

A Season of Favor and Great Grace

By Todd Bentley

God is imparting and releasing supernatural grace to His people in this hour to empower them to live an overcoming Christian life! He wants us to understand that He has a higher level of empowering grace available for His children- called great grace- which He is releasing to equip them with His supernatural power for the coming healing revival. (Acts 4:33).

Great grace comes as a sovereign anointing from the Holy Spirit, which comes upon believers to enable them to do impossible feats by the spirit of grace. This supernatural grace includes grace, favor and great grace, also known as "grace, grace" (Zech. 4:7). Grace and favor is not only an anointing that can come as a tangible presence upon our lives; it can be imparted and transferred as well.

The Greek word for grace in the New Testament is the same word for favor. Grace is also the unmerited favor of God; but it's more than that. The grace of God is the favor and kindness that He gives without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it, in spite of what that same person deserves. Favor happens when God turns to us and he is pleased with us, I believe it's possible for God to give us favor even if we haven't fasted and prayed enough or we haven't given enough.

FAVOR

JUBILEE FREEDOM

I believe that this is the year of the Lord's favor and I'm standing in faith for this! (Is. 61:2). The favor of God brings the blessing of the Lord and everything we need in the natural to do what God has called us to do. At times, we must pass through testing before we come into this favor. However, I am saying that this is the year of the Lord's favor.

God is releasing an anointing of His Spirit to bring us into the acceptable year, a place of liberty and release, just like the year of Jubilee in Scripture, Jubilee is the cancellation of all debt, the release of all our property and the release of all slaves (referring to all the bondage in our lives.) Jubilee heralds the return of our sons and daughters and the release of our investments. God released all these things in the time of Jubilee!

It is possible, under the anointing of God's Spirit, for us to prophesy, proclaim and decree favor and Jubilee- then everything that comes in Jubilee will come into our lives the moment we speak the word. It can happen that fast!

GROWING IN FAVOR

According to Scripture, Jesus increased in favor: **"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:5)**. The Bible also tells us about the child, Samuel, and how he grew in favor with the Lord and also with man (1 Sam. 2:26). I want to say that it's time to grow in the favor of the Lord- both with God and man just like Samuel did. But we have to increase in favor with God first, though, and then we'll increase in favor with man.

More and more believers are going to come into the anointing that brings the favor of God to the point that He's going to break the spirit of poverty and lack and He's going to release His grace. So, the question is how to obtain the favor of God? The answer is- the anointing.

THE ANNOINTING

Jesus was anointed with two anointing: the Holy Spirit and power (Acts 10:38). It's possible to be anointed with the Holy Spirit - smeared with the Holy Spirit, like having the oil poured on and rubbed in, like a spiritual massage. Then some "as it is in heaven" (Mt. 6:10) rubs off on us and we carry this realm everywhere we go. That's the anointing!

The first thing that happens when the anointing touches our lives is a release of vision, strength and purpose. Our horn is exalted like the wild ox. Horn means strength (Ps. 92:10). When God anoints our horn, He blesses our strength, our vision, our purpose and our destiny. When God anoints our strength we want to run again - harder and faster. We're not going to let up or shut up!

With the anointing we'll flourish and prosper like a palm tree (v. 12). This resilient tree is one of the only trees on earth that can grow in a dry and thirsty land. WE can be like a palm tree- even when it's dry and revival is over, we're still in revival and people are still getting saved and healed. In fact, people love to be around the anointing on our lives and to see the power of God in operation as people are saved, healed and delivered.

The righteous shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh, fat, abundant, green and flourishing (v. 14). Fruitfulness and freshness! That's what we want in the kingdom- to bear much fruit and to be empowered to declare the gospel and the testimony of Jesus. (Jn. 15:16). God is heavily on our side and wants us to have a bigger, fresher, fruitful vision. God wants us to succeed and to increase (Jn. 10:10).

When the anointing touches our lives, our roots will go down deep and we'll be in a good position to receive revelation from God. We can grow like a cedar (Ps. 92:12). Did you know that the cedar is one of the mightiest trees in Israel and it symbolizes spiritual maturity? We can walk in this kind of strength and anointing.

As well, another secret to the anointing is discovered when we read David's description of the intensity of the anointing on his life. **"But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever" (Psalms 52:8)**. The secret is that God wants us to be in His house because these are days of intimacy and abiding in the vine. That is a key to the anointing! Remaining in the presence of God and abiding in the vine is the key to fruitfulness and much fruit that will remain. **"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (Jn. 15:7)**. Only the friends of God, who remain in the house of God, can pray with that kind of expectation.

MORE THAN ENOUGH

When we abide in the vine, the Lord's favor is upon our lives and He has great freedom to release what we need so that we can win souls! Real prosperity means having more than enough resources to do what we're called to do so that we can fulfill the vision God gave us. You know, the Lord wants those believers who hear the call, to acquire buildings and lands so that believers have a place to receive training and equipping for the harvest.

However, to prosper in this way, we also need to be out of debt so we're free to go into the nations and win the lost for Christ. God will make a way for the resources to be released to us so that we can go. In Bible times there were seasons when no one was lacking. People sold their possessions and lands, bring the proceeds and laying them at the apostle's feet so they could distribute to anyone that had need (Acts 4:34-35). Most of us would like to be in a position where people just come and bless us for the work of the ministry. We're not after the material blessing that favor brings; we're after the favor- then everything else will take care of itself.

FAVOR BRINGS PARTNERS

How would you like the kind of favor that causes the Holy Spirit to come up on your life to stay? When Samuel the prophet anointed young David with golden oil (to be King of Israel), the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him from that day on (1 Sam. 16:13). Now that's favor! But even though David had this anointing on his life, he had to hide in caves and the wilderness with about 400 discontented men (1 Sam. 22:1-2). In contemporary terms - it was the bums, robbers, misfits, drug addicts and prostitutes that came out to David in the strongholds - they volunteered to serve him (v. 2).

The Lord called some of the men to come and help David become King, and they shared out of association, the same anointing as David. It was a great anointing because the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily to stay. These men were the ones that David would be the most faithful to. These guys were saying something like this to David: We recognize that even though you're not King right now, we want to get in on ground level. We know that God has called you to be the King of Israel - even though you don't look like a King at this moment, even though you're running from Saul, hiding out in the wilderness.

So often, on the first glance, circumstances look one way. Yet, in reality, they aren't really the way they look! You might have one little person in your cramped office and 50 people in your church. Still, you're faithful and you're pressing through. You may not look like a King, but a few people recognize the anointing and calling on your life. You might not have the big palace or the big ministry right now, but if you get the anointing people will want to be around it. The business men will come; the partners and the people with lands and houses will come; they will put resources at your feet. They will partner with you because the favor of the Lord is upon you.

PREPARING FOR FAVOR

Queen Esther certainly had favor! She was taken from the safety of her uncle's home and ushered into the royal palace when the king was looking for a new Queen it wasn't long before she obtained the favor of the official in charge - then she received her beauty preparations and an allowance (Es. 2:9).

Initially she spent six months in the oil, which represents death, suffering, sacrifice and dying to the flesh. That's one of the keys to the anointing. Spend as much time as possible in the oil! Then, for six months, she was treated with the perfumes - the fragrance of Jesus; the presence of God. After her preparation time she was taken to the king; he chose her to be Queen above all the other beautiful women (Es. 2:17). The fact that her heritage was Jewish was never disclosed to the king.

Some time later, Queen Esther answered the challenge to stand in the gap on behalf of her people because a wicked government official wanted to wipe them out completely. And so she presented herself to her husband, the King. And when he saw her, he asked, **"What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you - up to half the kingdom!" (Es. 5:1-3)**. Because she had favor with the King she could ask what she wished. However, let's not miss this; there is a crucial principle that brought this favor - preparation! She prepared herself because she was hungry and desperate to find favor by calling for a fast and setting herself apart (4:16).

We need to be like Esther if we're going to be moved into a place of ruling and reigning and finding favor. It means preparing our lives like Esther prepared her for life. She kept herself clean and pure, a virgin without spot, free from the unclean things that were in the world. She was after one thing - favor with the King.

GOD HAS HIS FAVORITES!

Esther became Queen after she received favor over and above all the other women. She was the favorite! God loves each of us with an unconditional love - but favor is different! God can actually favor someone more than someone else. Scripture gives us examples of favoritism: God favored Joseph above all his brothers (Gen. 37) and He also favored Jacob above Esau (Gen 27).

Why? It's because God rewards the one who intimately acquainted with Him; the one who diligently seeks Him. If we're not seeking Him as passionately as the next person, we may not have as much favor and anointing on our lives. God responds to the heart that chases after Him, the heart like King David's. Even though, at times, David's life was a mess and he didn't walk in holiness, his heart's desire was to be right with God. That should bring encouragement to us. When we think of all the ways that we fall short, God is saying: You've had a heart that's been hungry for Me! Your heart has been hungry for My presence and you have pursued My presence. I want to reward your faithfulness. Intimacy with God brings His favor and that's where the anointing is!

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