

Finding Favour With God

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One of the Bible verses that challenged me years ago is Ephesians 5:10. It says, “*Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.*” (NLT) So that has become one of my main ambitions in life. I want to know what pleases my Father in heaven. And recently I found another verse that compliments Ephesians 5:10. Genesis 6:8, says *Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD.*

God said, “This guy brings me pleasure. He does what pleases me and I’m going to bestow my favour upon his life.”

And here’s what I learned as I looked at the rest of the story...

1. God bestows favour on us when we love him supremely.

Noah loved God more than anything else in the world, even when no one else did! The Bible tells us that for his entire life, *Noah ... walked with God.* (Gen. 6:9b)

This is what God wants most from us: a relationship! He wants to walk with you. He wants to have fellowship with you! He wants to spend time with you. He wants to love you and for you to love him back!

Learning to love God should be the greatest goal of our lives. Jesus called it the greatest commandment. He said, in Matt. 22:37-38 ‘*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*’ *This is the first and greatest commandment.*

2. God bestows favour on us when we trust him completely.

The second reason Noah pleased God was that he trusted God, even when it didn’t make sense.

One day God comes to Noah and says, “I’m disappointed in human beings. In the entire world no one but you thinks about me. Noah, I’m pleased with your life, so I’m going to flood the world and start over with your family. I want you to build an ark, a giant ship that will save you and the animals.”

And later on, the Bible declares in Heb. 11:7 that *It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before.*

By faith, Noah trusted in God’s Word.

I love this acrostic for FAITH:

Forsaking
All
I
Trust
Him

It took Noah 120 years to build that ark. I'm certain he faced many discouraging days. No sign of rain year after year! They probably called him a crazy man – building a boat in the middle of the desert.

Forsaking all I trust Him! You want God's favour in your life? Then trust the LORD completely.

3. God bestows favour on us when we obey him wholeheartedly.

Building this ark and saving the animal population from a worldwide flood required great attention to logistics and details. Everything had to be done just as God prescribed it. God didn't say, "Build any old boat you'd like, Noah." He gave very detailed instructions as to the size, shape, and materials of the ark.

And then, in Gen. 6:22 we read that *Noah did everything just as God commanded him*. No instructions were overlooked. Noah's obedience was precise.

In John 14:15 Jesus said, *"If you love me, obey my commandments*. No instructions can be overlooked. Our obedience must be wholehearted if we want the favour of God upon us.

4. God bestows favour on us when we praise him continually.

Few things in life feel better to me than receiving words of affirmation.

And we know that God loves to be praised and admired and worshipped for who he is and what he does!

Noah's first act after surviving the Flood was to praise God. He built an altar and then presented a sacrifice to God in worship. But today, the kind of sacrifice God is looking for is not a sacrifice of bulls and goats, but a sacrifice of praise!

That's what it says in Hebrews 13:15 *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name*.

God bestows favour on us when we praise him continually.

5. God bestows favour on us when we use our skills gladly.

After the Flood, God gave Noah these simple instructions in Genesis 9:1, 3 NIV *Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth... Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.*

God said, “It’s time to get on with your life! Do the things I designed humans to do. Have babies. Raise families. Plant crops and eat meals. Be humans! Have dominion over the earth. Use your skills to provide for your family. Enjoy yourselves. This is what I made you to be!

“I’m inviting you into the Story of abundant life!”

You may feel that the only time God’s favour is upon you is when you’re doing “spiritual” activities – like reading the Bible, attending church, or sharing your faith. And you may think God is unconcerned about other parts of your life. But actually, God enjoys watching every detail, whether you are working, playing, resting, or eating. He doesn’t miss a single move you make.

The Bible tells us, *The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives.* Psalm 37:23 NLT

You can wash dishes, repair a machine, sell a product, write a computer program, grow a crop, or raise a family for the glory of God. He delights in every detail of your life!

And so, if we want to experience God’s favour in our lives, doesn’t it just make sense that we would use every gift, every talent, every ability, every skill we possess for God’s pleasure?

Find out what is pleasing to the Lord and do it. Make 2 Corinthians 5:9 your personal mission statement for 2010.

2 Corinthians 5:9 NLT

Our aim is to please him always...

God is looking for people today who willing to live for his pleasure and not their own. Will you make pleasing God the goal of your life?

If you ever get absorbed with pleasing God, you will enjoy outrageous favour from Him!