

**IGNITING
AND
SUSTAINING
DIVINE FAVOUR**

DR. TOR TERRY SHAGUY

Igniting And Sustaining Divine Favour
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THANKS

Thank you Lord Jesus for favour and grace immeasurable

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my spiritual mentors Rev. & Rev. Mrs.

O. Olusile-David, who have remained my main spiritual well since my new birth. Your ability and patience in putting up with my many excesses has greatly helped me appreciate the need and meaning of favour.

It is also dedicated to our first daughter, Iveren Favour, whose life is indeed an epitome of favour, the lady Sewuese Praise and the boy, Tor David who at less than two already has all the evidence of a David.

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even aware of), opened much doors of readership for this book in its first edition, personally circulating it among many brethren.

Finally, Pastor Chris Femi Nmor of Abifem type-set this revised edition while Ngozi A. Onwuka did a fan-tastic proofreading job.

May all your divine bridges obey God in your lives.

Amen.

Thank you all.

Introduction



There are basically four potent weapons at the disposal of everyone who plans to make his pilgrim age upon this planet earth both fulfilling and significant. These weapons are as follows:-

Money: Even the Bible acknowledges that money answers all things-Ecclesiastes10:19. With money you can accomplish a lot of things. You can either purchase or where necessary, bribe your way through a lot of things or situations. However, all things in Ecclesiastes must be understood in a relative sense. There are in fact many things that money cannot achieve. There are also many people that money does not impress. They regard neither silver nor gold and therefore can neither be bought nor bribed.

Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and

as for gold, they shall not delight in it.

Isaiah 13:17.

On the other hand, money fails even in the hands of the very rich. Consequently, Money certainly isn't an all winning weapon.

Connection: This is the second weapon and refers to who you know or are known by in the places that matter. This weapon promotes name-dropping. For example, if you are from the first family of your nation, you will often enjoy waivers and advantage in a lot of situations. Ironically, it is even because of this your intimidating connections that some people will do all they can to frustrate you. Besides, there are many people who know or are even related to right people and yet, their fortunes have not improved. Finally, the top and influential people you know today may not always be there. The verdict is that even the highest human connection does not always win.

Does gender then? This is the third potent weapon at the disposal of everyone. Whether you are male or female, you can win many advantages just by the mere fact of your gender. Young women especially, in this crooked and perverse world, can enter many doors simply because female is on their CVs. At least in Nigeria, young female students who consistently made a little below average grades in all their subjects have suddenly turned out Second Class Upper in their final degree exams. Their greatest assets had been their femininity, a generosity with their body and a willing-ness to perish in hell fire.

Again in Nigeria, before the advent of due process in the award of government jobs and contracts, many young ladies had turned impromptu contractors and were securing contracts in fields they knew next to nothing about. Their greatest qualifications were, a good face, good figure and a willingness to take off their clothes for the right person at short notice.

Unfortunately three factors call the bluff of gender invincibility: First, not every fellow of the opposite sex can be manipulated. Second, if a young woman's greatest asset is her body, when she comes up against a fellow woman in a particular position, she will run out of business. In a good number of cases, women seem to be particularly difficult to fellow women. Finally, a good face or figure are not permanent. When those wrinkles begin to 'drink' up loads of powder and still refuse to be silenced and when that waistline begins to compete with Japanese sumo wrestlers, where will Miss Fine face be? Conclusion: even femininity does not win all.

But there is something that does. And what's more, success through this vehicle does not play you against your Maker. All the academic, political, economic and professional credentials of this world still need this vehicle through which to manifest. All connections and beauty are vain without this vehicle. I am sure you know that the richest, best educated, most intimidating resumes, best connected and most beautiful do not always get the best available in their respective pursuits. They all need that vehicle called favour.

When favour is seated all of life becomes colourful. When favour takes a leave, no matter how temporary, life for that period becomes a small hell here on earth.

This book therefore offers the wisdom necessary to help you ignite and sustain your favour. The aim is to assist you enjoy a stress-free sojourn here on earth.

I acknowledge with much appreciation our readers worldwide, especially all those individuals, churches, ministries and even bookshops who have contacted us through various mediums requesting that we make more copies of this book available, since the official release in 2001. Your kind comments, generous contributions, faith inspiring testimonies, enthusiasm and persistent demands, pollinated our resolve to make this book both available and better. Your generous comments and interest thus cushioned the obvious financial and spiritual challenges that come with publishing.

You will thus discover that this edition has been reviewed. The aim is to make *Igniting & Sustaining Divine Favour*, a more practical book so that all who read it will return testimonies of favour as a direct consequence of having read the book.

Accordingly, I have introduced prayer points at strategic locations in this new edition to guide the reader, through his prayer, participate more profitably. The reason is simple. Knowledge is good but knowledge acted upon is much better. Therefore a deliberate attempt is made to galvanize you to act upon the insights shared in this book by prompting you to pray the blessings into your

own life.

I was greatly humbled by all those who commented on what a great book *Igniting & Sustaining Divine Favour* was. Nevertheless, I will be better blessed by those who will share their personal testimonies after reading and practicing the wisdom shared here-in. My prayer is that your testimonies will be among.

You are highly favoured. Amen.

Chapter One

Vital Bridge



For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous, with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield. Psalms 5:12

For surely, O Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favour as with a shield. -Psalms 5:12 (NIV).

Chambers English Dictionary, 7th edition, describes FAVOUR; noun, as countenance, goodwill; a kind deed; an act of grace or lenity; indulgence; partiality; advantage; etc.

In every sphere of the human pursuit, you are bound to meet people. Some, God brings your way to be affected by you. Others are meant to influence you. Whether this influence is positive or negative is consequent upon your

handling of such acquaintances.

The great Bible Teacher, Preacher and Writer, Mike Murdock says and I agree most readily, that when God wants to do anything in your life, He puts a man in your life. I should add that when the devil wants to bring you to mischief, he puts a woman in your life.

You remember Saul who later became christened Paul. After conversation in Acts chapter 9 on his way to Damascus, he apparently commenced ministry in that town. However, when he attempted to join fellowship with the disciples at Jerusalem where he would launch into greater work, he met with resistance from a suspicious congregation. It took the testimony of Barnabas to reassure the elders at Jerusalem and get Paul properly accepted.

And when Saul was come to Jerusalem he assayed to join himself to the disciples: But they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the Name of Jesus and he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem- Acts 9:26-28

Little wonder therefore that, not absolutely able to vouch for Paul, when the disciples sent him on his first assignment to deliver relief materials to the brethren in Judea, Barnabas was sent as his head of delegation-Acts 11:29, 30 and 12:25.

How about David? When God decided to establish

him the King of Israel, He put Jonathan in his life to help organize this. Jonathan it was who voluntarily stripped off his royal apparel and handed them to David thus surrendering his right to the throne willingly. He was David's vital link to the palace.

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. 1 Sam 18:1-4.

At great personal risk, Jonathan stoutly defended David before Saul.

And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, let not the king sin against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the philistines, and the

Lord wroth a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the Lord liveth, he shall not be slain.

1 Samuel 19:1, 4-6

Think about Joseph, the dreamer. It was necessary for his path to cross the Butler's for Joseph's enthronement as Egypt's Prime Minister to be actualized.

And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the King of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the King of Egypt. And Pharaoh was wroth... And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. And the chief Butler told his dream to JosephAnd Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it:... Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place... But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and show kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh and bring me out of this house.: Gen. 40:1-3, 9, 12-14.

And it came to pass at the end of two

full years that Pharaoh dreamed: ...Then spake the Chief butler unto Pharaoh, ...Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph... And Joseph answered Pharaoh... And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh... And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, see, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And... he made him ruler over all the Land of Egypt. Gen 41:1, 9, 14, 16, 37, 41-43.

What about even the Lord Jesus? The cross was His path to glory and God arranged for Judas Iscariot to be on the team. At the right moment, he did what religious people like Peter desperately attempted to abort. While Thomas was still reasoning with John and Luke the physician on the wisdom of eating human flesh and drinking the Lord's blood, Judas stepped out boldly and fulfilled destiny as the man brave enough to sell God.

Thousands of years earlier, Abraham's financial fortunes began to look up when he came in contact with the Egyptian Pharaoh. A man with strange passion. He esteemed the over 65-year-old Sarah more attractive than all the virgins of Egypt. God kept quiet until some sheep, oxen, servants, asses and camels changed hands in Abraham's favour. Then God moved in and intervened.

Of course the presents were not returned.

And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels. And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way. And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had. Gen. 12:-14-20.

Still in Gen. 20, another king called Abimelech took one look at Sarah, now about 90 years old. He saw a teenage beauty. Abraham saw more sheep, oxen and servants. God arrived to officiate and Abimelech lost. Abraham won. Once again, wealth had transferred because an acquaintance had been established.

All through the Bible, great destinies were birthed when one person met another. Saul the Benjamite went out casually to recover his father's lost sheep while taking a look at the countryside. He met with Samuel the prophet and returned an anointed King.

Much earlier in Egypt, a death spell had been pronounced upon all male Israelite babies. Moses seemed to have arrived just at the wrong time. A desperate mother eventually gave him up to fate. Fate picked up Moses while Miriam kept watch just to confirm a shark would feast upon the three months old. No way. Why? The Pharaoh's daughter took one look at the boy and melted inside. This 'chance meeting' brought Moses to the palace to be fended with the funds of his foes.

In all the examples mentioned above, those who profited by these relationships never earned, never achieved, never deserved, never qualified for the services or blessings they enjoyed. On the contrary their benefactors served them sometimes at great cost or personal denial. They profited from acts of good will, lenity, grace, advantage, partiality, indulgence and kind deed. Favour spoke in their favour.

Favour is that happenstance not routinely available to all people as a matter of right and thus taking place in your case, places you at an advantage or lenity in given situations. Favour is the only currency homogeneous enough to be a legal tender amongst all nations and peoples. It can obtain anything. It is bigger than the Dollar, Euro or Pounds sterling. Favour is the greatest qualification for all jobs.

It is bigger and more prestigious than all the academic, theological or professional qualifications of this world. Favour achieves after all hard work has failed.

Little wonder, Israel laboured very hard for hundreds of years in Egypt. The more they laboured, the poorer they became. When favour arrived, overnight, they became exceeding prosperous. What hard work had failed to achieve in hundreds of years, favour secured in one night:

And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians. Exodus 12:35-36.

Favour is a vital bridge.

SOURCE OF FAVOUR

God is the source of Favour. He gives favour as He pleases. Once your attitude is right, you can walk in favour permanently.

For thou Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield. Psalms 5:12

In Gen 15:13-14, God had promised Abraham that his seed would depart from Egyptian bondage with

much substance. On the eve of this departure however, all of Egypt was thrown into mourning. This seemed a perfectly wrong time to expect any generosity from them. Yet, rather than comfort their hitherto masters, the Jews went among the Egyptians, demanding and receiving their choice treasures. An unusual wealth transfer took place because:

... the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians...-Exodus 11:3.

Joseph, alien, slave and now prisoner for accusations of attempting to rape the wife of the Chief of Police deserved to be the most infamous inmate in Potiphar's jail.

But the Lord was with Joseph and shewed him mercy and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. - Genesis 39:21.

Eli's weak domestic leadership had bequeathed the nation very corrupt successors to the priesthood in the persons of his two sons. Samuel became a student in the school of the prophets when apostasy was at its worst and the entire nation was disenchanted with the seer's office. To restore the sanctity of the priesthood, God put His favour on the young student-prophet.

And the child Samuel grew on and was in favour both with the Lord and also with men.-I Samuel 2:26.

Following Pentecost, dwellers at Jerusalem viewed the emerging Church both with awe and suspicion. To

break the barrier and give the gospel speed in those days, God immersed the Church in favour.

Praising God, and having favour with all the people...-Acts 2:47.

The kings of Babylon were worshipped in their time. Their subjects knew no other god. It was suicidal to disobey them. Their officials especially, had only one religion: Obey the King. It was nearly impossible to get any official to disobey the king until,

... God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the Eunuchs. Daniel. 1:9.

When angel Gabriel revealed to Mary that God was about to suspend the biological law of reproduction and have the young virgin conceive and give birth without sleeping with a man, she needed some good convincing.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou has found favour with God. -Luke 1:30.

Job had understanding of the fact that God is the source of favour. He was to declare: Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit. Job 10:12

God is able to control the heart of every man and consequently direct the actions of men. While in most situations God respects the free will of men, when it comes to organizing the destiny of His people, God will and does affect the thoughts and actions of people to

bring about favourable dispositions towards His children.

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turned it whithersoever He will. Proverbs 21:1.

OBTAINING FAVOUR

Once God's mercy has granted you favour, you can obtain or find favour with people wherever you go.

...And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. Esther 2:15b

And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. 1Sam 16:22.

LEVEL OF FAVOUR

One can increase from one degree of Favour to a higher degree providing the proper attitude is cultivated. Usually the instrument to convey this increase is wisdom.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.-Luke 2:52.

Good understanding giveth favour- Proverbs 13:15.

PRAYERS

Heavely Father, from today, bring me in contact with every man, woman, group, institution, ministry and organisation you have raised as bridges to my glory, fulfillment and happiness. Make me to meet them at the right time, in the right place and for the right reasons, in Jesus name.

God of favour, from today, surround me with your favour so that I will command favour wherever I appear, in Jesus Name.

Chapter Two

The Weapon of Favour



Favour is a weapon which the Almighty God has armed all saints with to achieve and maintain our destined glorious high thrones. You see, every saint is by divine appointment meant for the throne. In every sphere of the human endeavour we are meant to be the ones in control. We are destined for glory. There are thrones which saints must occupy wherever they turn. This has been the plan of God from the redemption of creation. Saints should occupy financial, academic, political, military thrones etc.

Saints should take every profession and glorify it. We should assume the driving seat of every professional, financial, political, academics and military throne and turn them into glory, with righteousness. We should take over sports and make it drug-free and cheating-free. We should take over every state house and chase corruption and bitterness out of governance. We should take over

music and whip the devil in his own backyard. We should take the entertainment industry and produce such interesting and powerful gospel unbelievers to watch horror, gangster or pornographic movies.

Once the Church occupies any throne, it shall become a glorious throne.

*A glorious high throne from the beginning
is the place of our sanctuary.*

-Jeremiah 17:12.

The Church is some kind of an Occupational Army. Our Commander in Chief, The Lord Jesus has bade us “Occupy till I come” - Luke 19:13. Knowing we will face challenges and opposition, the Lord did not leave us without arms. Quite candidly, our weapons which are not however carnal, are meant to help further a display of the manifold wisdom of our God.

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known through the church the manifold wisdom of God. Ephesians 3:10.

We are supposed, through the operation of favour, to occupy in every conceivable discipline on earth till our Lord comes. All without lowering the holiness standard. Through the vibration of favour, we can excel as businessmen without giving bribes.

A little lady came sputtering to Elisha one fateful morning. She was so desperate that she almost lost her mind. She could hardly explain her predicament. So bad was the situation that when the man of God wanted to introduce God into the matter, she lost her memory. The

family was in debt up to their neck. If by nightfall she failed to come up with the money, her sons would be taken as slaves.

And Elisha said unto her, what shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, thine handmaid hath not anything in the house save a pot of oil. 2Kings 4:1-7.

Thank God she finally remembered that she still had a pot of oil. The account says further that this little widow was counseled by the man of God upon which she started her business on 80% borrowed resources. Apart from that one pot of oil, all other ‘machinery’ or vessels were borrowed. Now how did her business prosper? Who bought all that oil? The same neighbourhood from whom she borrowed the vessels, of course. If you needed your vessel, you had to buy the oil along. Clean, straightforward business. No bribe. You can succeed in business without bribe.

When we used to oversee Key of David Ltd., a security, consultancy and training firm, many times we came up against bribe demanding officials. Of course, we declined such jobs. As a result, we avoided Government jobs like a plague. Yet, God did us very well without bribe. Some jobs waited for us for as long as it took us to make contact. This was in spite of the competitive disposition of that business.

All that is yours shall wait for you through the operation of favour, in Jesus Name. Amen.

The Bible says none shall desire your land:

For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year. Exodus 34:24.

Thank God, through favour, you can prosper as a doctor without doing abortions. You remember the midwives of Egypt? The Pharaoh enacted a law mandating the midwives to abort or kill all male Israelite babies. The midwives would none of that. They feared the Lord and objected to the perversion of their profession. The Lord God looked down from heaven and prospered the midwives with houses.

And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

-Exodus 1:15-17, 20-21.

Oh! Yes, you can become the Governor or Queen without even being a national. Ask Joseph the Jewish Egyptian Prime Minister or Esther the Jewish Queen of Persia.

Or are you a Nigerian? During the strange political concoction General Babangida served this country with his a 'little to the right and a little to the left' coinage, in those days when 'son of the soil' was also a very popular fad and a real big deal in politics especially in the west, Rev. Femi Emmanuel, the amiable founder and Senior Pastor of the phenomenal Living Spring Chapel, then in active politics, won elections into the then Oyo State House of Assembly. In the House, he was deputy Speaker and officiated variously as the speaker of the House. What's news? Rev. Femi Emmanuel hails from what used to be the old Bendel state. Are you still interested? You can sure become Governor without being an indigene.

You can get your promotion without blackmailing anyone. Daniel and Mordecai all did. You can get a good job without falsifying your certificate or age. Sure. You can get your visa without forging some documents. You can have your security and peace without bowing down. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego set this standard.

My spiritual mentor, Rev. Olu David went this path once. During his secular days with a plastic manufacturing outfit in the city of Ibadan, Nigeria, the then Administrative Manager, a worship-demanding old man, made no bones about planning to show Olu

David, then the company's quality control Manager, the way out. His offence? He would not tow the line of those favour-seeking employees who daily smarmier the Admin Manager. You know, before commencing work each morning, you had to go and prostrate or genuflect as the case may be, in greeting before Baba as he was popularly called. Olu David would rather go straight to his duty post. If however their paths crossed, he would greet Baba without the traditional prostration.

This arrogance? The Admin Manager planned to check. Permanently. Show the braggart the way out of the establishment. But before baba could get his act together, God spoke. Baba was reorganized. Do you know who became the new Admin Manager? Olu David from Quality Control dept. How do I know so much? I was the Manager of the security outfit that served their company at the time.

You certainly can excel in ministry without lowering the standard. John Baptist told them all the truth and even called them vipers [Matt. 3:7] yet the Church continued to grow. Jesus took out the cane one day and laid some square lashes on the backside of money changers in His time-John 2:14-16. Rather than lose disciples, verse 23 of the same scripture says; "Many believed in His Name." Adulterers/ Adulteresses must be told the truth even if they pay the largest tithe. What did Paul do? He heard report of the church in Galatia one day and sent them a strong worded reproof-Gal. 3:1 "O foolish Galatians.."

Yes sir, you can own your home without manipulating

your employer's books. All you need is the ignition of your favour. This favour once it is in place, becomes a potent weapon to Qualify, Enthroned, Promote, Prosper, Defend and Open doors unto you.

QUALIFICATION

The greatest qualification on earth is the favour of God. The person in favour is wholly qualified for all titles, honours, positions, blessings etc. Now without this all-too-important element in your life and situation, you would altogether not have achieved the things, positions, honours etc. you have today.

About two thousand years ago, an Angel of God appeared unto a young virgin, named Mary. He had news for her. She would supernaturally conceive and bring forth God in the Flesh. Predictably, Mary was baffled. The reasons were obvious. One, she was a virgin. Two, she was not the only virgin in the land. Three, there were many other virgins in the church, probably in the choir who sang just as melodious if not a little better. Four, there were many Mary's in the Church of that time.

"Hey, Angel, wait a minute, why me?" Mary queried. "I don't even sing the solos..."

*"Fear not Mary" Angel Gabriel cut in
"For thou has found favour with God".
- Luke 1:30.*

You don't argue with favour so Mary shut up.

The drunken Persian Monarch accepted the counsel of overzealous advisers and threw out his queen. He went

to bed that night and almost broke his arm searching for Vashti vainly on the royal bed. Alarmed, he woke up to discover what he had done. Could Vashti be restored to her place? No way! The same overzealous advisers reminded him. The King's decree once published was irreversible. Finally the King requested a replacement for Vashti. Then favour stepped forward to argue Esther's case.

Favour broke all known traditions. The obligatory screening all candidates go through was waived when favour spoke. This favour was so loud that even her competitors could not resist her.

*....And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her-
Esther 2:15 b.*

Nothing like what is your name? What is your age? What is your father's name? What is the name of your ward? Why? Because favour had spoken. It became her qualification.

*And the king loved Esther above all the women and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti-
Esther 2:17.*

Israel looked around them in the days of David the King and song writer. They were humbled at the great deliverance and victories Jehovah had gotten for them over the many years. Constantly in danger of attack from

surrounding nations, they wondered how they had ever made it this far. Then they received understanding and the psalmist declared:

We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work Thou didst in their days, in the times of old. How Thou didst drive out the heathen with Thy hand and plantest them; how Thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out. For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: But Thy right hand, and Thine Arm, and the light of Thy countenance, because Thou hadst a favour unto them.-Psalms 44:1-3.

They acknowledged that the only CV they would gladly flaunt and which had gotten them victory, breakthrough and land was the favour of God upon them. It was not their sword or strength or education or hard work. It was not even their arm or connection (human or political) or stature or number. They were not the greatest in size-Deut. 7:7, 8. On the contrary, they were few. It was not their abilities (Zechariah. 4:6).

So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.-Romans 9:16.

Favour, was admitted as their only qualification. It is also your greatest qualification.

Don't you marvel that the biggest in size do not always drive the biggest cars or become president,

governors etc.? The biggest in stature do not necessarily pastor the largest congregations. The ones with the best academic results do not always land the best paid jobs. To the contrary, in Nigeria, they end up as university dons, which until recently were hardly able to change their suits or fuel their cars. Rather, through favour, a History graduate becomes a bank manager. What qualified him? Favour did.

A wealthy man looked at a younger man one day and offered him a more than one-million-naira-per-annum job. In 1997, this was much money. The position could have been advertised and applicants screened. There was no such thing. Neither was the educational qualification of the employee demanded. What happened? Favour happened, that's what.

ENTHRONEMENT

*And hast made us unto our God kings
and priests: and we shall reign on the
earth.-Rev. 5:10.*

*For Thou art the glory of their strength:
and in Thy favour our horn shall be
exalted.-Psalms 89:17.*

By favour, you can be lifted to any throne. As a matter of fact, in some cases, the throne will be created just so there can be room for you. Joseph of the coat of many colours and destiny of many stations, stood before Pharaoh interpreting dreams. Unknown to Joseph, favour was creating a new office in the politics of Egypt and

Joseph would be the one to profit. Within minutes, the office of Prime Minister was created and Joseph Israel was in the saddle. Remember, unlike Esther, Joseph did not displace anyone. This implies the office never existed before. Still, even if you are an Esther displacing some Vashti in your ministry, office, academics, business, land, etc., you are still in order. He promised to give men for you and people for your life.

Since thou wast precious in my sight thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. - Isaiah 43:4.

Yes, there are situations where the vibration of favour to your benefit brings another party even in a long-standing relationship to odium so that room can be created for you. A Christian businessman was marketing a particular product. He approached a certain Firm which had previously been serviced by another marketer over a long period of time. Unknown to this Christian, the management of his prospective client had just voted to dispense of their previous supplier. This Christian walking in favour arrived just in time. The twin characters of favour were at work here. The negative side displaced one marketer while the positive side planted the Christian.

When David the small country boy with the smell of sheep dung stepped into the palace of King Saul crowned with favour, Jonathan forgot all about his personal claim to the throne.

And it came to pass... that the soul

of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul... and Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword and to his bow, and to his girdle. - I Sam. 18:1,4.

As prince, Jonathan must have had other changes of raiment at home. Yet he did not give those to David. Favour dazed him so much he had to remove the royal apparel from his body and hand them over. When he did that physically, heaven's spiritual purpose had been fulfilled. Jonathan had willingly surrendered the throne to David. He was to defend David at even great personal risk in the days following. Favour enthrones.

PROSPERITY

And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the Lord; possess thou the west and the south. - Deut. 33:23.

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.- Acts 2:47.

And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: but every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house,

jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons and upon your daughters: and ye shall spoil the Egyptians. - Exodus 3:21, 22.

Favour clutched the heart of the Persian King, Cyrus concerning the return of Israel to their homeland after many years in Babylonian captivity. The King not only made a decree pronouncing their release but went further to demand that:

And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. -Ezra1:4.

In the days of Kings Ahasuerus and Artaxerxes the work was temporarily suspended. However, during the reign of King Darius, favour spoke even in louder and clearer terms. He not only commanded the restoration work but ordered that the work be executed at the expenses of the state.

....and let the expenses be given out of the King's house.-Ezra 6:4.

Furthermore, the King commanded all his governors to provide at the expense of the government, whatever the Jews required for the task at hand. Ezra 6:1-14.

In chapter 7:6 of the same Ezra, we read:-

...And the King granted him all his request according to the hand of the Lord

upon him.

Favour cannot be resisted. If any attempt is made to resist you where God has granted you favour, a bigger door shall open for you in the same place through another vessel.

Naphtali one of the twelve tribes of Israel had this weapon of favour working for them. They could possess the west and south together. This was enlargement of prosperity.

The early church, the Apostolic Church, prospered greatly and souls upon souls were added daily. Why? Favour was on their entourage. Today, some churches preach fire and brimstone. The miraculous even takes place and yet they cannot exceed a few hundreds in membership. Souls arrive, get saved, get blessed and move on. Such souls return during the annual convention with their testimonies. They get more blessed. They acknowledge God's presence in the commission. Still, they don't stay. Why? Favour is on leave.

You need favour's partnership for whatever endeavour you are engaged in to prosper. Israel learnt this after hundreds of years in Egypt. For hundreds of years, they laboured very hard and yet their finances and social status did not improve. If anything, it dwindled. For all their hard labour, they were lucky to end up with a meal each day. While Israel laboured very, very hard, the Egyptians fired their own favour from the tip of their whips. The favour that was a neighbour to Israel in the days of Joseph and earned them the lush vegetation of

Goshen for their settlement, had now decamped. It was now at the tip of the Egyptian whips. Therefore, Israel laboured and the Egyptians prospered. Then came the day of their visitation. God brought favour back home. Within one day, the frail looking Jews had become very rich. They could afford to eat barbecue and still have enough to spare for the Passover sacrifice and a burnt offering to Jehovah. Moreover, there was gold, silver, silk and much more. There were jewels on bony necks. Frail fingers adorned by over-sized glistening rings. Kids, most of whom had never worn shoes all their lives, wore shoes for the first time. A good number wore their shoes wrongly, fixing the left foot into the right shoe and vice versa. But it mattered not. By favour, Israel awoke to a dawn of prosperity after decades and decades of penury.

It does not matter how long you have laboured, scrapping just sufficient to put daily meals together. This is your season of favour and your prosperity shall overwhelm even you, in Jesus Name. Amen.

There was a testimony told of a brother who groaned under the weight of poverty for many years. This Engineering graduate whose main office probably consisted of his brief-case and little else, even employed his Pastor's wife who was a qualified lawyer. In the late 90s, a Thousand, Five Hundred Naira did not add up to much. This was the Pastor's wife's salary and yet she could not be paid. The Christian could not put the salary together. Furthermore, he was neck deep in pledges and debts.

Then it began, favour showers. Within four months, he went from zero to two Mercedes Benz cars and his personal house. Then came the crown. His bankers needed to invest a large sum of money. He was singled out of the hordes of customers and entrusted this large amount. The result? He purchased four planes and began an Airplane charter business. What was his security? Favour. That's what. No land. No houses. Nothing!

Another brother drove around town vainly seeking business until all his tyres wore out and he could hardly afford fuel for his car. For about two years, his world seemed to have come to an end. He went to God in tears. Our God responded. From nothing, he landed a contract job from unexpected quarters. At the interview for the job, rather than defend his proposal, he was requested to jack it up as the company suggested that his earlier proposal must have been overtaken by inflation. He did this gladly and sat back to watch as the company's directors fiercely debated among themselves the fairness of his proposal. He not only got the eight-digit job but was promptly mobilized. This was a kind of job he had never done before. In the course of this job, he found so much favour with the company in question that they did nothing nor paid any compensation without clearing with or going through him. Favour prospers.

OPEN DOORS

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things saith he

that is Holy, He that is true, he that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works; behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it... -Rev. 3:7, 8

....I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.- Isaiah 43:19b.

Ab Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee.-Jer. 32:17.

The King's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water:He turneth it withersoever He will.-Proverbs 21:1

Nehemiah under servitude in faraway Persia, heard the news of the deteriorating state of Jerusalem and the predicament of the few remnant Jews there. Then his countenance fell for several days. He was burdened not only for the fate of their once proud city, even Jerusalem, but also the state of his remaining brethren there.

Notwithstanding his burden, however, there seemed nothing he could do. For one, he was a mere palace servant. Secondly, his office was such that you could not hope to sneak away even for a day. He was the king's cupbearer. Now a cupbearer was the one who sampled

the wine a long while before the King was ready to drink it. The cupbearer made sure that the wine was right in taste and composition. Besides, should the wine be contaminated, the bearer would be affected before it was time for the King to touch the wine. In this way, he became a covering for the King against poisonous or contaminated wine. The cup bearer was constantly in danger of losing his life through this service for two reasons, namely: he could drop dead having sampled polluted wine or he could be executed if the King took ill from drinking wine. Therefore, once he sampled the wine, the cup bearer dared not let it out of his sight. It was not the kind of employment you took leave from at every excuse. What's more, long, gloomy faces were not allowed around the King. It was required in palace ministers that a man be found cheerful. Still, it had its advantage; it kept the servant almost permanently about the King. You had to have the King's trust to land such as job.

Much therefore as Nehemiah grieved over news of the decrepit state of his homeland, his situation looked despondent. He could not see any way around it. But then he remembered that the King's heart was in God's hand so he went to God in prayer that God would:

.....Prosper, I pray thee, Thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.-Neh. 1:11b.

In response, favour spoke.

- **Miracle # 1:** The King himself noticed the fallen

countenance of Nehemiah. Rather than order his execution, he sought the source of the sorrow.

- **Miracle # 2:** The King invited Nehemiah to make his request.
- **Miracle # 3:** Nehemiah was granted instant holiday to go and attend to his God's business.
- **Miracle # 4:** He was granted state escorts to ensure his safe passage from Persia to Judah.
- **Miracle # 5:** He was granted materials out of the King's forest reserve for the work he was undertaking.

All these open doors presented themselves to Nehemiah because;

...thy servant have found favour in thy sight,...-Neb. 2:5.

When favour is in operation, the things that are not done to other people as a matter of course, are conceded to you. The place that appears to have no door suddenly presents a door to you. The place that looks all like a wilderness suddenly parts and presents you with a way. In the desert of every situation you look up and suddenly, there are rivers.

God has created all things and all things answer to Jehovah. When He favours you, all things and all people will open up to accommodate you. There is no locked door to a person in favour. There isn't a "NO" when favour makes a request. Why? Because:

...a people whom I have not known shall serve me. As soon as they hear of me, they

shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.-Psalms 18:43, 44.

Emphases added.

Esther, the Jewish slave girl-turned-queen of Persia had a life or death assignment on her hands. The entire Jewish community within Persia was in danger of extermination from the sword of Haman. Their only hope was Esther, the Queen. But the laws of the Persians and Medes had placed, a “No Entry Except by Invitation” sign on the door to the only place, the throne room, where their escape lay in the hands of the King. Time was running out. A desperate Uncle of Esther, Mordecai started by encouraging and then threatening her to act immediately. With no escape else where, the entire Jewish community in the land turned to God in prayer with fasting. Finally, the d-day. Esther the queen, hiding her trembling hands and pounding heart under her dazzling beauty stepped hesitatingly through the door without an invitation. In the next few seconds, her fate would be decided. Either death, for defiling the law, or the golden sceptre, a symbol of welcome.

For a brief moment that seemed like years, the King and Queen stared at each other. The King looked hard then swallowed. He looked again at his Queen then noticed another presence in the court. The Queen was compassed with favour as with a shield. The King fiddled briefly with his beard then stretched out the golden sceptre towards her. Deliberately, she hesitated a moment allowing the King to digest her resplendent figure in

the door way. The next moment, she swept gorgeously through the court to the throne and touched the golden sceptre.

And it was so... that she obtained favour in his sight... then said the King unto her, what wilt thou, Queen Esther? And what is thy request? It shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

-Esther 5:2, 3.

Through the weapon of favour therefore, an entrance was not only made for Esther and her entire nation saved, the evil earlier intended for the Jews returned upon the head of their enemies.

Imagine the King offering half the Kingdom to a Queen in favour. Talk about open doors.

My wife started a degree programme in Benue State as a pioneer student while our first girl then a toddler and myself lived in Ibadan, about 10 hours drive away. At the slightest excuse, she would drive home to see our baby and me. After the first year neither of us could put up with either the financial or emotional challenge. We brought this matter before our spiritual mentor who prayed with us for her to secure a transfer to the University of Ibadan. Therefore, when the Benue State University re-opened for the second year, she sent word informing everyone there that she had transferred to Ibadan. Meanwhile, most Federal Universities including the University of Ibadan were closed down-consequent upon lecturers industrial action. The second semester

of the second year had commenced before University of Ibadan reopened. Everyone told us it was impossible to transfer from a 'baby' state University to Nigeria's Premier University. If however, a miracle were to take place and maybe she was considered, she would have to repeat her 100 level. These revelations churned our stomachs. At B.S.U., her transcript had been sent and their 200 level was running to a close. In U.I., lectures had commenced. Somehow, the devil had laid ambush for us through a particular lady. At the last moment, she rejected our application. Desperate now, we went back to our Pastor who simply claimed favour over the situation on our behalf.

Within days, this mountainous woman not only signed my wife's papers but she was both retained in her discipline and 200 level. Today, Bose Deborah Shaguy is a glad graduate of the University of Ibadan from where she further secured a Master's degree. Favour had won.

We got to know later that in the same year, most of such applications were rejected. In the years following, such applications have become impossible.

Beyond your qualification or ability, room can be made for you when favour is in place. Favour gets you the very last available place on the plane or car even though the last few people who arrived before you were turned down. At worst, at the last moment, a passenger may give up his seat for you. Even strangers bend backwards to accommodate your pleasure.

During the perennial fuel scarcity that mid-wifed the

final exit of the military from Nigerian politics between the period 1997 and 1999, I restored diplomatic relations with favour. Favour became my constant companion. Before driving out each day for fuel, I would make sure that favour was in the passenger seat. Times too numerous to recount, it was favour that secured fuel for me. This was usually in places where others had just been turned down in my presence.

Favour takes you past a “No Vacancy” sign at the gate, right through to a fantastic salaried job within. Favour can locate accommodation for you at a price comfortable to you.

In December 1994, we needed to move accommodation urgently. Short of an Angel appearing in white to plead with our then Land Lady, all hopes of averting a relocation had been lost.

A week before the 31st, someone we had mentioned our need to, phoned to ask if we had moved. We responded to the negative. He then invited my wife and myself to come over and inspect a property that had become available. This was unnecessary. We could accept anything at the time. We went to inspect the property not because we could possibly reject it but since we did not have the rent; we felt we could at least let the soles of our feet tread the place. The asking price was far less than what we had payed for the place we were leaving.

On 30th December, we still had not gotten the money. On the other hand, our dear Land Lady used every opportunity including songs, to remind us we must

leave by the 31st. This was 30th and we had no food in the house for the New Year celebrations, let alone house rent.

My wife and I nonetheless agreed that we would move into our new place the following day. Once we took this decision, we followed through. I went straight away to see this man who had us inspect his property. As soon as I arrived, he remembered we had some yet to be concluded business as he had a little balance to pay me over an earlier transaction. I did not discourage him when he brought that up. Rather, I gratefully collected the money as this was God's provision for our New Year celebrations.

Next, I told him we were ready to move into our new house the next day. He inquired if we were ready with the rent.

'No,' I replied, 'but we must move nevertheless.' He thought that over for some time then confessed that I was a strange fellow. (Whenever you manifest as the real Son of God you are, the system of this world must find you strange.) Here I was, without the necessary rent and I needed to move at once. Yet, the little money I was being owed, I still collected that first. Anyway, he arranged for us to have the keys and we moved the following day. We hardly had time to clean up the place. Do you know, they had us say how much we were prepared to pay, mode of payment whether monthly, quarterly, half yearly etc. and even allowed us to spend over four months there before we made our first payment? Within those four months,

they reminded us regularly that we were not under any kind of pressure and we should take our time.

The facilities? Wardrobes and floor tiles we didn't have in our former place, a well with water pump and can you take it? A generator for whenever public electricity failed. For all these facilities, we paid less than ten Thousand naira per annum in 1995 in the city of Ibadan for a three-bedroom flat, right in the heart of town. It also turned out that we lived next door to families who competed with each other to drop our first girl(who incidentally is named Favour) in school every morning. Favour can secure accommodation for you.

It can get your dream car at a price that keeps you dreaming long after the bargain is closed. Favour even knows the size of your shoes and suits. With favour, nothing can be impossible. It secures you admission to read the discipline of your choice even where the examining body does not find you suitable. Favour opens all impossible doors.

PROMOTION

And his master saw that the Lord was with him...and Joseph found grace in his sight and he served him and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. -Genesis. 39:3, 4.

But the Lord was with Joseph and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the

sight of the keeper of the prison and the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison: and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper. - Gen. 39:21-23.

When favour recommends you for elevation, nobody can resist you. Favour can locate you in the most unpromising circumstances, pick you up and promote you beyond your wildest imaginations.

Joseph the dreamer was probably so familiar with dreams that most events in his life must have seemed like dreams, even to him. I suppose it was perhaps difficult even for himself to know which periods he was awake or asleep.

I mean this little fellow started out as a faithful messenger for his father, stood by and watched horrified as his brethren debated whether to kill or sell him. A brief spell in an empty pit in the valleys of Shechem must have looked like a bad joke. Recovered from the pit a few moments later, he must have made up his mind "Daddy must hear about all this". But he was mistaken, there was another dream awaiting him as he was rescued right into the hands of Ishmaelite merchants to whom he was a commodity valuable only for the price they would get on trading him out in Egypt. Then, he arrived Egypt pigeon-

eyed and unaccustomed to either the tradition or religion. Even his familiar coat had long separated from him.

Nevertheless, there was something that followed

Joseph into Egypt. In Canaan, he had been Daddy's favourite. Somehow, favour had secured a visa to follow him into this foreign land.

It must have therefore seemed like the continuation of his dreams when his master Potiphar suddenly advanced him over all his household. Slave boy as Manager of the house? Come on, Joseph, wake up! But no, this was no dream. The power of favour was speaking. As a matter of fact, favour spoke a little too loud here. Before long, Mrs. Potiphar became hysterical with lust for the now young man. Thank God, Joseph stayed awake this time long enough to say 'No! thanks, Madam'. With Egyptian mistresses as with military coups, you never win. Heads they win, tails you lose. Within days, Joseph was in prison. Then I think the most extra-ordinary phase of Joseph's life played out here in prison. It was understandable he could be made overseer over Potiphar's household. After all, much gain was coming in. But wait a moment! To think that all Egypt had heard there was a Jewish rapist in prison and yet, for the keeper of the prison to trust someone who was in jail for such a depravity as rape, it had to be something above the usual. But then, favour is a specialist with the unusual. It was not only the keeper that 'forgot' Joseph's offence. Within a few years, the young man needed a shave and a change of clothing probably supplied by the Butler, to stand before the Pharaoh! Now

a few years previously, the testimony of Joseph could not hold against Lady Potiphar. So, how come the Pharaoh could hope to believe the opinion of such a ‘criminal’?

You see, when favour is holding you by the hand, everyone forgets your errors. They even forget your nationality. They also forget your shortcomings. Glory!

A close Christian relation of our family while still a young convert in 1993, was nevertheless on the visitation team of the Church we both attended then. Most times he would leave at the close of his office straight to visit and follow-up other young converts. Equally commendable was his Church attendance. He had just qualified as a Chartered Insurer then and his total experience in the insurance field was about three years. A usually quiet and shy fellow, one day Bro. Sam broke his traditional cool. He had a testimony. He had just been elevated to the post of Branch Manager up North. Besides the routine kudos that go with such a promotion, there was a brand new Volkswagen Jetta car in the package. In 1993, Jetta was a dream car. Are you listening? It didn’t matter that he didn’t know how to drive. It also was of little consequence that the minimum experience needed for such a position within his establishment was 15 years and there were quite a few who were accordingly qualified. Candidly, going by qualification, he was not even a contender. It was also of no consequence that he could not speak the language of the natives with whom he would be required to deal directly.

In the ensuing years however, a permanent shelf was

created in his office for the chairman's trophy for best Branch in the firm. The same favour that qualified him also posted the company's best sales through him. Favour promotes.

DEFENCE

*For Thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous;
with favour wilt Thou compass him as
with a shield.-
Psalms 5:12.*

Lord, by Thy favour Thou hast made my mountain to stand strong.-Psalms 30:7.

*By this I know that Thou favourest me,
because mine enemy doth not triumph over
me.-Psalms 41:11.*

*Lord, Thou has been favourable unto
Thy land: Thou hast brought back the
captivity of Jacob. Thou has forgiven the
iniquity of Thy people, Thou hast covered
all their sin. Thou hast taken away all
Thy wrath: Thou hast turned Thyself
from the fierceness of Thine anger.-Psalms
85:1-3.*

FAVOUR IS A DEFENCE.

David, King of Israel, a man after God's heart awoke one day to an overdose of pride. He wanted to gloat over his glory. His success as the great Pastor, Chief Executive

and King over God's heritage had bloated his ego. He wanted to know how many people he controlled. Thus, in 1Chronicles 21, the King despatched a protesting Joab to go number Israel. God was displeased. Then a strange manifestation of Jehovah occurred. For the first, and I believe, the only time in the life of mankind, God asked a man to choose his punishment! God sent David three options of the kind of punishment David preferred. The King rolled out his musical instruments and worshiped the Lord for a while then declared he would rather fall into the hands of a merciful God. True to relationship and favour, 70,000 Israelites, rather than David, dropped dead. Even when David vehemently protested that this punishment was misdirected and that he indeed personally deserved to die, God only sent a prescription that brought the plague to a stop. Anyway, this was familiar terrain to David. Much earlier, in the case of Uriah's wife and murder, it was the resultant child that died, rather than David. What was the secret? Favour was David's defence.

When the favour of God surrounds you, you are defended from the anger of God and the schemes of your enemies. This favour shields and preserves you from every evil.

*...with favour wilt Thou compass him as
with a shield.-Psalms 5:12.*

His protection becomes like a mountain fortress around you. Forgiveness abounds in his favour. He even causes other people to pay in your stead.

...I have loved thee: therefore will I give

*men for thee and people for thy life.-Isaiah
43:4.*

I was in a Port Harcourt Bank in 1998 and the General Manager, my host, graciously obliged me the use of the phone. An overzealous staff would have none of it when she saw me on the phone. There were a few other visitors in the reception besides me. By the time they finished putting this budget-monitoring staff where she belonged, you would think I was the chairman of the bank. The testimony? I never knew any of the visitors from Adam.

A personal friend and dear brother in the church I pastored in 1999 got into an accident with his newly assigned official car. The accident occurred when his Managing Director was abroad and his General Manager was on leave. The entire office took an unsolicited offering among themselves to effect the necessary repairs. He was to testify later that he did not spend a Penny on the accident. Yes sir, favour defends.

MERCY

*And the sons of strangers shall build up
thy walls, and their kings shall minister
unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee,
but in my favour have I had mercy on
thee. Isaiah 60:10*

It is favour that guarantees mercy. When favour is operational, Mercy becomes your partner. Your errors are overlooked or forgiven first by God and then by men.

Mercy ensures that the penalty rightly due to you is not applied.

....and mercy rejoiceth against judgement.

- James 2:13.

Bless God! Mercy rejoices over judgement. Mercy enlarges itself over judgement. Mercy triumphs over judgement. Mercy is bigger than judgement. Mercy suppresses, rules over, cancels, wins over, erases and neutralises judgement.

In the same manner that when you throw an electricity switch, the flooding light automatically swallows up the darkness, so does mercy lord it over judgement. Whatever your offence or sin is, when mercy arrives, judgement disappears through the window. There is no negotiation between mercy and judgement. Judgement simply bows and takes leave once mercy appears. Now, when you are in your season of favour, mercy becomes your spokesman.

*Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon
Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the
set time is come.-Psalm 102:13.*

There is a time when mercy becomes your Public Relations man; That time is in your season of favour. If you therefore sustain your season of favour, you shall not come to any judgement.

A man once confessed to me that he was stuffed up with cocaine on arrival at J.F. Kennedy Airport, U.S.A. A stern-faced Drug Law Enforcement Agent took a look at him and nodded his head the way you would if you were sure that you were face to face with the case that would

facilitate your promotion.

Suddenly, the agent dropped his voice and said in a whisper “Old man, I know you are loaded but Am just gonna let you go this one time, you b-st--d!”

Do you know? On his next trip to the U.S. he went straight from plane to prison. Change of fortunes? Not really. At one time, favour was present and mercy spoke. The next time favour was still in the plane when this man was already approaching the Drug Line. When he called for mercy, he only got a prison number in return. The Psalmist says:

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered-Psalms 32:1.

The blessedness of favour is that your sins are excused. They are explained away. They are not imputed.

I was installing an anti-theft car security device when I accidentally damaged something a little more expensive than the money I would collect. I broke out in a cold sweat. One, I desperately needed the money. As it were, the job was a miracle.

Secondly, the discovery could jeopardize our relationship permanently and there were great prospects of bigger business. To confound my problems, the owner of the car chose that instant to come and inspect what I was doing. My mouth had dried and I was shaking slightly. As he drew near and expansively inquired if the job was progressing okay, I could not trust myself to look at him. I must have mumbled something under my breath.

Just then, his driver who had been with me all the while and had witnessed the accident picked up the damaged part and explained to his master how he, the driver had been responsible for the damage earlier in the day. The man almost fainted. A quick succession of uncomplimentary two-worded-name-calling issued from his mouth. As suddenly as he had begun, he ceased and walked away.

I still could not look at the driver. At last I thanked him and asked why he had risked his job for me. He both winked and smiled. The Manager wouldn't even think of firing him. They understood each other. Now I could relax more genuinely. Thanks Lord! For mercy via favour. I was glad to buy this fellow a 'big' crate of Coca-Cola.

When Joseph, a slave boy, bought with Potiphar's money, was accused of attempting to sexually abuse Mrs. Potiphar, it was the instrument of favour that spared his life. I mean, Madam's testimony was sufficient to hang the haughty heel. Remember, in those days you did with your slaves as it pleased you. Founded or no, Mrs. Potiphar's allegations had booked an appointment with the hangman for Joseph. It was only mercy operating through favour that annulled this covenant! It was mercy that sent Joseph to prison not Mrs. Potiphar. She had dressed the boy up for the ropes.

PRAYERS

God of favour, from today, like Jesus, bring me into favour with all that I come in contact with. By your favour, qualify me for

all godly elevations.

*Heavenly Father, prosper all my undertakings by your
favour.*

*Father, by the key of David, open doors before me wherever I
appear.*

*Let your favour hasten my promotion, defend me and answer
all accusations in heaven or earth against me in Jesus name.*