

Choose it or Lose it – Bible Study Lesson

FAVOR – the force God uses to propel our lives past the limitations of background, resources, and connections that would otherwise keep us bound to our current position and station in life.

Esther 1:10-12 (NLT)

10 On the seventh day of the feast, when King Xerxes was in high spirits because of the wine, he told the seven eunuchs who attended him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas—

11 to bring Queen Vashti to him with the royal crown on her head. He wanted the nobles and all the other men to gaze on her beauty, for she was a very beautiful woman.

12 But when they conveyed the king’s order to Queen Vashti, she refused to come. This made the king furious, and he burned with anger.

Esther 1:15-16 (NLT)

15 “What must be done to Queen Vashti?” the king demanded. “What penalty does the law provide for a queen who refuses to obey the king’s orders, properly sent through his eunuchs?”

16 Memucan answered the king and his nobles, “Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king but also every noble and citizen throughout your empire.

Esther 1:19 (NLT)

19 “So if it please the king, we suggest that you issue a written decree, a law of the Persians and Medes that cannot be revoked. It should order that Queen Vashti be forever banished from the presence of King Xerxes, and that the king should choose another queen more worthy than she.

Throughout the Bible, we see the Will of God being performed by His men and women. We also find that as real as that Will may be, the Will of God does not automatically come to pass in our lives. God doesn't just go around doing everything He wants to do in the Earth. He needs a man/women to give Him their permission and participation in bringing that Will to pass.

Favor works the same way. God will grant us favor and open doors we could not open on our own. However, He can't and won't make us walk through them. In the story we read, Queen Vashti had enough favor and pleased the king so much that he wanted the people to see what a blessing her beauty was. **BUT SHE CHOSE TO WALK OUT OF FAVOR.**

The Favor of God is a blessing that comes through our alignment with God's principles and a lifestyle of obedience. However, this favor can be lost or diminished under certain conditions. Today, we will discuss a few key ways that God's favor can be affected. With this in mind, let's examine:
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1 Samuel 15:26 (NLT)

26 But Samuel replied, "I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected the Lord's command, he has rejected you as king of Israel."

Favor is guaranteed to those who qualify through obedience. When we consciously step outside of His will and live contrary to His commands, we open ourselves to losing His favor. The Bible shows several examples of people who lost God's favor due to disobedience. **Saul lost God's favor and was removed from the throne.**

- 1. Choosing disobedience can stop the flow of favor in our lives.**

James 4:6 (AMP)

6 But He gives us more and more grace [through the power of the Holy Spirit to defy sin and live an obedient life that reflects both our faith and our gratitude for our salvation]. Therefore, it says, "God is opposed to the proud and haughty, but [continually] gives [the gift of] grace to the humble [who turn away from self-righteousness]."

Pride can cause the loss of favor because it leads us to trust in our strength instead of depending on God. Once God knows you think you can do it all by yourself, He will let you find out that's not the case. The Bible says, "God resists the proud." In the Bible, Herod was giving a speech and the people were so engaged that they said, **"It's the voice of a god not a man."** Then, God took his breath because he didn't give God the glory.

2. Choosing pride and arrogance can stop the flow of favor in our lives.

Psalm 66:18

18 If I regard sin and baseness in my heart [that is, if I know it is there and do nothing about it], The Lord will not hear [me];

Unrepented sin can create a barrier between us and God's blessings. When we harbor sin and refuse to repent, it hinders the flow of God's favor in our lives. God's grace is all-sufficient. However, Paul asked, **"How long shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?"** We should be careful not to continue to walk outside of God's Will and Ways.

3. Choosing to remain in unrepentant sin can stop the flow of favor in our lives.

Deuteronomy 8:11-14 (AMP)

11 "Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by failing to keep His commandments and His judgments (precepts) and His statutes which I am commanding you today;

12 otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them,

13 and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have increases,

14 then your heart will become lifted up [by self-conceit and arrogance] and you will forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

If we neglect prayer, study of the Word, and fellowship with God, we can drift away. This can lead to a loss of His favor in our lives. When we fail to appreciate the people God has placed in our lives and don't cultivate those relationships, our favor can dry up. Here are some questions we should ask ourselves: **What kind of friend am I? What kind of Christian am I? Would I want a friend like me?**

4. Choosing to neglect our relationships with God and people can stop the flow of favor in our lives.

Numbers 16:28-33 (AMP)

28 Then Moses said, "By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works; for I do not act of my own accord.

29 If these men die the common death of all mankind or if what happens to everyone happens to them, then [you will know for sure that] the Lord has not sent me.

30 But if the Lord creates an entirely new thing, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up, along with all that belongs to them, and they descend alive into Sheol (the nether world, the place of the dead), then you will understand that these men have spurned and rejected the Lord!"

31 As soon as Moses finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split open;

32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all the men who supported Korah, with all their possessions.

33 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.

The people we surround ourselves with can influence whether or not we continue to walk in the favor of God. The Bible Says, "Bad company corrupts good character" (1 Corinthians 15:33). If we align ourselves with those who are in opposition to God's ways and God's men/women, we risk

losing His favor. **We must be careful when the company of unbelievers excites you.**

- 5. Choosing the wrong associations can stop the flow of favor in our lives.**

The Choice is Yours:

- Joseph's choice caused him to move from the prison to the palace.**
- Nebechenezer's choice caused him to move from the palace to pasture.**
- David's choice caused him to move from the field to the throne.**
- Saul's choice caused him to move from the throne to the spear.**
- Esther's choice caused her to move from an orphan to a queen.**
- Vashti's choice caused her to move from the palace to being banished.**

Let's Make a Confession:

In the Name of Jesus, I decree from this moment forward, I see myself the way God sees me. I am highly favored of the Lord. I am crowned with glory and honor. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am reigning as a King in life through the one man Jesus Christ the Messiah.

In Jesus' Name, I declare by faith that I walk in divine favor. I have preferential treatment, supernatural increase, restoration, prominence, petitions granted, laws changed, policies and rules changed and battles won, which I do not have to fight, all because of the blessing and favor of God on my life.

In Jesus' Name, every morning when I arise, I will speak and expect divine favor to go before me and surround me as with a shield with goodwill and pleasures forevermore. Doors are now open for me that men have said are impossible to open. No obstacle can stop me, and no hindrances can delay me.

In Jesus' Name, I am honored by my Father, as I receive genuine favor that comes directly from God. I am special to Him. I am the object of

His affection. I am the apple of His eye. I am blessed and highly favored of the Lord, in Jesus' Name. - Amen