

THE SHIELD OF FAVOR

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**“The righteous are covered with
Favor as with a shield.”**

Psalm 5:12

**“Blessed is the man ... and
Whatever he does shall prosper.”**

Psalm 1:1, 3

The Lord has been speaking to Evie and I for years, and especially the last 18 months, about *favor*—favor with God and with man. I’ve never heard a message preached on it although favor and prosperity are obviously linked in the Scriptures and we have heard a lot of messages in the last 20 years on “prosperity” but I’ve not heard one that was really from the Heart of God because they always emphasize money, materialism and “sowing in a seed.” The fact is, my brother and sister, most of this type preaching is simply

witchcraft—it's an *enticing* message to get you to give to that ministry or church. Back in the early '80s and in 1998, the Lord spoke to me about prosperity and that was long before most of the Balaam preachers of today were preaching their "get rich quick" schemes to relieve the sheep of their money. Remember, God's definition of prosperity is much different than the world's. And because most of the churches have gotten off on the things of the world and using the marketing, sales and other gimmicks of the world, then they are likewise going to have the world's definition of "success" and "prosperity"; not God's.

The Lord told me back in 1982 that "money is the lowest form of prosperity" and we actually know this from the Word, right? Jesus spoke about money much, especially with the Pharisees because they loved money and materialism. The great apostle Paul also wrote about these things as did the Apostle James. And in 2 Peter as I've written many times, shows that the "false" preachers will use materialism--"they allure through the lusts of the flesh" (2 Pe. 2:18).

But I felt this morning as I read those Psalms again (1-5) that I read and meditate in on the first day of each, that the Lord wanted me to do a teaching on favor so we'll just see where He leads on this.

The first scripture that comes to my mind when I think about "favor" as emphasized in Psalm 5:12 is that of the "shield of faith." Most Christians, especially those of us who sat under

Brother Kenneth Hagin's ministry for years and heard his excellent teachings on faith, have heard of "the shield of faith." It was Brother Hagin's logo for his ministry and I still have a Shield of Faith western belt buckle that I got from him back in the late '70s. But I've never heard a message about the Shield of Favor.

The second scripture that comes to my mind is quite interesting and one most Christians are not familiar with since it emphasizes the fact that Jesus was a Man.

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor With God and men." Ω Luke 2:52

A lot of Christians have difficulty with this verse. If Jesus was God, how could He increase in wisdom? I've written about this many times in my writings so I won't elaborate on it here since it's not the subject of this teaching but notice that Jesus, although He was the perfect Son of God—the unblemished Lamb of God—he "increased in favor with God and men."

Now, I think it's easy for us to understand *why* he increased in favor with men—because the Father caused it to happen just like He caused Joseph to have "favor" with men. Joseph, who is a *type* of the Lord Jesus (betrayed by his brothers, married a gentile bride, favor with God and men,

etc.; there are many), even had God's favor in prison for 13 years, amen?

But I feel like the Spirit of God wants you to spend some time with Him seeking Him about just how it was that the Lord Jesus increased in favor with the Father. Let me know what you discover.

Now Joseph's life is one of both the earliest and also *clearest* examples of this principle of God we see throughout the Scriptures—that He surrounds the righteous with favor. Even when Joseph was in prison, the word says in Genesis 39:

“And he was there in the prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy (*hesed*, a covenant term), and he gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison ...”

Now I know that one of the principles of God that He wants you to understand from this teaching is emphasized in Joseph's life—when you feel like you're in prison for many years (Joseph was there 13 years, wrongly convicted of a crime he did not commit but he stayed faithful to the Lord and allowed God to use him where he was) and that all of your friends and God have forgotten you remember this scripture:

**“The righteous are covered with
Favor as with a shield.”**

Psalm 5:12

It may not look like you have favor; it may not look like you're prospering. But as Eve and I tell people all the time: "What does the word say?"

And the Word, my brothers and sisters says that you are covered with the shield of favor and that "whatever you do will prosper." It might not look like you have favor or that you're prospering but as the Apostle Paul wrote, "We walk by faith, not by sight." And most importantly, the Word says that it's true so it must be true because Jesus "Watches over his word to perform it" and He is "not a man that he would lie."

So remember this important word from the Bible by the Apostle Peter:

"His divine power has given to us exceedingly great and Precious promises, that through these you may be partakers Of the divine nature ..."

One of those "precious promises" that shows you are a "partaker of the divine nature" is that God surrounds you with favor as with a shield just like He did Joseph, David and His beloved Son, Jesus.

God wants you to understand this fact and truth and begin to confess these scriptures over your life each day; then you

**will begin to observe that “favor with God and men”
manifesting in your life on a constant basis. Praise the Lord!**