

## There is a purpose for the favor of God

*Adapted from the sermon Ps. Djohan Handoyo (January 1, 2012)*

Grace saves us and life is the love of God's grace. Favor of God cause us to have a meaning in life. Favor God made us to be a channel of blessing. Favor of God gives us a divine mandate. Favor of God makes us go to God's mission.

God's favor is upon at this time for us, so that 2012 became the year of prayer and mission, for our church in Singapore, and various countries. If the favor is given to the spiritual father, then the spiritual children also will get a favor of God. Anointing flows from above. God's favor in the transfer and experienced as a spiritual family. In the Bible, there is a favor that is being transfered from generation to generation, Abraham received God's favor, so that the offspring of Isaac, Jacob, and all 12 tribes of Israel to this day get the favor of God. Moses gets the favor of God to Joshua, and God used Joshua greatly and bring him to enter the land of Canaan. Elijah was blessed and got the favor of God, so that his spiritual son, Elisha, also got His favor from God.

*"For God said: "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6: 2*

There are two important things that the Bible says about God's favor

### 1. No one can stop God's favor.

Isaiah 40:9 says, "because God said at the time ... I am well pleased". No one can stop, if God was pleased and have a plan for someone. Power of evil, deceit and evil plan of human cannot stop God's favor. Because God is sovereign. So if God is pleased, He will hear and answer our prayers, and be able to help us. Just like Joseph, who was persecuted by his brothers that Joseph had a hard life and suffered, but because of God's favor, no one can stop God's incredible plan despite his brothers' trickery. Joseph still comes out to be the king of Egypt and a blessing to his brother even for many people.

### 2. God's favor timing

Word of God says, "when I am well pleased..", talking about **KAIROS**. Favor of God is not just talking about miracles, divine healing, doubling of wealth, power, status and position. But the favor of God spoke that life is guaranteed, loved by God, a life pleasing to God's heart. And in 2012, the Lord promises a special year – the year in which God is pleased for His people.

Speaking of Favor, not apart from Jesus Christ, who got the favor of the Father and man (Luke 2:52). Favor that means *Charis* "Favor with a special way". Or we can illustrate as a gift/grant – something which we receive as a gift, without the effort and hard work.

Therefore favor and anointing of God that is in Jesus, Jesus healed the sick, releasing the bound, and preach the acceptable year of God (Acts 10:38). Jesus get the power of God's mantel as he pleased to the Father.

Why did Jesus pleasing to the Father and man ? At the time of Jesus' Baptism a voice from heaven saying : This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Jesus pleasing to the Father because of His obedience. He always did the will of the Father. Even throughout his life goal is to complete the job the Father. John 4:34 *Jesus said to them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work.*

A life that is dedicated to God is a life that is pleasing to God, and then His favour rests on such a life. We must not reverse the sequence. We cannot have a life that is favoured by God if we are living for ourselves and misuse God's favour for our own desires which are often controlled by our flesh.

Jesus obeyed God the Father that He emptied Himself from His Deity to become man. As man, He took form of a servant. Even further, He was willing to die upon the cross to fulfill God's redemption plan for all mankind (Phil 2:5-10). With such a full dedication and obedience that Jesus has, no wonder that God the Father is well pleased with Him.

The same principle would apply for us. In fulfilling Great Commission in Mat 28:19-20, Jesus promises us that He will be with us anytime, anywhere. In going out and bearing fruit (John 15:16), God's promise is that whatever you ask in Jesus' name, God will give to us. Dedicate your life to do His will and finish His works, and you can be assured that His favour rests upon your life.

We can learn from various people in the Bible:

1. Joseph. Before you get yourself a favor, there is a process to it. But in the process experienced by Joseph, he did not care, because he remained fixed in God Favor for him. A person who wants to receive favor has to undergo some processes, and it is often difficult and painful, but we should stick to the promises of God. Our preparation to go through that process is to plant our lives in prayer and meditate on His word.

2. David. He is a man who relies on God more than his strength. He brings the best offerings for the construction of the house of God, And he was a peacemaker, because he forgave those who were hostile to him. Proverbs 16: 7.

Entering 2012, follow the example of Jesus, Joseph and David. Devote your life to God, obey Him, trust the Lord in any situation, give the Lord your best and bring peace to each other through forgiveness, and let us experience God's promises in Isaiah 32 :15-17.

### **Question**

1. What does "favor of God" is there a purpose? Discuss your experience on this matter ?
2. Give an example of God's favor that you have experienced in your life.  
(Ex: like Joseph who must go through the process and forward David abiding in His Promise)
3. Pray for the Church of God in order to receive God's favor and experienced by all the churches.