Receiving God's Favor

The angels who announced the coming of Jesus, glorified God spoke these words "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom **his favor rests**." Luke 2:14 NIV

"**favor**" – goodwill, good purpose, favor, pleasure, desire

After Jesus was baptized and tempted in the wilderness, He returned to Nazareth. In the synagogue, He was handed the book of Isaiah. He spoke these words from the scroll of Isaiah (chapter 61), "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim **the year of the Lord's favor**." Luke 4:18-19 NIV

In the chain reference, "**the year of the Lord's favor"** refers back to **Lev 25:8-55**, the **year of Jubilee**. Every 7th year, the land was to remain at rest – no plowing, no planting, no cultivating. God promised abundance in the sixth year to cover the year of rest for the land. Every 50th year was to be a Year of Jubilee where the land was returned to the original family and people who had sold themselves as servants were set free.

What God set up in the natural is a shadow and type of what He wants to do in the spiritual for us. He wants to return the spiritual ground that is ours; he wants to set us free from sin, sickness, disease, bondage, poverty and death. Jesus was speaking about **us** in Luke 4:18-19.

Proclaim: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim **the year of the Lord's favor**." Luke 4:18-19 NIV

When you come into the Kingdom of God, you enter into God's favor and into His rest. You don't need to worry or fret about tomorrow. He has a plan to care for you and provide for you.

Read Matthew 6:25-34.

Why is it that we don't need to worry? God's favor is resting upon us because we have received Jesus as our Lord and Savior. **The key is to seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness.** We must come into relationship with God, listen to the Holy Spirit, and then obey!

The natural outflow of our covenant relationship with God is provision – physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and naturally. God wants to meet every need in our life. We are His children and He is a good Father.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." **James 1:17 NIV**

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." **Php 4:19 NIV**

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Yet these promises are not without our part in acquiring them.

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." **James 4:3 NIV**

"Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not **sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth**. The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet **we have not obeyed him**." **Dan 9:13-14 NIV**

Again - The key is to seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness.

Testimonies:

Funding – On one of my trips to Russia, I was praying for the funds to come in. PG&E, our local gas and electric company, approached us to place a new pipeline through our property. (The old one was about 50 years or more old and rusty. The capacity also needed upgrading.) They gave us $3,000 for the new easement through our property. Then my mother-in-law gave me $500 for the trip. All of my costs were covered. Praise God!

Healing – In February of 2006, I injured my shoulder in a freak accident. I was pulling on a thick plastic covering over a case of water bottles. When it torn loose, my left arm went flying and I tore the ligaments in my shoulder – a torn rotator cuff. This is very painful and I was unable to lift my arm above shoulder level and unable to carry much weight without pain. During this time my father was very ill and passed away. As a result, I did not seek medical attention immediately. I continued to pray without much relief. I had even gone on 2 healing ministry trips and had a number of people pray for me. Every night I would lay my hand on my left shoulder and pray for healing. After about 9 months, I went through the medical route, having an MRI. Then I had a shot into the shoulder and I went through painful and expensive physical therapy for several months. I received quite a bit of relief but I continued to seek God for total healing. At a Fresh Fire meeting in Santa Rosa, CA, in early 2007, Todd Bentley gave a Word of Knowledge for healing for torn rotator cuff. A number of us stood up. Nothing happened that night but the next morning I knew my shoulder was healed and it has been normal ever since. All glory to God!

Miracle – While in Brazil with Global Awakening on a healing mission trip, I met a 14 year old boy named Gilbert. He was very hard of hearing and having problems in school. I laid my hands on his ears and prayed for healing. Nothing happened. He began to walk away. I told him, let's try again. This time when I removed my hands, his eyes opened wide and he began to cry with joy. He grabbed his mother in a big hug. Then he gave me a big hug. God had totally restored his hearing to normal! Hallelujah!