

Transforming Daily
“ . . . you have found favor with God . . . ”
Luke 1:30

What does it mean to find favor with God? There's a lot of talk today about how one is to find the favor of God. There's the first misnomer. Favor isn't something to be sought after because it's not about the one receiving favor, it's about the one offering it – namely, God.

Abraham didn't do anything to receive God's favor. Noah didn't do anything to receive God's favor. David didn't do anything to receive God's favor. None of the prophets did anything to receive God's favor. None of Jesus' disciples did anything to receive favor. In fact, if favor was predicated on an individual's works and reputation, no one would receive favor. God's Word says that He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

Another word for favor is grace. God offers His grace according to His good pleasure for His glory. Usually, God's grace is expressed to the weak and small in size and number; those who are meek and helpless as well as hopeless. However, there is no formula for gaining God's favor. He isn't the genie of a bottle; He is the God of the Bible! Though it might be according to His will that you get a parking spot in front of the store or an open space in which to change lanes on the interstate, that doesn't necessarily mean it's an expression of His favor because of who you are or what you did or didn't do. Further, to be sure, if it is the favor of God in such circumstances, it is to be used for His glory, not yours. It is to be used to lift His name, not yours.

Read the Scriptures and carefully analyze who it was and why it was that favor was shown by God. I assure you that it wasn't because of who they were or what they had done. Favor comes by God's love and because He is, in some way, moving to glorify His name. The individual is a precious instrument and beloved means to an end. Even while we were yet sinning Christ died for us. God sent His son, that *whosoever*. Does *whosoever* sound like He did it because of a specific individual's gender, age, race, socio-economic background, political preference/affiliation, intellect, physical strength, or religious background? No, He did it and does it because He is God.

Be encouraged, as a believer you are the recipient of His favor, but not because of who you are or what you've done or didn't do, or have, or got rid of. This Christmas season remember who the center piece is. The center piece of life is always Jesus Christ. He is the greatest expression of God's favor, and according to Ephesians 1:3, the believer has every blessing in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.

Are you works oriented in order to seek God's favor? Do you put yourself through unnecessary rituals thinking that they will get you more of God's grace? If you are a believer, rest in this biblical truth and blessing, in Christ, you have found favor with God.