

Today's Message Outline: "Finding the Favor of God"

² For he says, "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. - 2Corinthians 6:2 (NIV)

Let's choose to begin the year with a renewed hunger to see the favor of God upon our personal and corporate lives so that His glory might be fulfilled in and through us.

A. There are two primary reasons why we don't find favor with God:

1. teaching: we don't know about it.
2. perception: we don't believe we deserve it.

B. A sampling of those who "found favor" with God throughout scriptures:

- Noah (Genesis 6:8)
- Abraham (Genesis 18)
- Joseph (Genesis 39-44)
- Ruth (Ruth 2:10)
- Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:11)
- Samuel (1Samuel 2:26)
- Esther (Esther 4:14)
- Mary (Luke 1:30)
- Jesus (Luke 2:52)

C. Our definition of God's favor is "the promise of His

- *Presence*
- *Power*
- *Purpose*

flowing naturally through my life."

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Pastor Jay Passavant

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D. Three ways to position yourself to find God's favor:

1. Expect it.

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!
- Isaiah 30:18 (NIV)

2. Recognize it.

⁵ *For even his own brothers did not believe in him.* - John 7:5

3. Respond to it. (Exodus 33:12-17)

Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions

1. Do you believe you have been living in the favor of God in the past year? Why or why not?
2. Do you desire to live in the favor of God even though there may be some challenges associated with it? Why or why not?
3. Of the 3 "positioning" principles, which one do you find the most difficult to embrace in your life? Why?
4. How would things change if you "found favor" with God this year in one specific area of your life?