

Gathering

FAVOR

Today, we consider gathering 'favor' in our lives. This is a biblical concept that is often misunderstood. Often, we see God's favor in the way that we view the favor of people. Sometimes, we use the phrase 'good graces' to talk about a happy relationship with others. We believe that we are in the 'good graces' of others when they act favorable toward us.

The favor of God goes much deeper than 'good graces'. The favor that Solomon writes about is the undeserved kindness of God in our life. Proverbs 3:3-4 says: "*Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*"

The Hebrew word used in these verses is 'charis' which relates to the grace of God; an unmerited gift He gives to us! Looking at these verses, we are reminded that one way to gain the favor of the Lord is to keep loyalty and kindness in our lives. Scripture urges us to 'bind them (*loyalty and kindness*) around our necks. Our love, faith, and trust in God should be obvious to others, like a beautiful necklace which would adorn our necks. As we live a life pleasing to Him, this is perceived as something precious and beautiful, that can be seen by all others.

These virtues need to be part of our everyday life and be our default response to others in our lives. Solomon tells us that responding in kindness brings the approval of God and of man!

May our lives be pleasing to the Lord gaining His favor and the favor of people who then are drawn to the Creator and kindness, love and grace!

After reading Scripture consider these questions:

- How do you see God's favor (*grace*) in your everyday living?
- What spiritual characteristic necklace do you wear around your neck each day?
- Is there someone who comes to mind who wears a character necklace of love and kindness?
- How attractive are the spiritual virtues that you wear each day? Do they draw people to the favor of the Lord?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

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(*grace*) in your everyday living?

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virtues that you wear each day?
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Is there someone who comes to mind
who wears a character **necklace**
of love and kindness?

A close-up photograph of a woman's hands, one resting on the other. She is wearing several silver rings: a simple band on her left ring finger, a band on her right ring finger, and a wide, textured band on her right middle finger. A delicate necklace with a heart-shaped pendant is visible around her neck. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

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Proverbs 3:3-4

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Proverbs 3:3-4



Here are some Scriptures that will help you explore what it means to have the favor of the Lord in your life...

PSALM 90:17

How does God's favor confirm the works of our hands?

GENESIS 6:8

Noah found favor even during a time of judgment and destruction.

PSALM 84:1

Where do you see God extending favor in your life?

ESTHER 2:15

Esther was living in a perilous time and God extended His favor and grace "for such a time as this".

JAMES 4:6

How are favor and grace very similar?

DANIEL 1:9

Daniel was taken captive by the Babylonians and probably felt that God had abandoned him. His story reminds us that we can find favor with God regardless of the difficulties we face.



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