

LIVING IN THE FULLNESS OF GOD

○ Thankfulness in this Season

- a.) "Thankful" is a word we often use during this season—not just because of Thanksgiving—but because it's a time when we are given a break to pause, appreciate, and reflect on all that God has done for us throughout the year in our families, friendships, church communities, ministries, health, and businesses.

○ Favor through Salvation

- a.) Many of these blessings we are walking in today, are completely underserved and unmerited, they are only due to God's goodness through our salvation.
- b.) Jesus's sacrifice on the cross gave us a seat at the table because we are now CHILDREN OF GOD! Since we have been adopted by the King of Heaven and Earth, we immediately became heirs to His Kingdom.
- c.) We inherited this thing called **FAVOR**—or as some might call it, **uncommon preferential treatment**.

Ephesians 1:6 "As a child of God, you are greatly blessed, highly favored, and deeply loved."

Who here is thankful to be a child of God, with uncommon favor?

○ Favor through Relationship with God

- a.) As I just explained, there is a favor that comes through our salvation. But did you know that there is another type of favor—a **next-level, abundant life, overflowing favor?**
- b.) This favor causes doors to open and mountains to be moved, supernaturally:
- Orphans to become Queens, like Esther
 - Prisoners to become Prime Ministers, like Joseph
 - Poor Immigrants to become wealthy Landowners, like Ruth
 - You'll drink poison, but not get sick
 - Tred on snakes and scorpions, yet not be harmed
 - Lay hands on the sick, and see miraculous recoveries
 - Lions won't touch you, like Daniel
 - Whales will spit you out, like Jonah
 - And... like the Prophet Elisha, you'll get a double portion anointing – but only if you can **see**.

Daniel 1:9 “Daniel made up his mind not to let himself become ritually unclean by eating the food and drinking the wine of the royal court, so he asked Ashpenaz to help him. **God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.**”

- c.) This favor is only granted when you live a life of total SUBMISSION to God.

○ Jesus is our Reward: Favor is a Biproduct

- a.) Jesus is God, and in the new covenant we cannot even access the Father without Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

b.) So, it’s because of Jesus you have favor through your Salvation.

c.) Next-level favor only comes through an even DEEPER relationship with Christ and developing **Christ-like character**, *or else God could lose you.*

a.) **Supernatural Favor** not the goal, it’s only BIPRODUCT of the actual reward of knowing Jesus because **knowing Jesus** will cause you to love him, and in-turn you will joyfully follow Him and walk in the FULLNESS of God’s favor over your life.

Revelation 4:12 says that God created us for **His pleasure...**

Nothing will ever give you more fulfillment than pleasing God. That literally is your PURPOSE to be alive.

○ **The Ability to Learn**

The goal of our Christianity is to be passionate, ON-FIRE, lovers of Jesus. So, how does one get ON-FIRE for Jesus?

b.) First, we need become His students, disciples, to eventually know Him and love Him and then to submit to Him willingly.

So how does one learn? We need the right TOOLS.

c.) At school, we need **eyes** to **see** what’s on the board and **ears** to **hear** the lecture. Similarly, in our walk with God, we need **spiritual eyes to see** and **spiritual ears to hear**.

d.) Those who don't see and do not hear will never receive the **fullness of God's favor** because they are experiencing a **HINDERANCE** in their relationship with God.

Matthew 13:15-17 "For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

○ **The Good News**

a.) The Good News is... God does not withhold anything from you: HE GAVE YOU HIS SON.

Matthew 7:11 "So, if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him?"

- **God wants to bless you:** Parents, if you have a pool in your house, it's for your kids to enjoy it, right? You want them to swim and have fun. You paid a high price for your house so that they could enjoy it.
- The Lord's FAVOR and His Benefits are similar, because JESUS paid a high price for your freedom, healing and to give you life, and life more abundantly.

Psalm 103:2-5 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

- Don't allow a poverty mentality and a spirit of LACK rob you from what God has for you, because:

Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

○ **Spiritual Sight: Seeing Through God's Eyes**

a.) In Hebrew, "Ra'ah" means to **see**, to **perceive**, and to have **vision**.

b.) **The Virgin Mary** was visited by the angel Gabriel to announce the birth of Jesus, the angel said:

Luke 1:6-37 "Greetings, **favored woman!** The Lord is with you!" **Confused and disturbed**, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "For you have found **favor** with God! You will **conceive and give birth** to a son, and you will name him Jesus..."

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...."

"I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her."

- At first, Mary couldn't see or perceive the favor upon her life. She couldn't understand what was happening.

c.) **Spiritual Sight** means having the right **view of yourself**.

Romans 12:3 “Think of yourself with sober judgment, according to the measure of faith God has given you.”

○ **Correcting your Vision**

a.) Do you see yourself how God sees you? Do you know your identity?
Do you recognize Jesus's glorious Spirit that works through you?

If you don't align yourself with God's vision for your life, you won't value yourself or live up to your destiny

- If the Lord says you are His daughter because He is the King, that means you are royalty. Are you marrying a prince, or are you dating a frog? A prince is also His son, so you belong with a prince.
- If God says your body is a temple, are you eating like it?
- If He says other believers are your family and you should love them and be united, are you communing with them, or are you isolated?
- If the Lord says you are to be holy (as in **1 Peter 2:9**, where God calls you **His Holy Nation**), are you living in purity? Are vile words coming out of your holy mouth? Are you speaking life or death?

○ **Virgin Mary Sees Herself**

a.) Even though Mary could not see the fullness of identity at first, she eventually aligned herself with God's vision for her life.

Luke 1:47-50 "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on **all generations will call me blessed**. For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done **great things for me**. He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who **fear Him**."

- Mary recognized the favor upon her and praised the Lord for it. When you recognize who you are in Christ, religious people may not like it, and guess who else doesn't like it? The devil. **Walking in your TRUTH is not pride.**

○ **Spiritual Blindness: Zachariah**

a.) Zachariah suffered the consequences of **Spiritual Blindness**:

- Zachariah was a priest who was married to Mary's cousin, Elizabeth and both were old. The Bible says that Elizabeth was barren; she had no children and was past child-bearing age. So, when the same angel, Gabriel, came to Zachariah to tell him that Elizabeth was going to become pregnant with a son, John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for Jesus the Messiah, Zachariah said:

Luke 1:18-19 "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years." Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was He who sent me to bring you this Good News! But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."

b.) **Spiritual Sight** goes beyond the physical realm; it's about envisioning what God says He will do before He even does it. This is the definition of **FAITH**—and walking as if it's already done.

- **Spiritual Blindness** is **disbelief**, and an intellectual spirit will stop you from seeing.
- The Bible says it is impossible to **please** God without faith (Hebrews 11:6) *remember that pleasing God is our purpose...* and faith without works is dead (James 2:26).

THE WAY YOU BELIEVE IS HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE

○ **Consequences of Spiritual Blindness**

a.) Zachariah had to be silenced so he wouldn't destroy the seed with his words of disbelief.

b.) **WORDS ARE POWERFUL:** The Bible says **life and death are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21)**.

c.) This is the exact reason some of you have not progressed, feel stagnant and are stuck in cycles. Your words are killing your destiny. Your lack of sight will stop you from soaring and will limit you, because God cannot trust you.

○ **Zachariah's Obedience and Restoration**

a.) Zachariah was allowed to speak again, when he aligned himself to God's vision and **HE OBEYED:**

- All of Zachariah and Elizabeth's family were expecting their baby to be named **Zachariah**, like his father. But when Zachariah

wrote on a tablet that the baby's name would be **John**, just as the angel had instructed.

The moment he obeyed, he was able to speak again and got back on the path of destiny.

○ **Spiritual Ears to Hear: Obedience**

a.) Did you know the Hebrew word for Obedience is SHAMA, which means to **hear**, to **give your attention** to, and to **submit** to.

- When Eli was teaching the young prophet Samuel how to hear from God, he told Samuel to say this...

1 Samuel 3:9-10 "Speak, oh LORD, for your servant is listening."

- When we ask God to speak to us... it's because we are **READY** to obey Him and do that He wills.
- God's voice is **NOT COMMON**. It's hard to hear God when **you're distracted with the world and listening to your FLESH**.

○ **Testimony of Disobedience and Redemption**

Holy Spirit Doesn't Get Louder, He Gets Quieter

My pastor always says this: God is not like man. When someone doesn't **HEAR** us, we get louder: "HEY, DID YOU HEAR ME?" That's the flesh. When the flesh gets louder and louder... the Holy Spirit doesn't get louder; He gets quieter because He's a gentleman – and He knows you heard Him, you just chose to ignore Him. We use our God-given free will to make a choice. The Bible says in:

Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you: life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.”

There’s a quote that says, when you are born, you look like your parents... but when you die, you look like your choices.

Romans 1:28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or consider Him worth knowing [as their Creator], God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do things which are improper and repulsive.

○ **God’s Word for You**

a.) I want to tell you that was the exact word the Lord gave me for tonight. I woke up ON Tuesday morning, right before writing this message, and I heard this word in my Spirit:

“God blesses the hand that lets go but curses the hand that stores.”

Matthew 16:25-26 “If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”

○ **Women who SEE and HEAR**

a.) Let us be women who can see & hear, like **Mary of Bethany**:

MARY HEARD:

- When Mary's sister, Martha, was stressed about preparing a meal for her guests – Mary of Bethany was at the feet of Jesus. When Martha rebuked her little sister, Jesus said:

Luke 10:41-42 “Martha, Martha... you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

MARY SAW:

- When Jesus visited Bethany, Mary used her expensive ointment to anoint the feet of Jesus. It was worth a year's wage, probably around \$50,000 dollars.
- Judas, who later betrayed Jesus, and was already stealing from Jesus's ministry – was upset she didn't give that money to the poor. He couldn't perceive the VALUE of the man discipling Him... Sold the Messiah for 30 pieces of silver.
- But Mary perceived Jesus wasn't an ordinary man she bathed Him with in her inheritance because she recognized HE WAS THE LIVING GOD. Because of this... the favor of God followed her:

Mark 14:9 “Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

Tonight, let's open our eyes to who JESUS is, VALUE and Love Him, walk in faithfully in obedience, and by default – we will receive the wonderful benefits, the supernatural favor that comes from knowing Jesus and being His bride.

○ **Worship Jesus**

a.) Let's be worshipers, at the feet of Jesus just like Mary of Bethany and pour out our perfume.

- Sing this song with me so God can help us SEE and HEAR:

*- Open the eyes of my heart, God,
Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You,
I want to see You.*

*- Open my ears to yield, Lord,
Open my ears to yield,
I want to hear You,
I want to hear You.*