

# The Technology of Favour

## Introduction

### 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

### Hebrews 6:9 (Berean Study Bible)

<sup>9</sup> Even though we speak like this, beloved, we are convinced of better things in your case— things that accompany salvation.

NIV – Things that have to do with salvation NLT – Things that come with salvation

Recently a well known prophet told someone that his business was failing because it lacked God's favour. God's favour is not a nice to have but a necessity.

Bill Johnson: *We must dream so big that without the support that comes through favour with God and man, we could never accomplish what is in our hearts.*

## A. Defining Favour

According to Baker's Evangelical Dictionary: Finding favour means gaining approval, acceptance, or special benefits or blessings. There is also a close association among favour, grace, and mercy, which are sometimes used to translate the same Hebrew and Greek words (such as *chen* [ej] and *charis* [cavri]).

A dictionary definition:

1. approval, support, or liking for someone or something. "training is looked upon with favour by many employers" synonyms: approval, approbation, commendation, esteem, goodwill, kindness, benevolence, friendliness. "she looked on him with favour"
2. an act of kindness beyond what is due or usual. "I've come to ask you a favour" synonyms: good turn, service, kind act, good deed, act of kindness, kindness, courtesy, indulgence;

Bill Johnson Charisma magazine article: the Greek word for favour: *charis*. Almost everywhere in the New Testament, this word is translated "grace." Grace (and favour) is essentially a gift. If we gain favour with people—or, as we might say, get into their "good graces"—we have special access to them and we receive something from them..... Every believer receives this favour from God, but we don't all recognize the additional dimensions of the *charis* we receive. God's grace is also His operational power, the force of His nature. He gives us this grace to empower us to become like Christ....the issue of growing in favour is an issue of stewardship. The real question is, What have I done with the favour God has given to me?

## B. It's in God's nature to grant favour

### Psalm 84:11

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly."

### Jer 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

### Mt 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him."

### Genesis 50:20

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Joseph had such a revelation of God's goodness and favour on His life. This helped him to forgive and make sense of everything that had happened to Him. Knowing that God has favoured you is one of the most important revelations. I am liked by God. He delights in me. Understanding favour and the goodness of God toward you personally is one of the most important outlooks to have. This verse also shows that God's favour over-rides man's strategies against you. God can turn things around. God can turn negatives into positives. It's important that we see this and expect it.

## C. Releasing favour is part of Jesus' mission

### Isaiah 61:1-2

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn."

## D. His favour has already been granted

### Eph 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

There might be money granted to a student for a scholarship but it's only released in stages as they pass their exams.

## E. We can have favour with both God and Man

### Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

### **1 Sam 2:26**

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the Lord and with people.

### **Acts 2:43-47**

<sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The result of favour for the church is growth. People are in awe of what you are doing.

## **F. We can seek God's favour actively**

### **2 Kings 13:4**

Then Jehoahaz sought the Lord's favour, and the Lord listened to him, for he saw how severely the king of Aram was oppressing Israel.

You don't have to be passive about favour. You can ask someone for a favour can't you?

### **Ps 106:4**

Remember me, LORD, when you show favour to your people, come to my aid when you save them,

Be aware of God's good intention for His people in this season and then cry out to him that you are not left out. E.g recent prophecies about wholeness and healing.

## **G. There are things that unlock God's favour**

### **Ps 5:12**

Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favour as with a shield.

### **Genesis 6:8**

"But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord."

### **Gen 7:1**

"Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation"

His faith stood out. Our Christianity should be counter culture. The early church exploded because it was different. 1. They forgave those who persecuted them. 2. They were generous to the poor.

3. They kept pure sexually in a culture where it was normal for married men to sleep with slaves and prostitutes. Noah was also counter culture.

### **Ps 31:19**

"How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you."

### **Prov 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, <sup>2</sup> for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. <sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup> Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man.

### **1 Pet 3:9**

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Every time you do good to someone who has been nasty to you, you unlock blessing and favour over yourself.

## **H. God's favour can be lifelong and not seasonal**

### **Ps 30:5**

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

God's discipline is brief compared to His favour. We need to have a mindset that I am a favoured one. Begin to expect it. Know what it looks like. Many people experience God's goodness and abundance and then expect failure because that's how they are programmed. "Last year was so good therefore this year I will expect mediocrity. All good things come to an end."

### **Ps 23:6**

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Don't limit His goodness to a past season of your life. Claim it for all the days of your life. There are no quota systems when it comes to God's abundance and goodness.

So what does favour look like? What are you believing for?

## **12 Signs of Favour**

### **1. Your words are powerful**

When you walk in favour God empowers your words.

#### **Samuel - 1 Sam 3:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.

<sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.

Your words don't fall to the ground..... they stick and don't return void.

#### **Jesus - Rev 3:7**

"These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."

**Luke 4:32**

They were astonished at His teaching, because His message had authority.

**Mt 7:29**

because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

**Stephen - Acts 6:10**

None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.

**2. You breakthrough beyond your natural qualifications****Acts 4:13**

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

**God adds His super to your natural****Luke 10:21**

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

**Favour is attracted to brokenness and childlikeness.** The disciples operated in favour and the power of God and this was Jesus' response. The Lord showed me that each time I try to gain favour by trusting in my own qualifications and the pride of this life I am short-circuiting the favour of God.

**Deut 20:1**

When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you.

You will compete against the "big guns" and win because of God's favour.

**3. Your prayers are answered****Exodus 33:17**

And the Lord said...This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name."

**4. You experience supernatural protection****Ps 5:12**

Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favour as with a shield

Favour is not one dimensional. It surrounds you. You experience all aspects of God's nature and personality and names. In vs 11 he is declaring protection.

## 5. The work you do is established

### Psalm 90:17

“Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!”

### 2 Cor 9:8

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

## 6. You get a wife

### Proverbs 18:22

He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favour from the LORD.

## 7. You experience supernatural strength

### Ps 89:17

By your favour you make us strong...”

## 8. Officials waiver their policies

### Acts 16:25-36

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup> and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

<sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” <sup>29</sup> And the jailer[a] called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. <sup>35</sup> But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, “Let those men go.” <sup>36</sup> And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, “The magistrates have sent to let you go.

## 9. You make quantum leaps in promotion and wealth

Life is typically arrived at in stages but you have skipped levels. E.g. Vicky’s promotion  
Esther becoming queen

### Esther 2:8-9

<sup>8</sup> When the king’s order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king’s palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. <sup>9</sup> She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided

her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem.

Joseph's promotion

### **Gen 41:37 – 46**

<sup>37</sup> The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. <sup>38</sup> So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God<sup>[a]</sup>?" <sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. <sup>40</sup> You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." <sup>41</sup> So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." <sup>42</sup> Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. <sup>43</sup> He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command,<sup>[a]</sup> and people shouted before him, "Make way<sup>[b]</sup>!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. <sup>44</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." <sup>45</sup> Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On,<sup>[c]</sup> to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt. <sup>46</sup> Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt.

They were all humble. God gives grace to the humble. We see many people being lifted up in ways we cannot explain and we forget the scripture that says, humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and in due time He will lift you up. We can't see them when they have humbled themselves because they are in obscurity but when they are lifted up we say its God's favour. The key that unlocked the favour was humility. They also used their gifts for good and this made them stand out.

If you are faithful with your gift, kings will seek you for wisdom and gift.

### **Daniel 1:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> And the king spoke with them, and among all the young men he found no one equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the king's service. <sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom. <sup>21</sup> And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus....

### **Dan 2:46-48**

<sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell face downward and paid respect to Daniel [as a great prophet of the highest God], and gave orders for an offering and fragrant incense to be presented to him [in honor of his God]. <sup>47</sup> The king answered Daniel and said, "Most certainly your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery!" <sup>48</sup> Then the king promoted Daniel [to an exalted position] and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon.

### **Isaiah 60:5**

Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

Sometimes God shows you His provision and wealth by blessing you with freebies. Ordinarily you have to pay but somehow you don't. Relationships are a currency. Eg pilots working for aircraft company not having to pay for trips with family.

Your Influence is multiplied and permeates the region. Daniel bypassed policy e.g. being chosen over the locals.

Referrals; Other departments want your services; People copy you; People just want to work with you or anyone you recommend.

You are hand picked by influential people who don't share the same spiritual beliefs. Eg people might have thought HR person was getting a cut because she promoted me so much despite our different beliefs.

## **10. You access spiritual mysteries**

### **John 15:15**

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

A lot of the breakthroughs we experience are when we get a specific revelation.

## **11. What you carry becomes the dominant anointing and presence.**

You are not micro managed. You legislate the spiritual climate. E.g. with HR leader in team meeting

### **Acts 27:21-26**

<sup>21</sup> After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup> But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. <sup>23</sup> Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup> and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' <sup>25</sup> So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. <sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

## **12. Your enemies make a turn-around**

### **Prov 16:7**

When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone's way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them.