



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“You are Highly Favored”

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Everyone loves having advantages, preferential assistance, or favors which make our lives easier. Yet, we tend to forget that we are favored right from our creation. Let us appreciate the many blessings that we receive directly from God who has crowned us with honor and glory (Ps 8:4-6).

Characters from the Bible who were favored:

A good man wins favors from the Lord (Prov 12:2):

1. Joseph. The Lord was with him and promoted him wherever he went (Gen. 39:23).
2. Job passed all the challenges from satan; thus, God blessed him (Job 1:8).
3. Daniel was filled with an extraordinary spirit because of his faithfulness in prayer (Dn. 6; Dn 10).

How Will We Experience God's Favors?

1. Be Favor-Minded

As children of God, we can live with confidence and boldness, and expect good things from our Father (Jn. 1:12). All our needs are provided.

2. Develop a Personal Relationship with the Lord

Every child has equal footing with his/her parents, but the one who spends the most time with them gains extra favor. The same is true with God: we must always seek Him and develop an intimate relationship with Him through talking to Him in prayer, studying His word, and loving Him.

3. Seek Him.

Just like Jesus, we should develop a habit of prayer. Paul urged us to pray (1 Tim. 2:1-4) and to thank God always (1 Thess. 5:18).

4. Keep God's Word

The scripture is like a road map: it guides, corrects, and rebukes us. God's plan is unfolded through His written Word, the key to prosperity and success (Josh. 1:8).

5. Say What We Believe

We should broadcast God's blessings, confess our expectations with our lips and declare the glory of God. When we promote God, He returns more favors to us; so, we can glorify Him more.

6. Have An Attitude of Faith

Let us have that expectant faith that He can turn our lives around for good. We must already believe and get excited that God will always send blessings or people to help us (2 Cor. 5:7, Ps 91:11).

7. Obey His commands

When we obey God, blessings pursue us (Jn 15:4)! As long as we act on ALL His commandments, He will raise us; His grace will come upon us and overwhelm us, wherever we are (Deut. 28:1-6).

8. Get rid of negative, defeated, limited, and destructive thoughts.

We should choose what we think about, for thoughts determine our words and actions. Paul reminds us to stop worrying and to fill our minds with good things. Dismiss all anxieties, which prevent us from receiving God's pouring of blessings (Phil 4:5-8).

Let us set our minds that we are favored children of God. Renewal of our minds is important so that we know the will of God. We must pray, obey God, and stand on His promises.

Reflection:

1. Do you take advantage of God's overflowing favors everyday? How can you return the favor to Him or share them with others?
2. Do you forget the past favors when the desires of your heart are not yet granted?

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