



WE'RE ALL SOMEONE'S FAVORITE!

There is much confusion surrounding the word, favor. Many times I, and others I have spoken to, have been puzzled, and even resistant, about this deeply significant subject.

The idea that “favor is mine” was not one I accepted easily. I needed the Lord to show me over and over incidences along my life’s journey where I had missed it. I needed to see it for myself in His eyes and hear it in His words. I needed to search the Bible and find it repeatedly in order for me to give myself the permission to believe it.

Awakening to favor, and then being convinced, took a while, and was so personal, that I was very reluctant to share it with anyone.

Recently my friend, Dee, and I were discussing my hesitation. I shared with her the blank looks I often encounter when I bring up the topic of favor. Clearly people were not getting what I meant.

As my good friend, who thoroughly supports me in most everything I do, she took the word, “favor” to the Lord, asking Him, “Lord, is there something favor equals so people will understand?”

She quickly saw that His death for us was quite a favor, and that resonated with her, but then to her amazement, she heard Him say, “Have I ever told you, *you’re* my favorite?”

“Oh, my. I’m you’re favorite??” In an instant, Dee’s eyes were opened to God’s favor, for her, personally.

Being rooted in much neglect and rejection during her growing up years, Dee often struggled to believe that she truly was a person of true worth and value. While she had fought hard for that truth and won, being God’s favorite never entered her mind. This was a life changing, favored exchange, flowing from Dee’s heart, to God’s and then out of His, and straight back into hers. Lovely.

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For days after, Dee felt the penetrating reverberations of His special touch, causing her heart to swell and her spirit to elevate whenever she thought upon it. We can be sure that this will become a memory to Dee, as significant and powerful as any she has ever had with her husband, her children, or special friends.

Besides lifting her spirits, though, God's voice to Dee served another monumental purpose. During this time, Dee and her family were one of the many casualties of the recession, and after much prayerful consideration, they decided to give up their home. After a long period of uncertainty, a buyer was found, and a deal was struck. Finally, they were on their way to the next phase of their life.... Except for some dang paperwork that was holding up the whole process, possibly even threatening the deal.

Dee called and we asserted the favor of God, and within a day, the plug in the process had been removed. All pieces fell into place, and the next step could be taken.

I love being able to participate in the operation of favor. I am continually fueled by the joy I see in people's faces when they know they have just been blessed by God. Favor has power.

Through Dee's example, and others like her, I have become absolutely convinced that it is God's design that mankind know, understand, and embrace His favor. Notice: She merely asked and He provided, in her heart and practically, in her situation. This is not just an ethereal, kum-bi-ya experience.

Being turned on and enlightened to favor is one of most compelling, effective, and enjoyable lessons of life.

With your cooperation, God will bring forward memories, maybe long forgotten, or in need of the His slant on it, memories where favor was operating, where you were someone's favorite. In the Chapter 3, you will have an opportunity to engage some of those memories.

One such memory brought forward by the Lord for me involved my grandfather.

I was his favorite. I think everyone suspected that, but I knew it because he told me often. Being someone's favorite has its privileges! Riding around in his new, shiny, red convertible, top down, wind blowing in my face, accompanying him to his local hangout, sitting in the booth with his arm around me, drinking Shirley Temples with his old cronies... that was special. Having him pay for my first 2 years of college, room and board, and a brand new car To a 17 year old kid, that was *really* special

But the benefit I loved the most was the pride in his eyes when he looked at me.... I can't even describe the extraordinary joy that I felt.

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For years, I relished the idea that I was also my dad's favorite. I loved how he paid attention to me when I talked, and always had this appreciative smile in his eyes. It wasn't until I was in my 20's that I realized all his children felt that same way. Somehow he was able to convey to the six of us that we were all his favorites ***and not reduce the specialness of it.***

Though my dad and my grandfather were not perfect, and we children had to endure many difficulties growing up, being special and feeling favored, did much to help us carry a more carefree, happy attitude through it all.

In another excerpt from Bill Johnson's Face to Face with God, (p.178) he quotes from the book, Living From The Heart Jesus Gave You:

"... some neurologists now say that the basic human need is to be the **"sparkle in someone's eye."** When you catch a glimpse of a child's face as she **runs toward** an awaiting parent with arms outstretched in unrestrained joy, you can witness firsthand the **incredible power that comes from "being the sparkle in someone's eye."** When this joy is the strongest force in a child's world, life makes sense because children look forward to moments when they can re-connect to joy - by being with their beloved. Wonderfully enough, that innocent, pure desire that begins in childhood continues through our life. Life makes sense and is empowered by joy when people are in relationship with those who love them and are **sincerely "glad to be with them."**

Johnsons goes on to conclude, "This reveals why so many struggle with the subject of joy in the church. And more importantly, it shows why most have so little joy in their personal lives...They've not seen the favor and approval from their heavenly Father." (p.178)

David, shepherd turned king, was known to be 'the apple of God's eye.'" In the Psalms, we see the depth and intimacy he had with the Almighty. As awesome and fearsome as God is, David felt an uncanny safety being in His presence. Knowing, believing, and embracing such favor makes us feel safe, protected, and extremely blessed.

FAVORITISM, THE UGLY COUSIN to FAVOR

I don't want to spend a lot of time on this, but it is worth mentioning that favoritism is favor gone sour. It often involves the preferential treatment on one person or group to the disadvantage of another. It may be why people have a hard time fully embracing the genuine thing. Either they have been hurt by favoritism or have felt guilty being the chosen, favored one.

I've experienced both.

I was a slanty-eyed kid in an all white world. At first I thought nothing of it. Even the stares, the 'ching chongs', and the frequent pulling up on the corners of my mother's eyes didn't do much to spoil my day. But the feeling that I always had to beg people to let me play, participate, or

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join in, did. I never attributed it to maybe... prejudice. But over time I got the message. It was not cool to look like me. Favoritism toward others often excluded me.

The example of my grandfather had elements of favoritism which caused me to feel guilty. Yes, it had its advantages, but as I got older, I realized it was unfair to my siblings. I also felt worried that they would be angry with me. This kept me from fully enjoying his favor.

FAVOR FROM MAN CAN OFTEN BE A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

Thankfully, God's favor is pure and for us all, in greater measure than we can use in one life time! He has plenty to go around, and desires to liberally distribute it. It flows out of the "sparkle" in His eyes for each of us.

So, now you may be asking, "Am I anyone's favorite? Have I ever been anyone's favorite?" Well, I can say without equivocation, a resounding, "YES!" But my telling you will not be good enough. You have to find out for yourself. Start by asking God to shine His light of favor on your memories, and even people and events today. Like Dee, ask Him to open your eyes to it. He will be more than happy to do so!

PRAYER:

FATHER, WHO KNOWS ALL AND SEES ALL, I GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO DIG DEEP IN MY MEMORY AND SHOW ME A TIME WHEN I WAS SOMEONE'S FAVORITE. HELP ME TO SEE CLEARLY THAT I AM ALWAYS YOURS!

WRITE YOUR MEMORY:
