

## Word on Wednesday Bible Study

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### **"Experiencing the Favor of God and Man"**

"Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in **favor** with the LORD and also with man." (I Samuel 2:26, English Standard Version)

"And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in **favor** with the LORD and with people." (I Samuel 2:26, New International Version)

"So you will find **favor** and good success in the sight of God and man." (Proverbs 3:4, English Standard Version)

Then you will find **favor** with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation." (Proverbs 3:4, New Living Translation)

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in **favor** with God and man." (Luke 2:42, New International Version)

"And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in **favor** with God and men." ((Luke 2:42, New American Standard Version 1995)

#### **I. Introduction**

##### **A. Definitions**

1. Old Testament Definition of favor
  - a. That which is good, pleasant, and beneficial.
  - b. A sense of kindness, beauty, or charm that elicits a favorable response.
  - c. The biblical concept of grace and favor both as divine attributes and a quality that can be reflected in human relationships.
2. Old Testament Definition of "In the eyes of the Lord" or "In the sight of the Lord"
  - a. Indicates God's perspective, observation, or judgement on something.
3. New Testament Definition of Favor
  - a. Grace, as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ.
  - b. Graciousness of manner or action, especially the divine influence upon a person's heart, including gratitude.
  - c. Unmerited favor of God.
  - d. What God does when He does not have to so it.
  - e. What God gives us when we know we do not deserve it, and we know God knows we do not deserve it.

## II. Qualities needed to Experience the Favor of God and Man

- A. Whoever finds **wisdom** will obtain favor from the Lord (Proverbs 8:5)
- B. Whoever **seeks good** will seek God's favor (Proverbs 11:27)
- C. A **good** man will obtain favor from the Lord (Proverbs 12:2)
- D. Having **a good understanding** (being insightful, discreet, and wise) produces favor (Proverbs 13:5)
- E. Those in authority will show favor toward a **wise and discreet** person (Proverbs 14:35)
- F. Whoever **corrects** a person by telling them the truth will find favor (Proverbs 28:23)

## III. A Character Study of Joseph: A Man Who Experienced the Favor of God and Man

- A. Joseph's teen years were full of drama (Genesis 37)
  - 1. His brothers hated him because his father loved him more.
  - 2. His brothers were jealous of him because of a dream he had.
  - 3. His brothers plotted to kill him.
  - 4. His brothers thought about selling him.
  - 5. His brothers threw him in a pit.

- B. Joseph's finds favor with Potiphar (Genesis 39)

***"The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD'S blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. (Genesis 39:2 – 5)***

- 1. Potiphar's wife attempted to seduce Joseph, but he refused and said he could sin against God (Genesis 39:9)

2. "But **the LORD was with Joseph** and extended kindness to him, and **gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.**" (Genesis 39:21)
  3. Joseph became responsible for the prisoners and whatever was done in the prison. (Genesis 39: 22)
  4. "The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because **the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.**" (Genesis 39:22)
- C. Joseph finds favor with Pharaoh (Genesis 41)
1. Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and Joseph said, "It is not me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." (Genesis 41:16)
  2. After Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream, he made him a ruler of Egypt and said there was no one with a divine spirit and as discerning and wise as Joseph was. (Genesis 41:38 – 41, 44)
  3. Pharaoh gave Joseph his signet ring, gave him linen clothes and placed a gold necklace around his neck. (Genesis 41:42)
  4. He was placed second in command in all of Egypt. (Genesis 41:43, 44)
- D. Joseph's shows favor to his brothers when they come to Egypt to buy grain (Genesis 42)
1. Joseph's brothers came to him to purchase grain, they bowed down and to him, but did not recognize he was their brother (Genesis 42:6, 7)
  2. Joseph remembered the dream he had about them (Genesis 37:6 – 9, 41:9)
  3. Joseph wept when he saw his brothers (Genesis 42:24)
  4. Joseph gave his brothers grain and provisions for their trip back to Canaan (Genesis 42:29)
- E. Joseph shows favor to his brothers when they return to Egypt a second time (Genesis 43 – 45)
1. When Joseph's brothers returned for more grain and to bring their brother, Joseph told his house steward to bring his brothers to his house and eat with him. (Genesis 43:16,17)
  2. When Joseph saw Benjamin, he was overcome with emotion (Genesis 43:30, 31)

3. Joseph reveals to his brothers who he is and comforts them by telling them not to grieve or be angry because they sold him. (Genesis 45:3-5)
  4. Joseph explained that what they meant for evil God used for his purpose, "... *for God sent me before you to preserve life.*" (Genesis 45:6)
- F. Pharaoh shows favor to Joseph's Family (Genesis 45:16 – 23)
1. When Pharaoh heard that Joseph's brothers were in Egypt, he was pleased. (Genesis 45:16)
  2. Pharaoh told Joseph to tell his brothers to go back to Caanan get their father, their families and household items and come back to Egypt, he would give them the best of the land in Egypt. (Genesis 45:17, 18)
- G. Pharaoh shows favor to Joseph when his father Jacob dies
1. When Jacob was dying he said to Joseph, "... *Please, **if I have found favor in your sight**, place now your hand under my thigh and deal with me in kindness and faithfulness. Please do not bury me in Egypt,*" (Genesis 47:39)
  2. After Jacob died and the mourning period ended, Joseph spoke to Pharaoh's court and said, "**If now I have found favor in your sight**, please speak to Pharaoh, saying, 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'" Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear." (Genesis 50:4 – 6)

#### IV. Finding Favor with God

- A. It is God's will and intention for us to do what is right, which will silence critics from foolish people (I Peter 2:15)
- B. Live your life as servant of God (I Peter 2:16)
- C. Show respect for everyone, love to other believers, reverence for God. (I Peter 2:17)
- D. Servants are admonished to be submissive to their masters with all respect whether they are kind and considerate or overbearing. (I Peter 2:18)
- E. "For **this finds favor**, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly." (I Peter 2:19)

- a. We find favor, if in the sight of God, we endure the pain of unjust suffering (I Peter 2:19)
- F. *"For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, **this finds favor with God.**" (I Peter 2:20)*
  - a. If we patiently suffer when we do what is right, it is pleasing to God.