No matter what is written in ink, there is something greater: there is a document written in blood—the covenant Word of God.

Decree Rewritten by Favor...Esther 7&8

By covenant, Mordecai came out of the situation being victorious and celebrated all over the palace as he took the seat of his enemy Haman. Esther was given the house of Haman. The ring of authority was handed over to Mordecai. Haman had been caught in his own trap. The very plot he designed for Mordecai was used to hang him. Everything that was written against the Jewish nation was reversed overnight because the spirit of favor was at work.

There is victory at the end. The devil will regret ever putting you through that affliction. By the time things turn around, hell will be wailing and heaven will be rejoicing over the manifestation of your victory. By favor, your miracle will happen.

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- The presence of opposition does not indicate the absence of divine favor.
- Favor positions you to overcome every affliction of life. Deliverance is guaranteed by favor at all times for every child of God.
- There is no temptation that you cannot handle. You are favored by God to overcome all the challenges of life.
- Policies are changed by divine favor. Favor will cause decisions to be made to give you divine advantage in life.
- God wants to show you as a specimen of exhibition. He wants to display His riches through your life.



Chapter 3

Favor: God, Not Man

Your covenant with God is what positions you for divine favor. Man by himself is not capable of bringing your deliverance. The God factor in man is responsible for any good quality you see in him. Without the God factor, men are so unreliable. So if you need someone to rely on, pick God above men. Always remember, God is responsible for any good thing you see in man. It is only reasonable to go for the ‘root of goodness in man’—God. That is why you shouldn’t go about complaining when someone disappoints you. If a man lets you down, you can be sure God will not let you down.

People generally give too much attention to other men for help or favor, but men are capable of disappointing. Someone may say, “I know him, he is my uncle, he will never disappoint.” This is so untrue. It is dangerous to build your future around a man.

Your deliverance is not tied to a man but to God. It is tied to covenant.

God Says:

“I am not man that should lie or give up on you. By covenant I am obligated to come through for you.”

Whenever you have an undue expectation from man you set yourself up for disappointment. Even if that man has been of assistance to you before, he is just a channel and God can decide to use another channel anytime. You cannot afford to put your hope on a channel.

Instead, put your hope in God, the Source. The spirit of favor is not tied to a channel, it is tied to covenant. When a man in a good position does not want to cooperate with you or help you, leave him alone. If he will not do it, your covenant with God will ensure that another man is raised up to help you. It is not about a man, it is about God. When men disappoint you, don't take it against them. It's simply an opportunity for God to demonstrate His faithfulness. You need God more than any individual on earth.

God is the only one you cannot replace in your life.

God Says:

“I’m committed to you. Your faith should not be in the system of men. These things will pass away but there is something that never fails, and that is the covenant you have with me. I am not merely committed to you; I am committed by covenant.”

Mordecai Trusted God...Esther 4

As a result of Mordecai’s unshakable conviction in the covenant, he knew that God would come to their rescue even though he tore his clothes and mourned.

Even when Esther made excuses that it wasn’t her turn to appear before the king he told her that it was a privilege for her to be in the palace. He made her realize that if she would not do as advised, God would use someone else. He knew that their deliverance was not tied to a person but to their covenant with God.

Esther heeded and cooperated with God. If she hadn't, God would have used another person and Esther would have lost an opportunity to make a mark in her time. God can never be stranded. He will find a better replacement.

Prioritize your Covenant with God

Your covenant with God positions you for favor with men, not the other way round. So your relationship with God comes first; protect it. If any man promises you something that will make you compromise your covenant relationship, refuse such an offer. Such favor is a fake one; it is the kind that brings sorrow at the end. It is not the blessing of the Lord.

The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

Proverbs 10:22

Uncompromising Mordecai...Esther 3:1-5

Mordecai refused to bow down to an operation that was contrary to the covenant. Although all the king's servants bowed down to Haman, Mordecai did not concede his Jewish custom in order to satisfy Haman.

Mordecai had an opportunity to compromise like every other person, but he chose not to. He made Haman realize that he was not God. Mordecai believed that only God deserved to be honored in that manner and he refused to revere Haman in any extraordinary way.

Believers can learn from Mordecai's character. You can stand your ground despite the pressure around you. One of the reasons why people cry for lack of favor in their lives is because they regularly compromise their covenant values. They expect God to act on their behalf, but God is a God of principles. Whatever a man sows, that will he reap.

Never seek the favor of God outside of the law of the love of God. Rather than compromise in an attempt to gain man's favor, focus on your relationship with

God. Don't engage in anything that will affect your relationship with God, because it is your relationship with God that will open you up to the favor from men. Anything you compromise, you will eventually lose.

There are people all over who are ready to dance to the tune of men to do things that are not godly just to gain the favor of men and "move forward" in life. Such people are doing so at their peril.

You have to be real with yourself. You must learn how to say no to men because of your covenant with God. When faced with such temptation, you must be bold enough to decline the offer. Regardless of the circumstances you are faced with, don't give in. Decide that you wouldn't explain yourself out of your core values. As long as you abide by the principles of God's Word you will prevail in the end. God will defend you. God will fulfill His promise of favor because He is committed by covenant. It is time to put your hope in the covenant keeping God.

The covenant comes with the spirit of favor. It makes it impossible for you to be stopped or limited.

Don't expect your harvest to come from men even when you do something for them. You reap what you sow not necessarily where you sow! No man has what it takes to reward you. God in heaven is watching over your seed. He will make sure your harvest comes at the right time when it is most needed. God is directly in charge of your harvest.

God Says:

“I am the one in charge of harvest. Don't look in the direction of men. If you have done something good for someone, expect your harvest from me. I am the Lord of your harvest.”

Fear God, not Men

Therefore, you must not allow yourself to be intimidated by a man because of his position. You should respect and give honor to men, but don't live in the fear of any man. It is only God that must be reverently feared and worshiped.

It is God who exalts one and pulls down another (Psalm 75:6-7).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

When you revere God, His favor will be upon you and men will treat you with respect. The fear of the Lord will position you for uncommon favor. It will also open your life to uncommon wisdom. Can you imagine what will happen when you combine uncommon favor with uncommon wisdom? Uncommon breakthrough!

Don't allow anyone to make you feel like you cannot achieve anything without Him. You have a covenant with an all-sufficient God. He knows how to fix you up with the best of opportunity in life whenever you need one. Your life is covered by a God that is committed to your welfare. You are highly connected!

Success is a product of relevant relationships. Whoever is needed to connect to you will be drawn to you by favor. They will walk along your path and you will notice them. You will meet some of them in places you least expect and before you know it, you will be ruling kingdoms.

God Says:

“What I have called you to do will require some good relationships. You can’t do what you are called to do by yourself. It will require people that will be drawn to you by favor.”

You are a man of favor, so expect favor everywhere. By favor, you will meet the right person. By favor you will be connected with the right people. You will be in that position of change just on time. Being at the right place, at the right time with right people, you will be elevated because favor is at work.

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Let your confidence be in the covenant keeping God; He is ever dependable.
- Your covenant with God positions you for favor with men. Protect your covenant values; don't compromise.
- God is in charge of your harvest. Don't expect your harvest to come from men even when you do something for them.
- The fear of the Lord positions you to combine uncommon favor with uncommon wisdom to produce uncommon breakthrough.
- Success is a product of relevant relationships. Whoever is needed to connect to you will be drawn to you by favor.



Chapter 4

Favor: The Kingdom Connection

Favor is all about special treatment. It is preferring someone over others and honoring such a person. The yardstick for such preference may not be so clear in the natural. Why should someone be promoted over others yet all of them are, more or less, carrying out the same endeavor? At times, it seems favor is not fair.

Contest Decided by Favor...Esther 2

Mordecai literally brought Esther up, having taken her as his own daughter. God had a plan and this young woman was the instrument God was to use for the purpose. All of a sudden, there was a vacancy in the palace. It was Mordecai's time to tutor Esther: "You are going to get to the palace. You are going to be selected."

Many beautiful maidens entered for the contest. Esther was just one of them. They all went through the same preparation and training. And when it was time to go into the king's presence, all the maidens were given a free hand to choose what they will take along. They were all on the same platform, naturally.

But favor singled Esther out. When she entered the king's court, he just fell in love with her. She obtained favor and grace in his sight more than all the other virgins. Apart from her natural beauty, there was a force of attraction upon her. The spirit of favor was really at work. Esther became the queen neither totally on merit nor by a stroke of luck, but by the hand of favor.

To single out someone for a special treatment does not sound fair really, but God is not partial. He loves His children the same way. The only difference is that He is a God of purpose. He does things on purpose. And when a man keys in on His purpose, that man catches His favor. His favor is always in the direction of His will.

The purpose of God is to bring His reign and influence upon the earth and the way to do that is to have His own people that speak His language, have His way of thinking and act like Him to be in positions and places of influence.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

God does not prefer you just because He wants you to drive the latest car or live in the biggest house in town. Yes, He wants you to have all of that. However, He prefers and honors you because He wants His will done on earth. He needs people that will not compromise His principles. He needs people He can trust with resources. He needs people He can ask to distribute materials as He wills. He is not doing it just for your material possession; He is doing it primarily for the purpose of His kingdom.

For Such a Time as This... Esther 4

Esther became a queen by God's favor. However, her position was not primarily for her enjoyment. There came a time when it was required for her to approach the King concerning God's people, the Jews.

When she tried to shy away from this responsibility, Mordecai reminded her that relief and deliverance will come to the Jews by another means but that she and her father's family will perish. He also highlighted the possibility that God put her there for such a time.

Esther heeded Mordecai's advice. She aligned herself to do God's purpose concerning His kingdom and she experienced God's favor. She surrendered herself to be used by God to rescue the Jews.

There are many people that are in the kingdom (born-again children of God) but are not experiencing any kind of favor in their endeavor because they are not kingdom-minded and are not living the kingdom lifestyle. God cannot trust them with resources, for instance.

The favor that would have met them seeking the kingdom and abiding by its covenant keeps eluding them. The question is: How committed are you to God's kingdom and His covenant? How many times have you compromised the kingdom because of some gain? Some people will just compromise "a little bit" simply because "everybody does it." They call it wisdom, but it is not wisdom at all. It is compromise and it only makes you to lose your advantage with God.

Remember, it is the covenant that will birth your favor. Why will God raise you if you will not stand for His kingdom? Why will He elevate you far above others when you will not represent Him? God thinks about His kingdom above everything else.

God Says:

"I need you to put the kingdom first. If you don't put the kingdom first, I have no obligation to raise you."

Favor is for the covenant-minded people. In Bible times, all the people that God worked with in their quest for favor were people that were committed to

the covenant and the kingdom. He has not changed. As a strategic master builder, He wants to introduce and enforce His kingdom in that sphere of life that He has purposed for you. As a result, He will cause you to have great influence by favor.

There is need for right positioning in order to experience God's favor. It's all about His kingdom. You must be covenant minded. You must realize He has placed you where you are because He has an agenda. You are a man on a mission. You are not just here to feed you and your immediate family, but to fulfill the purpose of God.

As a result of purpose, men will favor you. They will wonder why things are happening for you. That is a good time to testify of God's goodness and favor, bringing them under the influence of the kingdom. And it goes on and on, until God's divine purpose in your life is fully accomplished.

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- When a man is kingdom-minded, he attracts God's favor.
- The purpose of God's favor is not primarily for material possessions. It is about the advancement of His kingdom.
- God needs people that He can trust with His resources. Be committed to a life that is free of compromise.
- God desires to have His own people that speak His language, have His way of thinking and act like Him to be in positions and places of influence.
- You are a man on a mission. You are not just here to feed you and your family, but to fulfill the purpose of God.



Chapter 5

Favor: The Place For Mentoring

As much as favor is a free gift from God, it needs a combination of factors to work and be sustained. One major factor to seeing the favor of God at work is mentoring. There is need for a strong and effective mentoring to protect the favor of God in a man's life. Not having a mentor may be the missing link that is hindering favor from manifesting.

Every man needs a mentor; someone who can speak and call him to order when there is such a need. Why? Each one of us has his flaws. We are all capable of making mistakes or getting carried away. Even in the midst of success or when one is so convinced of a vision he has received from God, there is still need for a mentor who will guide and correct.

Right Counsel Brings Favor... Esther 2, 4

God placed Mordecai in Esther's life as a mentor and he fulfilled that role to ensure her success. Without Mordecai, the story of Esther would have been different. She would have missed it and her name would have been long forgotten. It was Mordecai that helped her to stay focused. Her going to the palace was his counsel in the first place. He coached her to abide by the ordinances of the covenant there.

Mordecai helped to protect the process of favor taking place in Esther's life by charging her not to publicize her identity as a Jew in the king's house. Left for her, she would have told everyone in excitement. But "there is a time to talk and a time to keep quiet." Mordecai cautioned Esther and she was able to preserve her destiny.

Also, at the defining moment of her life, Esther would have missed her opportunity if not for Mordecai. When she was reluctant to go to the king's presence to plead for her people because of a standing decree, Mordecai made it clear to her it was just her opportunity to shine

so that whenever the history of Jews is being mentioned her name would be there. And if she did not do it, God would raise someone else that will. Through Mordecai's guidance, Esther realized her purpose in the palace and God's plan to save the Jews at a very crucial time.

Anyone living a life of total independence is living a dangerous life. Such “alpha and omega” lifestyle only leads to destruction. It aborts destiny and brings shame. Why would one want to live in such a delusion that only leads to destruction? None of us is that smart or great. We all need mentors.

You cannot afford to be so rigid in your thinking that you don't find a need for a mentor. Because God spoke to you does not mean you don't need other people. No matter how convinced you are of what you are doing, there is a way you relate with a mentor that will make him have his input in what you are doing. If God has spoken to you on something, you still need some form of human involvement to carry it out. That is why we have pastors and teachers. That is why we go to church.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:11-13

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14

For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 24:6

Yes, a mentor will acknowledge you when you are doing the right thing but he will call you to order when you are going the wrong way. Your mentor is not your fan. You can get all the accolades from your fans, but not from your mentor. He is in your life to chart the way of progress and in doing so, he will definitely see things you need to change.

Your mentor is not carried away by your success. He is not moved by your finances or material possessions. That is why he is not afraid to confront you on issues. He will tell you not to be puffed up because of your wealth. He is not afraid to tell you the truth.

There are cases of protégés who have attained certain heights and because of that will no longer listen to their mentors any more. This is simply pride. You may have more money than your mentor. You may have accomplished more, but that destiny of yours still needs to be preserved. It is one thing to get to the top; it is another thing to stay at the top. The people God used for you to get there most probably are the ones He will still use to keep you there.

Continuous Mentoring...Esther 2:11

After Esther got to the king's palace, Mordecai still hung around as her mentor on a daily basis. Mordecai would come to the gate of the palace every day. And he wasn't just coming to have fun; he was coming to examine how she was going about things and carrying out her daily routine.

As he observed, he would point out to her where she needed to make amends. He was busy watching, instructing and guiding. Mordecai literally preserved the destiny of Esther. He was used of God to bring out the purpose of God in Esther's life.

You will always need some fresh input of counsel to keep you focused and point out your season of opportunity even when you are not seeing anything. Your season of change may come and you may not see it, but your mentor will see it. You will never outgrow being mentored.

The Riches of Counsel... Esther 4

Esther's position changed immediately after Mordecai her mentor charged her to go into the king's presence without an invitation, an action that naturally spelled doom. His words hit home when he looked at her and said, "If you don't do it, it is your loss because God will bring someone else into the picture that will do it. Could it be that you are in the palace for such a time as this?"

Esther called for a fast and made a decision to go into the king's presence not minding the worst. She went on to face the greatest risk of her life at the word of a worthy mentor. She and her race were preserved and the enemies of the Jews were destroyed.

Apart from Esther's story, we can see other examples in Scripture. Moses had a mighty rod that worked wonders but he needed the counsel of Jethro to relieve him of stress that could have destroyed him. Moses was Joshua's mentor; Elijah was Elisha's. God has placed mentors like these in your life for your destiny. Don't ignore them or their counsels.

You need a mentor. If you don't have one, get one. Don't just go about with friends and fans that sing your praises. Strong and effective mentoring will produce strong and effective favor. Get mentored so as to get favored.

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- You need a good mentor to keep your focus on God and your purpose.
- You need to discern and understand God's timing and seek the counsel of your mentor before making any major decision.
- Your mentor does more than acknowledge your progress, he also calls you to order when it is necessary.
- You can never outgrow the need for mentoring and you will always need a mentor irrespective of your status in life.
- Strong and effective mentoring will produce manifestations of divine favor.



Chapter 6

Favor: The Place of Right Attitude

Why is it that we see people who seem to be spiritual but are without the manifestation of favor in their lives? Yes, they are zealous in the things of God but they don't have results that are consistent with the blessing. The problem may be in the area of attitude.

There are natural laws to receiving favor. People usually play down on natural qualities to their disadvantage. Your attitude is a major part of your life. It can draw favor to you or keep it away from you. The way you conduct yourself regularly therefore matters in the scheme of things.

Good Attitude Attracts...Esther 2:5-10

Esther conducted herself in a good manner in the palace. Apart from the operation of favor in her life, she literally cooperated with people God sent her

way and obtained favor naturally. She knew she needed to be trained so she submitted herself to Hegai, the keeper of women. She did all that the man told her to do.

All the maidens were given a free hand to choose anything they wanted to take to the king's court. But Esther listened to the keeper of the women, who knew what the king really wanted, and took only the things that he required her to take. She was not just conscious of the covenant; she understood that honor brings favor. Esther's character was exceptional among the maidens and by the time she appeared in the king's presence, she was distinct.

Your attitude will determine your altitude. When you conduct yourself in an honorable way, you draw favor. When you treat people with honor it is only natural for favor to show up. Nothing stops the flow of favor like pride and arrogance.

As a parent, your job is to drive this quality into your children. There are some ungodly cultures you need to attack. Against the modern trend, teach them to honor people and respect people in authority. Teach

them to treat others right.

Being spiritual does not qualify you to break natural laws. There are natural laws governing favor and those laws must be kept. These laws are needed for elongated success. It is one thing to obtain success; it is another thing to maintain success. The energy needed to maintain success is even higher than the energy needed to get there.

Be Prepared

Preparation is a keyword where favor is concerned. You must have the right attitude to go through the preparation needed for your favor to manifest. The reason only a few people obtain excellent results in life is because most people are not positioned for success. God has a great plan for your success, however, you must be ready for it. You must prepare yourself for your favor by being willing to make all the necessary amendments in your life.

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-11

The question is, are you positioned for destiny? Are you prepared for it? God is prepared but you also must prepare to receive what has been prepared by God. One can have great gifts and potentials but without adequate preparation, manifestation will never come.

In the game of soccer, for a goalkeeper to be effective, his positioning is vital. He has to be at the right place all the time to catch the ball. The same way, God is going to direct favor towards you but the question is, will you be well positioned to catch?

Getting Ready for Favor...Esther 2:7-9

Esther was well brought up and tutored. She must have kept herself well as a young lady because it is said she was very fair and beautiful. She was attractive naturally in beauty and manners.

Esther understood authority. When she was brought to the king's palace, she submitted herself. She was prepared and was picked by God. And His choice was not by luck or sentiments. The favor of God came upon her because she was prepared.

You can position yourself through preparation. Step by step God will be guiding you by giving you instructions and assigning some roles to you. Your miracle comes by these instructions. Your willingness to obey is your ride to the destiny God has prepared for you. If God gives a man an instruction but he takes it lightly, he will not be positioned for elevation.

God Says:

“I need you in the palace. I need you where policies and decisions are being made. I need you there and that is why there will be upsets in those places. Some people are going to lose their job for your sake. I need you prepared for this. I am orchestrating this and I am taking you there.”

You must deal with character flaws. Your attitude to instructions given by an authority is very important. Inappropriate attitudes such as disobedience will stop you from experiencing God's favor. Bad attitude will literally abort your destiny. You can't afford to lose your destiny as a result of indiscipline and bad manners. You are pregnant with greatness and you must protect the pregnancy until the due time for its delivery.

Be prepared for your favor. Get on with obedience by following the steps God will have for you along the way, no matter how insignificant they may seem. Get ready! Favor is beckoning.

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Your attitude will determine your altitude. A good attitude will also enable you to maintain your altitude.
- You must supply the needed ‘natural’, and then God will crown it with the ‘super’, so that you will end up with supernatural results.
- Adequate preparation positions you for divine favor.
- Your manifestation will require more than your gifts.
- You must conquer every wrong attitude in order to keep your favor flow.



Chapter 7

Favor: A Divine Process

Divine favor is not by chance or accident. It comes from God. It may seem to happen within a moment but the reality is that it is usually a process. Different things come into play to ensure it. And if one is not observant, he may think nothing is happening in the present. But God is working behind the scenes on behalf of His people.

Favor Process at Work...Esther 1

The Jewish people were ruled by a foreign kingdom. Their situation was not in line with the covenant of their forefathers. They must have been literarily disappointed and discouraged. But God was working behind the scene pressing the favor button.

There was fun in the atmosphere as King Ahasuarus decided to have a feast for his dignitaries and all the inhabitants of Sushan.

And after the king had been drunken seven days, an influence came upon him and he asked the queen to be brought to show her beauty. But the influence worked on her to go against the king's wish. Queen Vashti got carried away and refused the king's offer.

She literarily rebelled.

The king was mad. The queen's behavior could not be tolerated. He and his advisers came to the conclusion that Vashti was not worthy to be the queen of the land. Her position was declared vacant.

On the surface, people around the palace might feel pity for Vashti, but it was all orchestrated from the realm of the spirit. It was an essential part of the process to get His own – Esther – to a position of influence so that His people would be preserved supernaturally. It was all favor at work.

The question is: Can you trust God enough to follow through the process of favor for you? It may not look like things are working outwardly. However, know that something definitely is happening for you.

Heaven is not just watching your case. God cannot be limited by any situation in the natural. There are so many explanations you can give to the reason why your situation is not looking good but know that God is working behind the scene on your behalf.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

There is a realm of the spirit that is greater than the natural. What is seen in the natural is actually being controlled by the realm of the spirit.

Seed Time and Harvest

The process of favor works based on the principle of seed time and harvest. There is always the best time for the seed to turn into a harvest. And God preserves the seed until the harvest time is right. If the harvest comes before then it would be immature.

Time to Reap...Esther 2:21-23; 6:1-12

When two men, Bigthan and Teresh, were planning to kill King Ahasuarus, Mordecai the Jew revealed their plot to the authority and the two men were hanged. Somehow, the king did not grant Mordecai any compensation. He literally forgot about it. But God did not. And as far as He was concerned it was a seed for a future harvest.

One night the king could not sleep because he needed to favor someone. The king asked if there was any man who had done something great but had not been honored for it. Haman was asked to recommend what should be done for such a man. He thought he was the one the king wanted to honor. So he designed a plan of honor and submitted the proposal.

The proposal came at the right time – when the book of remembrance was opened and Mordecai's past good deed was brought out. Mordecai got a promotion as a result and Haman got mad. But there was nothing he could do. The harvest came right on time to put Haman to shame and thwarted his evil plan for Mordecai and the Jews.

At the right time, the process of favor came to fruition and the result for Mordecai was a landslide.

Your seed will ensure that the favor of God shows up in your life. This is why you must learn to sow good seeds. Your seeds of today start the process of favor that will culminate in your harvest of honor tomorrow.

In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

Ecclesiastes 11:6

God knows the right time to bring up the right seed. There are different kinds of seeds. Some bring harvest fast while others take a while but all seeds produce harvest eventually. The timing may be different but the process will definitely be complete.

A good lesson on this is the story of the Chinese Bamboo Tree. It seems that this tree when planted, watered, and nurtured for an entire growing season doesn't outwardly grow as much as an inch. You can imagine how frustrating it would be for a farmer that does not understand the process of growth where Chinese Bamboo Tree is concerned. After the second growing season, a season in which the farmer takes extra care to water, fertilize and care for the bamboo tree, the tree still hasn't sprouted. This continues for the next four years. The farmer has minimal manifestation in terms of growth to show for all his efforts all those years. Suddenly in the fifth year the Chinese bamboo tree seed begins to sprout and the tree grows up to eighty feet in just one growing season!

It takes a man of understanding to appreciate the growth of the Chinese Bamboo Tree in the first four years of its planting. The foundation for the outward growth seen in the fifth year was laid in those four years. That was the time when a strong root system that is required for a eighty feet tree is developed. It takes such an unseen foundation to support an exponential outward growth in the fifth year.

The process of favor works in a similar. You simply need to trust your covenant keeping God who is always working behind the scene of your life to bring your favor into manifestation in due season.

God Says:

“I gave you the pattern in my Word so that you can believe in the manifestation in your days. If you will believe me, things will begin to change in your life that does not make sense. You need to appreciate my agenda. I will do whatever it takes to fulfill my purpose.”

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Some people have the opportunities to sow seeds but let it pass. When a man of understanding and revelation sees an avenue, he grabs it immediately. He knows God is keeping that seed for the right time—the day of manifestation.

When the right time comes, the power of God will toss things around. All he needs to do is move His feet and the process of favor will be complete. Just a toss can change everything.

The question is: Can you trust God before and until the process is completed and your manifestation comes? The God of favor is always working behind the scene. No matter how bad things may look right now He is working on how things might be worked out in your favor. Maybe some people forgot about the good things you have done for them; God has not forgotten. He is guarding that seed all the way to its harvest.

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

John 12:24

The beginning point of the process of favor is the seed planting. But the seed will have to die, meaning you won't see it in that form again and it will seem lost and gone. It then goes on to develop roots and before you know it, the shoot will appear. And on and on it

grows to full harvest at the end of the process.

If there is anything you are trusting God that is covered in His Word, know that it is in progress. And the manifestation is on the way.

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Favor is a process; it doesn't come by chance or accident.
- Every manifestation of favor that is seen in the natural is controlled from the realm of the spirit.
- God is always working behind the scenes to direct the affairs of men to favor His covenant people.
- The process of favor works based on the principle of seed time and harvest. There is always a due season for the manifestation of your harvest.
- Allow your seed to die properly so that it can multiply effectively into your desired harvest of favor.



Chapter 8

Favor: A Product of Faith

The study in this book must get you to a point where your mind is made up to receive what God has for you. It does not matter how far you are from the manifestation of God's will regarding favor, your story will change if you will begin to pay attention to God's Word on favor.

The Word has already promised you favor, so you need to get to a point in life where you begin to challenge things that are not consistent with favor in your life. If what you are going through is not in agreement with scripture, then it is not okay.

Every favor-determining factor culminates in faith. For you to manifest your heritage of favor, you need faith. You must have faith to stay through the process of favor until it leads to full manifestation. Faith that is based on God's Word is the way to receive favor from God.

God's Word is the seed that produces the fruit of faith.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

The Bible is real. Its promises are real. Everything promised in the Word is guaranteed by a blood covenant. The Word has an inherent ability to become whatever it promises. Those promises are effected in people's lives by faith—believing and acting on the promises in the Word of God.

By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Romans 10:17

Everything that needs to be done has been done. Jesus has died for our sin. He does not need to go to the cross again. He will not need to call a special intercessory prayer on your behalf in heaven. Everything that needs to be done has been done. You need to rest in

the Word of God. While the people of the world are going around toiling, you rest in these promises, and through them you receive favor, because it has already been done and it is yours for the taking.

The revelation of the fact that God has done what needs to be done makes you rest in God. It imparts in you the boldness to approach God with the expectation that He will respond to you with the manifestation of favor. Then, you can end your prayer with thanksgiving knowing that favor will show up for you.

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Mark 11:24

This is the way you develop a lifestyle of expectation where the favor of God is concerned. You expect result of favor because it is promised in the Word.

When your friends that are not favor-conscious talk about how bad things are, you let them appreciate the fact that you don't see what they are seeing.

This is because you can only see the favor of God. The reality of the goodness of God should be greater than every negative situation going on around you. You must be filled with the consciousness of the spirit of favor. That is the way to walk in the light and excel in life.

You ought to be able to counter every word that is contrary to the spirit of favor by what has been stated in the Word. To do this, the Word must be engraved in your heart. This can be accomplished by the process of meditation.

Meditation of the Word involves a conscious engagement of the mind on the promises of God.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Joshua 1:8

You roll the scriptures on your mind over and over until it becomes so real and personal. That way, the

Holy Spirit can bring out inspired truths that feed the God-kind of faith in your heart.

In order to have success God's way, you must be committed to putting the Word on your mind and heart all the time. It takes a heart full of the Word to walk by faith.

Here are some recommended scriptures that you can meditate on:

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

Job 10:12

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

Psalm 5:12

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.

Psalm 30:5

For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; but it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, because You favored them.

Psalm 44:3

For You are the glory of their strength, and in Your favor our horn is exalted.

Psalm 89:17

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 3:3-4

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

Psalm 102:13

For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord.

Proverbs 8:35

The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, but in My favor I have had mercy on you.

Isaiah 60:10

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17

That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:17

Note: 'Grace' and 'Favor' are used interchangeably.

If we have all these promises, our stories and experiences must be different from the world. We must do something about our faith. And because faith comes by the Word of God, our time in the Word will make a difference. Believing the words of God instead of the words of men is the way to experiencing favor.

Don't go the way of the world's media. Go the way of the Word. Get hold of your Bible and meditate. Get anointed messages into your spirit until they become part of your life. Use the different means by which the Word of God can be heard for the edification of your spirit. Meditate and confess the Word of God until you begin to smell it. When you get to that point, results will be natural.

You may need to lock yourself inside a room and listen to the Word of God. Don't just have a prayer retreat, have a Word retreat as well. Your prayer retreat will not be that effective if you are not established in the Word of God.

At times, when people say they are going on a retreat, one needs to ask what kind of retreat they are going for? When you are so rooted in the Word, your prayer life will be more meaningful. You can't afford to be lazy to fight this good fight of faith. Build your faith until you get to a point of expression and manifestation. Don't just fold your arms and say "It is well with me." No, go get the Word into your system and it will be well with you indeed. Don't always come to ask pastor to pray for you. Get the Word into your system and pray for yourself.

If you are trying to excel because you are smart and well educated or you have human connection, it is clear now you need more than that to excel. You need faith in the Word of God regarding favor. There are lots of smart, bright and intelligent people who are suffering right now. Why? It will take intense light to overcome the gross darkness created by ignorance.

You need to develop your faith in the Word in order to walk in divine favor. This is your chance to increase. God wants to work out certain things for you beyond your wildest imagination. He wants you to align with the spirit of faith so that you can receive what He has for you.

The world calls the present predicament a crisis but for you it is an opportunity because things are changing hands and are coming in your direction. As the world is becoming more fearful the saints of God need to step up in faith. When fear is taking things from people, your own faith will be acquiring them.

God instructs this message to be declared because there is a manifestation on the way. He needs His people's faith stirred to see and receive this manifestation by

faith. Policies are being put into effect right now that will move God's people forward. You must be in the right position to receive.

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:1

You need to be sensitive and be in faith. Attack that mind-set that finds it difficult to believe for being preferred and favored. The recession is not yours. Don't believe the evil report coming from the world system. The heat of this world is not meant to touch you. You will see and hear it but you will not experience it. With favor in place, you will be preserved.

A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.

Psalm 91:7-8

Child of God, it's time to please your heavenly father by getting grounded in Faith. Let faith fill up your heart so that you can draw the favor of God that

makes life enjoyable. Always remember, the just shall live by faith (Habakkuk 2:2).

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Faith is the only way to experience the favor manifestations that the Word promises in a believer's life.
- Fight the good fight of faith; hold on through the process till you see your manifestation.
- Labor in the Word of God to enter into the rest that God has made available for you.
- Your favor is real. The work has been completed. It's time to manifest in favor.
- Despite what may be happening around you, see with the eyes of faith. Believe God's Word that says you are the favored of the Lord.



Chapter 9

Favor: Supernatural Benefits

God has a great plan for the body of Christ in these last days. He is all out to showcase His children to the world. His favor will literally cause every one that is associated with Him to stand out. The best of God will be displayed through His children like never before. It is the set time for Zion to be favored!

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

Psalms 102:13

The Church of Jesus Christ is the present day Zion. This is our time to shine. The favor of God is going to distinguish us from the world. The spirit of favor is upon us to stand out.

In this concluding chapter, I will be highlighting a number of supernatural benefits that are associated with the spirit of favor. My desire is that you will absorb each of them into your spirit until your consciousness of these benefits become overwhelmingly dominant in your life. I want your heart to be so full of these benefits to the point that your expectations in life are totally aligned to them.

1. Supernatural Approval

There is a supernatural approval and recognition that comes with the spirit of favor. It is beyond human comprehension. It influences how you are perceived and received when you show up at any location. It makes total strangers to treat you like an intimate friend. It announces you and causes people everywhere to accept and even celebrate you.

Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her. So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month,

which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:15-17

Esther had this type of effect on people because of God's favor. She literally stood out the moment she stepped into the king's place. Imagine! She obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her. That is supernatural. It can only be God that will make all to fall in love with your personality.

She was not just loved by the king of the land but in addition, the whole cabinet of the king wanted her. Imagine this: You show up at a job interview and even before you respond to any question, the whole panel is already thinking: 'This is a perfect candidate for the position.' This is what the spirit of favor is capable of doing in your life.

2. Supernatural Assistance

You need to realize that as a child of God your support is not limited to the natural. In fact, you need to be more conscious of supernatural assistance than the natural one. This type of support is the most reliable and dependable. It never fails.

Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

Esther 2:9

The favor of God on the life of Esther smoothed the whole process of her selection. She enjoyed supernatural aid. She got everything she wanted. Strangers were willing to assist her because of the favor of God on her life. She lived in the best place according to the scripture above. Every child of God deserves the best in life. We have the spirit of favor that simply gives us the best. We have access to supernatural assistance.

The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in My wrath I struck you, but in My favor I have had mercy on you

Isaiah 60:10

You need to release your faith for this unique kind of divine favor that makes foreigners to get involved in the building of the walls of your life, career, ministry, business and whatever you are dealing in. This is the most reliable type of assistance available in this world. It's high time you laid claim to it.

3. Supernatural Promotion

Promotion speaks of advancement or progress. It is only natural to desire promotion in life. It is rare to find someone who does not want progress in life. But the problem is that most people are looking for it in the wrong places. Any promotion which comes from a fellow man is not authentic because God is the real promoter.

For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.

Psalms 75:6-7

Real promotion comes as a result of divine favor. If a man is responsible for your promotion, the same man or another man can demote you; but if your promotion is by the spirit of favor it is established forever. 1 Peter 5:6 encourages us to consciously submit ourselves under God's mighty hand. That way you become positioned for promotion.

The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:17

Favor distinguished Esther for an uncommon promotion. She was an orphan and a foreigner, but she was promoted into the office of the queen. She had nothing working for her in the natural but the spirit of favor gave her an unusual supernatural promotion. Esther was raised by God's mighty hand against all natural odds.

4. Supernatural Deliverance

God's plan for every covenant child is to walk in total freedom. The favor of God is a force of God that

brings supernatural release and liberation from satanic bondage. The force of favor was at work when Israel was set free from the hands of Pharaoh. The favor of God was so much on them that Pharaoh and his army had to let them go.

It was the same force of favor that delivered and protected Israel from the hands of the wicked during the time of Esther. Haman had plotted that the Jews would be wiped out but the favor of God showed up in the palace for Esther and Mordecai. God, by His favor, turned the tables on Haman. Israel was delivered from the evil plotted against her but Haman and all his people were destroyed.

Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss." So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to

do such a thing?" And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen. Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. 8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!" So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

Esther 7:3-10

As a new covenant child of God, you have the right to expect supernatural deliverance and protection from every evil plot of the enemy. If it worked for them (Natural Jews), it must work for you (Spiritual Jews).

5. Supernatural Dominion

Dominion is a covenant right of every believer. Man walked in it until he fell from glory to sin. However, in Christ Jesus, we have received grace (favor) to ascend back into dominion. You are anointed by the spirit of favor to win every battle in life.

And said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

Esther 8:5

Divine favor will change every policy that is designed to work against you. It will make sure new policies are put in place to guarantee your victory.

Esther did not back out until every contrary policy against God's people was revoked. You must learn to stay through the process until your victory is manifested.

Make up your mind that you are not going to back out of any battle in life until you win. The spirit of favor is on you to ensure your constant victory and breakthrough.

6. Supernatural Increase

God has increase on His mind. He wants to increase you more and more. In fact, He wants you to overflow in increase until it gets to the point that your children can feel its impact. However, our increase does not come by toiling like the world. We work in a different system. We function by favor.

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.

Genesis 26:12

For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; but it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, because You favored them.

Psalms 44:3

*May the Lord give you increase more and more, you
and your children.*

Psalm 115:14

Favor will make you have a hundredfold increase in times of drought. It will ensure that you are supernaturally satisfied when the world's system is crumbling.

Child of God, it is time to enjoy the grace of God that brings fruitfulness and multiplication. Increase is your rightful inheritance. Accept, believe, receive and expect it. You are favored for increase.

7. Supernatural Honor

Man was crowned with glory and honor at the beginning. The first Adam was greatly revered in the Garden of Eden until he lost his place. Grace (favor) came through Jesus to take man back to the lost place of honor and dignity.

*For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
and You have crowned him with glory and honor.*

Psalms 8:5

And the Lord gave the people favor 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.

Exodus 11:3

Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs.

Isaiah 61:7

God wants to restore your honor just like He did for Moses and the rest of the Jews before the Egyptians. The spirit of favor is capable of bringing back your honor. Place a demand by faith and expect your honor to be restored. It is time to receive double honor for all your shame and reproach.

8. Supernatural Restoration

The nation of Israel was well compensated before they left Egypt during the time of Moses. God made sure Egypt was plundered in order to compensate the Jews for all their unpaid labor. Their sons and daughters were well adorned with gold, silver and the

best of apparel.

And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.

Exodus 3:21

Your pay day is here. The favor of God will make sure you are not empty-handed. Your hands must be filled with what you deserve. No more empty hands!

9. Supernatural Relationships

There is no one who knows how to hook you up like God. It does not matter what kind of hook up you need. He has everything in His command. He has got it all. Business, career, marital, academic, political, social and every other relevant connection for your destiny can be found within His favor.

And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while. Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.

Genesis 40:4-5

He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the Lord.

Proverbs 18:22

If you are like Joseph that needs someone to introduce you to the palace, God will send you a butler. It's only the favor of God that can bring the connection to the palace from the prison. It does not make any sense but favor did it. Do you feel stuck presently? Start to factor in God's favor and you will be amazed how God will work it out, if only you will trust in His favor.

I have also come to realize that favor will get you the best spouse in the world if you will trust God. God knows how to bring the perfect candidate for your destiny into your life. Stop toiling in the flesh, just rest in favor and you will be fixed.

10. Supernatural Influence

God has called you to have an influence on your environment. You are born to lead your world. Your world must feel your impact. However, you need the spirit of favor to achieve this. Hard work is not enough. In fact, the world is full of people that are sweating without impact.

And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake."

Genesis 30:27

So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

Genesis 39:5-6

Joseph took over the atmosphere everywhere he served. That is the power of influence. Potiphar handed everything over to him because he saw that supernatural influence working in his life. The head of the prison saw the same thing and made him the overseer.

Jacob had a similar experience with Laban. In fact, Laban realized that it was the influence of Jacob that grew his business.

The same covenant force that produced results for Joseph and Jacob is at work in you. The spirit of favor is on you to influence your world.

11. Supernatural Direction

The spirit of favor has the capacity to provide the needed direction for your life. Life without divine direction is a risky experiment. Divine direction is vital if you really want to succeed in life. There is no way around it.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Romans 8:14

God is interested in leading you to that place of divine provision, where every vision He has given you can be fulfilled without stress. However, it is your responsibility to release your faith in God's ability to lead you. He really wants to lead you to the green pastures and the still waters He has prepared for your destiny.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

Psalms 23:1-2

12. Supernatural Visitation

Mary, the mother of Jesus was favored by God to conceive supernaturally without a man. The spirit of favor marked her out in that generation for a supernatural visitation. The angel that brought the news to her called her “highly favored”. She was preferred over every other Jewish woman for a divine experience.

And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

Luke 1:28

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!” And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

Acts 10:1-4

The covenant of God was restricted to the nation of Israel until a man by the name of Cornelius broke through by favor. His prayers and alms to the poor drew the favor of God to the Gentile world. He experienced so much favor before God that God had to supernaturally visit Peter just for his sake.

Friend, it's your turn to be favored. Expect God to show up for you in an unprecedented way. Let go of any habit and attitude that can stop the flow of favor in your life. Life without favor is difficult and hard.

Take this message to heart. By this revelation on the spirit of favor, your light will grow, shine and expand to the amazement of your world. It's set time to favor you!

FAVOR HIGHLIGHTS

- There is a supernatural approval that affects how you are perceived and received.
- Favor produces the most reliable type of assistance available in this world.
- Real promotion comes as a result of divine favor.
- You have a right to expect supernatural deliverance from every evil plot.
- The spirit of favor is on you to ensure your constant victory and breakthrough.
- Our increase does not come by toiling like the world. We function by favor.
- The spirit of favor is capable of bringing back your honor and dignity.
- The favor of God will make sure you are not empty-handed.
- God knows how to bring the perfect candidate for your destiny into your life.
- You need the spirit of favor to influence your world. Hard work is not enough.
- Life without a clear divine direction is a risky experiment.
- The spirit of favor qualifies people for supernatural visitation.

The Plan of Salvation

Ever since the fall of man, sin and death became the nature of every man. Hence, the need arose for man to be regenerated from the inside in order to reconnect with God.

Jesus offered His life to pay the price of sin for man. He sacrificed His life to bring mankind back to His lost glory. Jesus has done His part by offering Himself as the sacrifice for your sin through His crucifixion.

Now you need to do your part by acknowledging what He did for you in His death and resurrection. Simply put, you need to be born again.

I encourage you to pray the following prayer in order to receive your salvation ...*Heavenly Father; I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9-10. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.*

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Kayode Ijisesan is the founder and C.E.O of KingsWord Ministries International with churches and missions in North America, Africa, Europe and Asia. He has a mandate from God to raise a Supernatural army in the nations. He provides apostolic oversight over all the operations of the ministry from his base in Chicago, United States.

He hosts a weekly television program, “The King’s Word”, which is aired in several nations, reaching millions of people. He holds a doctorate degree in Christian Theology. He trains thousands of students in the supernatural through KingsWord Training Institute and Supernatural School of Ministry.

Dr. Kay and his wife, Mayowa are blessed with two children: Tolu & Temi. His weekly meetings and special conferences are streamed live through www.kingsword.tv.

About the Ministry

KingsWord Ministries International was conceived in August 1990 when God spoke to Dr. Kayode Ijisesan the words "... raise me a supernatural army." This great vision started to take shape in 1993 with the planting of a College Church, Victory Christian Fellowship now known as KingsWord Campus Church, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

On November 21, 1997, KingsWord Ministries International (KMI) was officially inaugurated. The Church arm of the ministry was later planted on the 31st of December, 1997 in the commercial city of Lagos in Nigeria. The Church, KingsWord International Church (KIC) Oregun now the ministry headquarters in Nigeria has planted several other Churches in the nation.

Presently, the ministry has Churches and missions in four continents: North America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

Our core values from the acronym **SUPER**:

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