

What Surrounds Us

In **Psalm 5:12** states, *“For You, O Lord will bless the righteous, with favour. You will surround him as with a shield.”* This verse declares that we have a promise from God concerning His **“shield of favour,”** and it is surrounding us! Note, we cannot “earn” the favour of God, it is a gift that comes when we are born-again and receive the righteousness of Christ. (**2 Corinthians 5:21**)

You will not enjoy the benefits of any promise of God that you do not know about, or understand and claim for your own life. It is similar to having an insurance policy on your car. You will only take advantage of the benefits that you are aware of. If your policy covers auto theft, but you never make a claim when your car is stolen (because you think your policy only covers damage from an accident), you will never obtain that benefit. Even though it belongs to you. Take God at His word. He promised that His favour would surround you like a shield in your life. Are you experiencing God’s favour everywhere you go? Let us consider an Bible example of how God’s favour can change life’s circumstances, even when a person is facing great difficulties. (And that is certainly when you could use an abundance of God’s favour!) Joseph is one of the most outstanding characters in the Bible. His story of being favoured by his father Jacob, yet hated by his older brothers is an amazing one. His brothers threw him into a pit and plotted to kill him. But at the urging of one brother, they instead sold him into slavery. Joseph’s experience after being sold as a slave to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officers in Egypt, demonstrates the power of God’s favour on a person’s life. The Lord was always with Joseph, and he (though a slave) was a successful and prosperous man in the house of his master the Egyptian.

“His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all that he did to flourish and succeed in his hand. So Joseph pleased Potiphar and found favour in his sight, and he served him. And his master made him supervisor over his house and he put all that he had in his charge. From the time that he made him supervisor in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake “(**Genesis 39:2-5**) Notice the results that Joseph experienced through the favour of God on his life:

- He prospered and became successful though he was in very distressing personal circumstances (slavery).
- His boss noticed that the Lord had caused everything that Joseph touched to flourish.
- He had favour in his boss’s eyes.
- He received promotion.

God’s **favour** will cause you to prosper, to be successful in your given occupation, to have others take note that the Lord is with you and bringing you success. The Lord can give you favour with your boss and cause you to be promoted. However, take note of Joseph’s attitude in the midst of his difficult situation. The scripture tells us he pleased his boss and he served his boss. You must work in cooperation with God’s favour. If Joseph had been bitter, resentful, complained about his circumstances and resisted his boss’ instructions because he was in slavery, God’s favour would not have operated in his life. We must cooperate with the Spirit of God in every situation we face. If we maintain a clear conscience, walk in love, remain free from bitterness and show grace toward others, we will be able to receive the free-flow of God’s **favour** in our own lives.

In **Luke 4:18-19** (AMP) we find Jesus’ declaration about Himself, *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has*

anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor, He has sent me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed (who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed and broken down by calamity). To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord (the day when salvation and the free favours of God profusely abound)."

Jesus declared that He was announcing the day when the free favours of God profusely abound. Jesus came to bring us into right relationship with God through His death and resurrection. And then, once a person has entered this love relationship with God, he or she can receive the free **favours** of God in this life. His favour will "put you over" in life. It will give you success when failure seems imminent. It will cause other people to treat you favourably when all expectation or prior experience would have predicted the opposite.

God's **favour** is a powerful weapon in the circumstances you may be facing right now. How do you "make a claim" for God's favour to operate in your life? Like any promise of God, first you must accept His word as true. Take the promise found in **Psalms 5:12** and pray: *"Lord, I thank you that Your Word is true. I accept the truth that Your favour surrounds me like a shield. Now I will go forth believing and expecting that Word to come to pass today in my life. Thank You for giving me favour with others. I thank You that Your favour causes me to have success in all matters of life today. I thank you that Your favour opens doors for me, gives me favour with those whom come into contact with, creates opportunities for promotion and causes others to notice Your hand of blessing on my life."*

It is important in this case to pray out loud so that you are making a declaration of your faith in God's Word. It will encourage your own heart to hear yourself speaking by faith. Plus the devil can't read your mind, so if you pray quietly in your heart he won't be able to hear you using the weapon of God's Word. And I like to let the devil know he's "done for" when it comes to my personal circumstances!

If you are trying to sell a house pray: *"Lord I thank You that Your favour on my life gives me favour with buyers and causes them to look favourably upon me and my house and brings me a favourable offer because of Your lovingkindness toward me!"* If you are having problems in a relationship, be sure to declare God's favour over that particular situation. Pray: *"Lord, I thank You that Your favour surrounds me like a shield and that it gives me favour with others especially with (name the person) and I can count on Your favour working in this situation. Help me to show grace and favour to that person as You have shown it to me."* If you are looking for a job pray: *"Lord, I believe Your favour surrounds me like a shield and therefore I have favour with employers and at every interview. Thank you for giving me favour in the eyes of others even to the point of bringing my application to the top of the pile!"* God wants to **favour** you today (right now), but you must put in a claim for this precious promise... By believing the truth of His Word and then declaring it and expecting to see it come to pass in your life.

God's **favour** is for you it surrounds you... So just receive it!