

Finding the Favor of God

Study Guide

Chapter 1 — Grasping the Favor of God

- Describe a way in which God has shown you favor in your personal relationships. What kind of a difference did this favor make in your life?
- Read Genesis 4:3–5. In your opinion, why did God look on Abel’s offering with favor and not Cain’s?
- *“The word translated ‘favor’ in this passage is . . . hen. This is the Hebrew word most often translated favor in our English versions, and it means friendly regard, approval, or gracious kindness.”*
 - A. How has God demonstrated *hen* favor in your life?
 - B. Can you think of a person in the Bible who experienced the *hen* favor of God? Why do you think God chose to honor this person, and in what ways did He honor him or her?
- How does the life of David reflect the favor of God? Did David do anything to deserve this favor? Why do you think God chose to favor David?
- Personal Reflection — List five ways that God has demonstrated unmerited favor in your life. Pray and thank God for showing you favor in these areas and ask Him to continue to show you favor.

Chapter 2 — A Sovereign Sign

- Read Isaiah 43:1–3. Can you think of a time in your life when you or your family passed “through the fire”? How did God show His favor in that situation?
- *“There is a ‘time of God’s favor,’ and our Lord chooses those times in His sovereign pleasure. Does that encourage you? Quite honestly, sometimes that appears to be great news and, at other times, it doesn’t.”* Describe a time in history where a “time of God’s favor” rested on a certain nation or person. What do you think God accomplished through that situation?
- Name a time in your own experience when it appeared that God’s sovereignty did not rest on a situation, but which later clearly reflected His favor and sovereignty.
- In your opinion, why did God give David the dream to build the temple, yet did not allow it to be fulfilled?
- Personal Reflection — Have there been any dreams in your own life that it seems God has not allowed to be fulfilled? If so, why do you think that is? Pray for God’s guidance in fulfilling His purpose for your life.

Chapter 3 — A Mysterious Manifestation

- *“The secular world still uses the old phrase, ‘God works in mysterious ways’ — and, most of the time, the ones using it have no idea what they’re talking about. For one thing, they tend to blame God for many horrible things in which He had no hand at all.”* In your opinion, why do people tend to blame God for bad things that happen, while at the same fail to give Him credit for the good things?
- *“I think Scripture permits us to question God, but it also lets us know that, many times, we shouldn’t expect to receive the answers we say we want.”*

- A. When would be an appropriate time to question God?
 - B. Describe a time in Scripture where someone received an answer from God that they did not expect. How did God use that situation to show His favor?
- How has God used the mystery of His favor in your life to teach you wisdom, increase your faith, and teach you perseverance?
 - Consider the example of Ruth. How did God use Ruth's faith to follow Naomi, *"although she had no way to provide for herself, no family there, and no good prospects of anything"* to show her His favor?
 - Personal Reflection — How has God shown His favor to you in a mysterious way? Have you recently experienced a situation that you did not understand, and, if so, do you think God will work it out for your good? Pray that God would continue to show you His favor, even if you do not understand it at the time.

Chapter 4 — Seeking God's favor

- *"It's okay to seek God's favor. It really is! We tend to think, Oh, I shouldn't ask God for too much, or God already knows my need. But the Bible tells us: 'Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.'"* Describe a time in the Bible where someone was shown God's favor because of persistence.
- Why do you think that God sometimes show His favor to wicked and evil people such as Jehoahaz and Manasseh?
- Why do you think that God chose to put Joseph through so much before He allowed his dream to be fulfilled? How did God show Joseph His favor, even through years of suffering?
- *"Have you ever thought about what you want to be remembered for after you're gone? What would you like written on your epitaph?"* Answer the above questions.
- Personal Reflection — *"It's not only okay to seek God's favor, but it's the wise and prudent and smart thing to do."* Are you currently seeking God for His favor? Pray that God would show His favor to you and your family.

Chapter 5 — Discovering God's Favor

- *"If I can, I want to help you glimpse God's hand of favor already at work in your life. Maybe you've had an eye-opening experience of His favor, but you didn't recognize it."* Take a few minutes and write down some ways God has already shown you His favor in your life.
- *"At this very moment, God is pursuing a relationship with every one of us. To bring us into that relationship and to help it mature, He'll do whatever it takes. If it takes extreme material blessing, He will do that. If it takes extreme tragedy, He will do that, too."* Name a few examples, both in Scripture and in your own experience, when God used tragedy to bring someone into a closer relationship with Him.
- Dr. Floyd gives six tests to identify God's favor in your life. They are:
 - Do you feel a sense of internal harmony?
 - Does this "good fortune" tend to move you toward God or away from Him?
 - Are you moving toward people or away from people?
 - Do you feel content with that "good fortune" or do you feel envious?
 - Does your life feel ordered or disordered in this area of "good fortune"?
 - Does this "good fortune" turn your heart toward the eternal, or does it turn it toward the temporal?

How well do these six tests apply to your life?

- List three examples of people in Scripture who were shown the favor of God, even though their circumstances did not immediately reflect it. Why do you think God uses situations that do not seem to be a blessing to ultimately show His favor to people?
- Personal Reflection — Can you see God’s favor working in your life, even in circumstances that do not seem to be a blessing? Pray that God would help you to continue to see the ways that He has already favored you.

Chapter 6 — Experiencing God’s Favor

- Do you know someone who seems to have financial favor in his or her life? Why do you think God chose to favor them in this way?
- Can you think of a time in Scripture when God favored someone in a time of crisis? How about in your own experience?
- Consider the example of Dr. Harold O’Chester used in this chapter. How do you think that God uses His favor in times of tragedy and crisis to bless those who seem to have been cursed?
- Have you seen examples of God using His favor to build personal relationships? Describe these examples.
- Personal Reflection — Read 1 Peter 4:10. What various forms have you seen God’s favor take in your life? Pray that the Lord would continue to show you His favor in its various forms and help you to recognize it.

Chapter 7 — Through Growing

- Why do you think that God chose to favor Samuel so highly? What was different about his life that attracted God’s favor?
- *“Do you want to position yourself to receive the favor of God? Then do what Samuel did. It was Jesus himself, remember, who told us, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’ That, my friend, is a huge, flashing billboard to divine favor.”* How do you think we can better position ourselves to receive God’s favor?
- Read 1 Samuel 2:26. What can we do to help ourselves “grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men”? What attitudes should we have?
- Read James 4:6, 10. What can we do to humble ourselves before the Lord? What kinds of actions destroy humility?
- Personal Reflection — Are you positioning yourself to receive God’s favor? Do you have a daily time with the Lord? Do you desire to live out God’s will? Do you have a desire to spend time with the people of God? Pray and ask the Lord to show you ways that you can better position yourself to receive His favor.

Chapter 8 — Through Faithfulness

- Describe someone in your life who has displayed enormous faithfulness. Does this person seem to have the favor of God in his or her life?
- *“If you wanted to identify the one woman in history who received more of God’s favor than anyone else, your search would quickly narrow to a young woman named Mary. Without question, she gets the all-time blue ribbon for the*

favor of God.” In what ways was Mary faithful in her life? How do you think her faithfulness positioned her well to receive God’s favor?

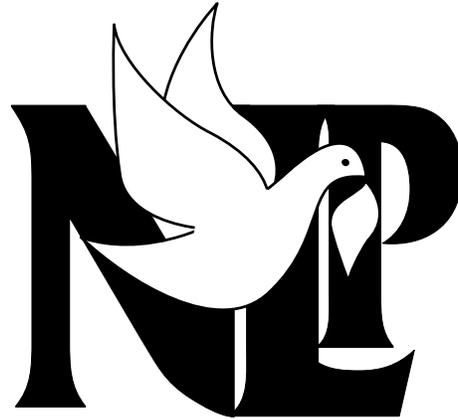
- Name a few ways that you can become more faithful in your own life.
- What are some of the “little things” in your life in which you can be faithful?
- Personal Reflection — How faithful have you been in your life? Is there something you feel God calling you to be faithful in that you do not really want to do? Pray that the Lord would help you to be faithful in the big and little things in life.

Chapter 9 — By Knowing

- “*The favor of God comes through knowing God.*” How well do you know the Lord? Do you think the relationship between loving God and knowing Him is significant?
- How do you think you can gain a deeper, more satisfying knowledge of the Lord?
- “*No discussion about the favor of God would be complete without considering Moses. Without question, Moses enjoyed the enormous favor of God.*” How was God’s favor displayed in the life of Moses? Do you think Moses did anything to better position himself to receive God’s favor?
- How do you think the acrostic FAVOR (Favor Always Verifies Our Relationship) applies to your life? Is your relationship with the Lord being verified by His favor in your life?
- Personal Reflection — How do you think God’s favor relates to knowing Him? Have you experienced more or less of the Lord’s favor when you were closest to Him? Pray that the Lord would give you a deeper knowledge of Him and a greater desire to know him more. Consider the prayer Dr. Floyd gives at the end of this book:

Lord, I seek You and want to know You. I cannot go anywhere and enjoy ultimate success without the favor of God. I ask you today for the favor of God to fall upon me and my family. I ask for the favor of God upon all my relationships. I ask for the favor of God upon my career. Please set your loving gaze upon me, and get all the forces of heaven behind me because of Your mercy and grace. Help me to get myself into position to receive the awesome favor of God. May your favor be a testimony of my relationship to you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

As Dr. Floyd suggests, commit to begin every day for the next month with this prayer, and, once the month is over, continue to beseech the Lord for His favor on a daily basis.



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