

BREAD CRUMBS

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Presented by Broken Bread Ministries

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FAVOR AIN'T FAIR

Have you ever felt as though God is blessing you or someone else greatly and you do not feel it is deserved? Perhaps there was a lack of faith, or there was disobedience. Perhaps, you have felt that you were further along in your walk than someone else being blessed, or you have felt the disapproval of others who wished to receive your blessing. Or maybe, you have found that your blessing came with a price, an unexpected consequence, or sacrifice. In all of these instances, confusion arises when we think we know the measure and the means by which God grants His favor. Whether by our own experience or by the accounts of those in the Bible, we see that favor is not always fair.

Favor as the Unconstrained Will of God

In [Exodus 33:18](#), Moses asks God to see His glory. In verse 19, God agrees to pass before Moses stating:

- [Ex 33:19b \(NKJV\)](#) – **“I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”**

In Hebrew, the word “gracious” is translated to the word “[Hanan](#)” ([H2603 - Strong's Concordance](#)) which means to show favor, direct favor to, bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior, or to bestow. As God said to Moses, He will grant favor as He wishes, according to His own will and understanding. God’s choice on whom to bestow His favor is unconditional and may be granted to the least deserving in man’s eyes thereby appearing unfair. He is not driven by the merits, desires, or will of man. **Pastor John Piper of Desiring God** online ministry explains it well in His sermon, [“I Will Be Gracious To Whom I Will Be Gracious.”](#) “God is utterly free from the constraints of his creation. The inclinations of his will move in directions that he alone determines. Whatever influences appear to change his will are influences, which ultimately he has ordained. His choice to show mercy (or favor) to one person and not another is a choice that originates in the mystery of his sovereign will not in the will of his creature.” Favor cannot be earned or won. God’s favor is an act purely out of His will.

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Favor as the Undeserved Will of God



*Also let grain
from the
bundles fall
purposely for
her; leave it
that she may
glean, and do
not rebuke
her."*

Ruth 2:16 (NKJV)

[1 Corinthians 1:26-28](#) tells us that God has purposely chosen people who are not esteemed in the world and whom man would consider least deserving of His favor. Examples in the bible include little David, the least in maturity, size, and stature amongst his brothers being ordained by God as King. Another is Ruth, the Moabite woman, receiving God's favor to be seen and wed by Boaz to bring forth a child in the lineage of Jesus. Both Rahab (Old Testament) and Mary Magdalene (New Testament) were harlots; yet, Rahab received the favor of being in Jesus's lineage and Mary walked closely with Him during His ministry.

These women, all three of whom would never have been deemed acceptable in society, received such favor from God that they are recorded and esteemed for all eternity in the Bible. Many would consider such an endowment unfair to all those who were born into natural Jewish bloodlines and faithfully obeyed the Judaic law, as well as those who followed Jesus faithfully during His ministry and after. But God had a purpose in His favor that demonstrates His nature and His plan. In a sermon entitled, "[Favor Ain't Fair](#)," the Holy Spirit through **Pastor TD Jakes of the Potter's House** illuminates how Boaz's treatment of Ruth is a display of how God will "release a command for blessings" to His church, a people who are "walking by faith in God to receive His blessings." Pastor Jakes explains that Boaz released a command to "drop some handfuls on purpose" for Ruth who was behind them ([Ruth 2:16](#)). Jakes expounds, "They had already pulled the wheat. They just laid it on the ground. All Ruth had to do was pick up the wheat. There are some things that God can bring into your life and you didn't even work for it. He said I'll give you houses you didn't build. I'll give you vineyards you didn't grow. I will let you stumble into things and all you have to do is have enough faith to receive what I have released in your life."

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**They had a few small fish as well;
He gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them.**

Mark 8:7 (NIV)

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In God's display of favor irrespective of any circumstance or qualification we may or may not have, we must be prepared to receive His will without any regard to our opinions about ourselves or others. Many people will miss the beauty of God's favor and disqualify themselves because of man's standards. Too often we see our weakness, our sin, or our lack of experience and understanding as the reason why God would not bless us. Pastor Jakes echoed this when he said, "God may be just but He is not fair. When God gets ready to bless you He doesn't just bless you because you deserve to be blessed. God has a way of just choosing to bless you.' You're not qualified for the job but you got it. It doesn't work on paper how you got the house, but you got it." If you don't understand that God is always just although His favor isn't fair, you will lack the faith to receive the undeserved great blessings God has for you, or worse....become jealous and angry if in His divine will, He blesses others less deserving than you. Pastor Piper wrote, "We can stand in awe of his sovereign freedom and worship with gratitude. Or we can rebel against this absolute authority and confirm that we have been passed over."

Favor as Unexpected Cost

[Luke 12:48](#) tells us that for everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required. Many examples of great favor in the bible prove this to be true. Joseph, for example, was elevated to second in command of all of Egypt by God's favor; however, he was sold into slavery and imprisoned over a span of 13 years before that happened. **Pastor Bill Johnson of Bethel Church**, in his sermon "[Is Your Assignment Impossible?](#)" recounts the costs of the favor God gave Mary, the mother of Jesus. "Joseph wants to divorce her, not follow through with the wedding. Herod wants to kill her kid, her Son. The scandal of her being the mother of an illegitimate child looks like anything but favor."

Favor can also cost you peace with the people around you. TD Jakes makes it plain when he says, "The reason people start to have an attitude when that starts to happen in your life is because God has given you favor. Favor is preferential treatment. Favor is distinctive treatment whereby you have reached an elite status that you don't even deserve and the reason they are upset is because favor ain't fair." Bill Johnson echoes Jakes telling us that "favor on your life will reveal issues in the people around you. Pastor Johnson goes on to explain what we must do in these instances. "Our ability to carry favor well is key to the increase of favor.

We never owe anyone an explanation, nor should you ever apologize for favor. Apologizing for favor is an expression of unbelief that basically says God made a bad decision by giving me favor. You never want to dishonor God with how unqualified you may feel for an assignment."

Lastly, God bestows favor according to His divine purpose and therefore it is never just for personal gain. God's blessings flow like water and does not stop with one person. As was stated in Luke 12:48, the greater the favor, the greater the sacrifice that may be required for others to be blessed. Moses found favor with God, even to see Him pass by; however, Moses gave his life to leading the Israelites out of captivity. Mary received the greatest favor as being chosen to birth Jesus into the world, but she paid the ultimate price of watching her Son die so that the world might be saved. And of course, Jesus who walked in the utmost favor of God, laid down His very life so that He became the Favor of God unto us today.



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