

Unprecedented Favor

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Sunday AM Session

It is so important for us as a prayer movement to step up to a higher dimension of what a persistent, favor-filled, faith-filled prayer is really all about. I feel that our prayer life as a ministry actually needs to come to a place where we are aligned with the quickening Spirit that is upon us. I believe God is doing quick things. I think He is speeding us up.

Key: As a prayer movement, we must align with the quickening Spirit that is upon us.

You know God is the redeemer of time. How does Jesus redeem time? He accelerates everything in us and around us. We are accustomed to praying faithfully and persistently, yet I think there is another level where we can pray with more authority and favor, and step into a quickening spirit that says, "Lord, do it now. Do it now. We need to see these things happening now."

I believe that what Heaven is releasing to us is favor now. Blessing now. Abundance now. Fullness now. It is really important for us to step out of our tradition into what God is giving us today that is actually more immediate.

Praying with God

Hebrews 7:25 says that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us. Romans 8:28 says that the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. What is happening with us is, we are finding ourselves in the middle between two of the most powerful people in the Godhead, both of whom are praying. Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

If you want to know what to pray, we need to find out what Jesus is praying. We need to be saying the same thing that He is saying.

What if you are the third part of a three-fold cord of prayer? You have Jesus, whoever lives to make intercession, the Holy Spirit, Himself always interceding. We are listening to prayer from Heaven in stereo.

We are standing in the middle of those two incredible individuals and we must be praying the same thing as they are praying.

Key: We are no longer praying *towards* God, we are praying *with* God.

Crafted Prayer

I wrote a book a number of years ago called *Crafted Prayer*. It is the art of praying *with* God, not *towards* Him. It includes exercises and assignments. I wrote it in the context of a story and a journey that I was on with a friend of mine who had an incurable disease.

There were over 150 people who met for prayer which went on for three hours. I have never been more bored in all my life, and more scared for my friend. I thought, "Dear Lord, if this is it, he is going to die. If this is all we can do, he is going to die." I said, "Lord, what are we doing here? What is it You want to do?" And the Lord just said to me, "Walk around as people are praying and just ask Me who My hand is on." The Lord told me to invite them to a meeting the next evening. It is really important to see that we needed to separate out people who were faith-filled in prayer from the other people who came with their doubts and their fears and the "if it be Your will, Lord" things.

 **Key:** We needed to separate out the faith-filled prayer from the unbelieving prayer.

I ended up with about 20-something people. Then we went on this journey together. Out of that, my friend not only got healed, but I wrote this book called *Crafted Prayer*, which is a step-by-step guide of really how to pray with God.

Delight in the Holy Spirit

See, what we do in Christ really must be done with absolute delight. I believe strongly that delight in the Holy Spirit is the root of all discipline.

It is so important that you understand the role of the Holy Spirit in your life and that you know what an absolute genius He is at everything. He told me to tell you that. "Tell them, I am a genius. Some of them live like they are not really aware." He is a genius and He does not mind telling you.

He is the most exciting and the most interesting, the most fascinating, the most encouraging Person I have ever met in my entire life. He has the most exuberant personality. He loves His job. Privately, He thinks He has the best job in the Godhead. He gets to talk about Jesus who He adores, and He gets to take everything that belongs to Jesus and make sure that we have it. He loves His job.

He loves you with a passion. He loves you with the same passion that both the Father and Jesus love you. He knows everything about you. He knows exactly what you need next. He is a genius at life. He is a genius at everything. He is absolutely astonishingly brilliant, especially at prayer.

It is so important for us that we walk with the Holy Spirit. If we walk with Him truly as He is, we will develop His sense of wonder and astonishment about everything. Every time I connect with Him, wonder and astonishment is what I connect with.

His wide-eyed astonishment that He has is because He gets to bring all of Heaven into the earth. He is looking, especially, to build a company of people in the earth who are citizens of Heaven living here and loving it - people who get all their cues from Heaven, not the world around them – people who live in absolute delight because they know that God is totally and utterly delighted with them.

You Are in Christ Intentionally

There is a reason why God put you into Jesus. He put you into the one place where He could 100 percent approve of who you are as a person. He put you into His Beloved Son. He gave you a placement so powerful it answers everything in your life. He gave you a placement so incredible it overwhelms and it conquers everything in its path. He put you into the incomparable Lord Jesus Christ.

Delight is Relational

Delight is the root of all discipline. Discipline by itself becomes functional, but delight is completely relational. I like desperation because I think by itself desperation is good. Desperation takes you out of complacency and out of laziness. But it is delight that takes us in.

Discipline cannot take you into the Promised Land. It is delight that takes you into the Promised Land. We get desperate enough with God to want to come out of where we are to where He is and, then, when we come out of where we are, we come through this place of transition where we stop being desperate and we learn to live delighted.

We learn to delight ourselves in the Lord. That is what the wilderness experience was about for Israel. It was about walking with God, about discovering God, and about learning to love God. It was about being changed. It was about being a delightful people - a delighted people who could then enter by delight into a land of promise.

But you know, they were in this functionality of religion and so many of them never actually really got the message and never put it into practice. Many of them died out in the wilderness because God was determined to take a people into the land of promise that could live in absolute delight.

The Language of Promise

Your joy and your pleasure in the earth is to be delighted. Out of that delight comes our joy, comes our peace, comes our rest, comes our power, comes our Grace, and comes the love of God. Out of that sense of being utterly delighted in who He is and what He is really, really like - out of that place of delight, you learn the language of promise.

When God speaks to you - when God gives you a promise, it is like a dove cooing over you. It is like God saying, "Have this, take this, I want you to have this, this is on Me." There is such a language of promise.

I wrote another book called *The Language of Promise* that actually goes with *Crafted Prayer* because we need the language of Heaven here on earth in our circumstances. You cannot walk with God with the language of the world on your lips. The language of the world is fear. It is unbelief. It is doubt. It is worry. It is panic.

 **Key:** You cannot walk with God with the language of the world – fear, unbelief, doubt, worry, or panic – on your lips.

That is not the language that we have. We have the language of Heaven which is the language of promise. When God gives you a promise, it is like currency. You get to spend that promise on your

circumstances. You get to spend that promise on your neighbors. You get to spend that promise on the people around you where you live. You get to spend that promise **because the root of that promise is, you are in Christ, therefore you have the same favor with the Father that Jesus now has.** You and He are one.

🔑 **Key:** The language of Heaven is the language of promise – that we are in Christ and have the same favor that He has with God.

You have the same relationship with God that Jesus has and you have the same promises from God that Jesus has. You have the same favor with God that Jesus has. You have the same blessing that Jesus has and you have the same delight. You have available to you all that Jesus has with the Father. That is your inheritance. You are a joint-heir with Christ. You have all the same things that He does. How about we practice them?

Favor

There is a language of promise to learn. Part of that language is developed through the delightful discipline of favor.

Favor is an expectation of results. You know, when Moses asked the Lord, “If I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You.” Exodus 33:13. He was making a profound statement about the interaction between perspective and favor.

The way that we see someone dictates the amount of Grace and Goodness and advantage that we are willing to bestow on them. **It is so important that you understand that when God looks at you, He sees you in favor because He put you into Christ so He could always look at your favorable.** You have found favor in His sight.

If you look up the word favor in a concordance, I think around the first 20 verses are about the same concept. *If I have found favor in Your eyes. If I have found favor in Your sight.* Well, I am here to tell you that no matter your circumstances, no matter your current level of relationship, there is one inescapable truth that you must come to terms with, and that is, right now, right here, right in your present condition, you have found favor in His eyes. You have favor in His sight.

🔑 **Key:** You have favor in God’s sight. Accept it.

What does that mean? It means that **when He looks at you, He does not see anything wrong with you because everything that was wrong about you He took and put it on Jesus on the Cross.** He did away with it and He caused you to die when Jesus died. When Jesus went into the grave, you went into the grave; and, when He rose again, so did you into newness of life. So, when the Father looks at you, He sees the newness of life that is yours in Jesus. He does not see the old you because He killed it.

|| *You are dead and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* Colossians 3:3

It is from that place where your life is hidden with Christ in God - it is from that placement, God placed you into Jesus so that you would find favor in all things.

- » Favor to break free into greater righteousness
- » Favor to break into a more wonderful experience of holiness and purity
- » Favor to break into faith
- » Favor to see
- » Favor to think differently
- » Favor to speak the language of promise
- » Favor in all your circumstances
- » Favor in your situations
- » Favor wherever you walk

Favor is upon you. You have found favor in the eyes of God and it is our favor that needs to be part of our arising.

The Time of Our Arising

We are arising as a global organization, as a global community, and we are going to take the favor that is upon us and start giving it away to people around us. As you start to move in the favor of God, then the Law of the Spirit of life that is in Christ Jesus has to back you up. That law says that if you give, it shall be given to you - pressed down, shaken together, running over, will men give into your life.

If you take your favor and spend it on somebody else, it will come back to you so you will have more to give away - you will have more to experience yourself. You will have more to give away.

We cannot be talking about favor and dealing with lack. Come on, that does not make sense.

You have to turn. Then, practice the favor of God in your circumstances so that you get it right enough to be able to go out there and give it away like every day is Christmas. You are giving away your favor to the hopeless, to the lost, to the despairing, to the sick, to the diseased, to the wicked, *because the sun shines*.

We Are Ambassadors of Reconciliation

God Himself is Kind to evil and ungrateful men. I love that about God. He is Kindness personified. Nobody is safe from a blessing where God is concerned. No one is safe. You are the ambassadors of reconciliation informing the people on God's behalf, "Hey! God has nothing against you because everything that was against you, He put it onto Jesus. Now you are free to receive the Goodness of God. You are free to receive the power of God. We are here as God's ambassadors to give you a taste of Heaven so that you can taste and see that God is Good." It is the Goodness and the Kindness of God that leads us to repentance.

Your favor needs to be on display. The world does not read its Bible, but it does read Christians. Your favor needs to be on display. Take your favor with you wherever you go and keep giving it away and see what God does.

An Ambassador's Story

I sat in my favorite chair at Starbucks having a coffee, doing some work. I was doing some roughing out of a book that I was starting to write. It was a great moment in the Holy Spirit because I love writing books with Him. He is such a genius. He is good at everything. It is really important that you connect with Him because then you can be a genius, too.

So, I sat there and the door opens and this guy walks in and you could tell looking at his face that something traumatic had just happened. He looked lost, despairing. He looked like his whole world had just collapsed. I looked at him and I remember saying out loud, "Dear Lord, what has happened to him?" And the Lord said to me, "He has just found out that his daughter is not at college."

This is the story that the Lord told me about the guy.

He is bringing up a daughter by himself because his wife had died years earlier. He is a blue-collar worker. (A blue-collar worker is one who works hard with his hands and is in a non-management position.) He had been doing two jobs to save money to give his daughter the first year's tuition for college. He gave the money to her, sent her off to school, and, now, he was missing her.

He had worked for two years saving up to get on a plane and come out and surprise her with a visit. He had just come from the college where he found out that she had not been going for a year and he discovered that she had gotten hooked on crack cocaine and she was selling herself on the street to pay for her habit.

He had been walking down the road and he met her, but she had not recognized him and she tried to pick him up. Then she discovers it is him and she screams and runs off and does not want anything to do with him. He finds the way into this coffee shop where I am. He is absolutely, utterly devastated and feeling a little suicidal, like everything has ended. He does not know what to do.

The Lord is telling me this story and the last thing the Lord said to me was, "Oh, by the way, Graham, he thinks he is an atheist." I could feel the smile in God's voice. You know that smile in the voice, right? "He thinks he is an atheist." So I said, "Lord, what are You going to do?" The Lord said, "I am not doing anything. You are." So I said, "Okay what are we going to do?" I learned that from the Holy Spirit. And the Lord said, "I am going to give you a prayer and I want you to go over there. I want you to talk to him, and I want you to coach him in how to say this prayer."

When Praying: Be Specific, Be Aware, Expect Results

Thankfully, as George was speaking last night about the three requirements: be specific, be urgent to the time, and be expecting results, I am thinking, "I had all those three things in my prayer, and this was years ago." I rock!

So I spent a few moments listening and the Lord almost dictated a prayer to me. Then I walked over to the distraught father and I said, "Do you mind if I sit down?" He said, "Not now," in a way that said, "Get out of my face!" I said, "No, I need to sit down, man." He was, "Whatever," but he said it a little more bluntly than that.

I love it when people cuss, because you know when it was happening, when they swear at you, it is like the barriers are starting to slip so they are trying to kind of reinforce them. They think that bad language is actually going to put us off.

I have heard plenty of bad language in church. When someone prays in unbelief that is bad language. When someone is negative - in a spiritual way - that is bad language.

So I said, "Hey man, I am a Christian." He said, "That is all I need a blank, blank God-bother." I said, "Hey, I am not a God bother, actually He actually bothers me. It is about your daughter." And he stopped and looked at me and his eyes went big and he said, "What the blank do you know about my daughter?" I said, "Well, this is what the Lord just showed me when you walked in."

I tell him the story. He looks at me and he does not know what to say. I said, "Anyway, the Lord gave me a message for you. Your daughter is going to be healed in six months' time if you pray." He looked at me and he said, "I have never prayed in my blank, blank life."

I slid the piece of paper, folder over, across the table and I said, "Well, now is a good time to start man." He opened it and he read it. He said, "I cannot pray this." "Sure you can." "I cannot."

I said, "You can because you are a good dad." He looked at me. "You do not understand. I cannot do it because I am an atheist. I do not believe in this stuff." I said, "Well, one of two things is going to happen here, and they are both to your benefit. You can pray this prayer and your daughter will get healed and you will have absolute proof that God is real. You can pray this prayer and if nothing happens, you have absolute proof that God does not exist. Either way, man, you are going to be happier, right? Your daughter might be dead, but, hey, atheism rules."

He went, "Okay, I see your point." I said, "Anyway, I want to hear you pray it." "What? Now?" "Absolutely now. I need to make sure you are going to pray properly, man." So, he read it out and I said, "Dude, you are not praying, you are reading. Do it again."

So, he looked and he said it in a different way and I said, "That is better, but honestly, your daughter is three parts dead now. You do not want to add to it. Pray it again."

So, I made him pray it two more times. Then he got exasperated with me, which is what I was hoping for. "Well you blank, blank! You do it then!" All right!

This is how a man of favor prays *towards* his God and so I prayed it. His eyes went big and he went, "Wow." And I said, "Let me pray it again; listen to my voice, listen to how I pray." And so, I prayed it, and then I coached him in how to pray this prayer. So, I am coaching an atheist how to pray brilliantly with God. Then I blessed him and I gave him my number and that was it. Game over.

Results

Months later I get a phone call from this guy to tell me that his daughter had had an encounter with Jesus. Around five months, you know in six months is the time period, around five months she picked up this guy, took him back to this flop house and he paid her for the whole night. Then he sat down and he talked to her about Jesus.

So, he is talking to her about Jesus and she is saying, "But my dad is an atheist and I come from an atheistic family." The guy just said, "None of that means anything in Heaven. It is just something that is totally unreal and we do not deal with stuff that is unreal. To prove that God is real I can pray for you right now and all the drugs will leave your system right now." She said, "You are not touching me!" He said, "I do not want to touch you. I will sit here, you sit over there."

He prayed with her and, instantly, all the drugs left her system. He said let me pray for your skin because of all the ravages of the drugs and everything, her skin had got really spotty. He said let me pray for your skin and her skin became totally soft. She stood up, she looked in the mirror, and she is exclaiming. He said, now you need to come to Jesus because your soul needs to be healed. She turned around and he said, "Stand there," and he said, "Pray this." He led her through a prayer and she prayed it. Then he prayed for her to be filled with the Holy Spirit and she got filled with the Holy Spirit and the man disappeared.

She calls her dad who actually had gotten saved a month earlier because this prayer started to work on him. He started to put everything he had as a father into this prayer. He got saved in the process of praying for his daughter because every time he would pray, his heart got strangely warmed, stuff started to happen, and he began to have dreams and, well, that is a whole different story.

All I did in that coffee shop, really, **I passed on my favor to another human being.** That is what I did. I took the favor that is in my life and I gave it away to somebody else. That is all we are doing. It is so important for us.

See People Like God Sees Them

The way that we see someone dictates the amount of Grace and Goodness and advantage that we are willing to bestow on them. It is so important that you see people the way that God sees them - even your enemies, even the people you find it difficult to be with, even the people who have loved to hate you or have loved to disagree with you, or even those people who just get right up your nose in some mysterious, awkward way. No one is safe from the favor of God.

 **Key:** Make it your rule in life to see everyone as God sees them and He sees them all reconciled in Christ.

Love Your Enemies – Upgrading Reconciliation to Redemption

It is important for us to love our enemies. What does that mean?

It means we see them as God sees them. He sees them as reconciled and He sent us as ambassadors of reconciliation to upgrade their reconciliation to redemption.

You are an ambassador and the **favor** that you have in your life **is the currency that you get to give away to other people.** Your favor is the power and the anointing that you get to give to other people. It is the certainty, it is the confidence that you have in Jesus. It is the confidence that you have because you walk with this genius who is called the Holy Spirit. It is the confidence that you have in Him that

empowers you to see other people the way that God sees them and to bestow upon them the Grace and the favor that Jesus would if He was standing there in your place, which actually, He is.

We have found favor in God's eyes because of Jesus. We are not given favor because of who we are. We are given favor because of who Jesus is. We receive favor, not because of our performance as Christians, but, because of our placement in Christ. We are given favor because of the Father's relationship with us in Christ, and because of the relationship that Jesus has with the Father.

 **Key:** Favor comes from our placement in Christ, not out of our performance as a Christian.

What is Favor?

What is favor? It is a special preference from one person to another. It is where you prefer one another in love. You give some favor to people. You give a blessing to people. You have tons of blessing and you need to be giving it away.

Favor Gives Constantly

There are unclaimed upgrades all over this room because many of us are not in the habit of constantly giving. **It is giving that releases the favor of God.** Sometimes we are stuck in our own circumstances asking God for a blessing or we are living in need and the real reason that we are living in need is because we are not giving things away consistently.

 **Key:** Giving to others releases the favor of God to you.

You are in the earth as an ambassador. You are to show forth the Majesty of Heaven, and you do that by constantly giving. You are giving a blessing, you are speaking to people, you are saying things, you are doing things, you are giving things, constantly. That is your lifestyle. As you give you have to receive. It is the Law of the Spirit of Life that is in Christ Jesus.

We are meant to be the most profound givers on this planet. Nobody should out give the church. We can take the little that we have and if we put it into the hands of God, He has to bless it. The one wonderful thing about God is that He will insist in believing His own Word. So, if He tells you 'to give and it shall be given to you,' He will obey His own Word. He created it for that purpose. If He asks you, "What is in your hand? Then give it away." You can give away your fish sandwiches and feed 5,000 people and have enough food left over to start a small café.

It is not what you have; it is Who you put it into. It is Whose hands you put it into. Take the little bit that you have and give it and see what happens. Get into the habit of believing God for something or for someone every day. You need to be having at least four or five adventures a day with the Holy Spirit. You need to be looking around you. Who needs a touch from God right now? Who needs a blessing?

I am walking toward a grocery store - this is around 10 years ago - I am walking toward a grocery store and as I am walking through the parking lot, the Lord says, "You know that hundred dollars you have in your wallet?" I said, "Yes." He said, "I want you to take it out and put it in the palm of your hand."

So, I am walking around and I am just getting some stuff and I turn into the aisle and there is a lady there with three small children. The Lord says to me, "Slow down." I slowed down and I am looking at some packets of rice or whatever it is. The Lord says, "Listen." And I hear the children saying, "Mommy can we have this?" Mommy looks at the list and says, "It is not on our list. All that is on our list is what we can afford. We have to look for these things." "But Mommy, I want this and I want this." The Lord says to me, "Walk past her and drop the money on the floor."

I walked past her and I dropped it and I did not get to the end of the aisle when I heard the child. "Mommy, mommy, look! There is a hundred dollars on the floor." And she picks it up and she looks around and she sees me. She calls out after me. She said, "Sir, I think you dropped this." I turned around and I said, "Was it on the floor?" She said, "Yes." I said, "Well I think it belongs to you because it was there as I was walking past. I think it belongs to you." And she looked at me and she said, "But." I said, "No, sweetheart, the Lord says it belongs to you." And her eyes opened.

Here is the thing; she would never have taken it from my hand. But it was in human territory - it was on the floor.

What are we doing? "The Lord says it belongs to you." She is not going to forget that. It is a memory. Only cost me a hundred bucks. Actually, when you are walking with God you are not the one that pays the bill anyway. Give and it shall be given to you.

What we are doing is, we are putting everything that we have in the best place possible. We are putting it in the hands of God and then we have the adventure of God just sowing what we have so that we can reap what He has.

 **Key:** God sows what we have so we can reap what He has.

It is a great adventure and the reason it is so great is because it takes us way up out of the territory of doubt, fear, and unbelief. All we have belongs to God. All that He has belongs to us. If you really want to walk in abundance and fullness, that is the way to do it.

You give your way into fullness because He is ever increasing fullness. Give and it shall be given. Give and you get fuller. Give more and you get fuller. Give more and you get fuller. Give and it shall be given. That is the way we come into abundance. We give our way into the blessing of God because we trust Him. And we have favor. Favor is a special preference from one person to another. It is where we promote the blessing of somebody else. It is an advantage given for the benefit of another.

This guy in the café - I gave him the benefit. I have an atheist benefit. I gave an atheist my favor. I gave an atheist an advantage. I taught him how to pray like a son before he became one. Favor is an intentional bias toward somebody else.

How many know that God is intentionally biased towards you? You need to trade on that because that is the work of the Holy Spirit. He is to tell you, "No, you are not seeing this. There is tons of favor here. There are unclaimed upgrades here. We want you to have all of this stuff."

It is like if there was a word from the Lord for this morning it will be this: Heaven is not a storage facility. There are unclaimed upgrades all over this room and the Lord is saying, "We are almost running out of room up here because We keep manufacturing blessings and you are not taking them. You are the people of God in the earth. You are the Bride of Christ in the earth. You are highly favored. You must take hold of your blessing. You have to take responsibility for your blessing, for your promises, and for your favor."

Do not be coming to, "Well, we have made an industry in the Body of Christ of people coming for an impartation. Could You just put Your anointing on me?" "Well, go get your own!" Go get your own. You have your own relationship with God. Go get one. We love impartation, but that is not what it is about. Impartation is not here to encourage you to remain lazy.

Come on guys, you have a brilliant relationship with Jesus that you need to upgrade. Favor is a major part of that upgrade - to know that you are unduly loved and indulged and that God wants to indulge Himself with you - do you ever think about that? That God has things that He would just love you to have.

He says, "Hey, the reason you do not have them is because you never actually ask for them. Why do you not ask Me? Why do you not talk to Me? Why do you not tell Me that thing that is on your heart? Do not treat Me as though you think I do not care when I do. I have favor for you. Here is the important thing, the whole world is waiting for you to manifest your favor."

People around you are crying out in their hearts. All the desperation that is in the earth today, the root of it is we all need the miracle, but we do not know how to get one. And the people of God are living amongst them and we should know how to get miracles and we do not. We do not practice the Goodness of God except on people that we like. We do not practice the Goodness of God as the overwhelming force that it is.

God's Goodness

When Moses said, "If I have found favor in Your sight, show me Your glory." I think he was unprepared for what God said next. "I will cause all My Goodness to pass before you." "But Moses, listen. I am going to have to put you in between these two rocks and cover you with My hand because My Goodness is so powerful, it could incinerate you if you do not have a new body."

When we get to Heaven the reason we are going to have a new body is so that we can stand in the brightness, in the power, and in the Majesty of the Goodness of God. We overcome evil with good. That means Goodness is so powerful, it is the most powerful force in the world. Goodness is more powerful than a nuclear device. Goodness is more powerful than wickedness. Goodness is more powerful than anything the enemy can dream up. Goodness is more powerful. We overcome evil with good because the power of it is so astonishing it can change anything.

Biggest Challenge

Here is the thing for us, what we are learning, what we are coming into as a company of people, is that our biggest challenge in the world is not the enemy. It is not other religions. It is not any of the wickedness of man. Our biggest challenge in the world is the Goodness of God.

We are being challenged by absolute Goodness to **be** the Goodness of God in the earth. Every difficult person is a challenge to your goodness. Every situation is a challenge to the Goodness of God. Every evil circumstance is a challenge to only one thing - it is a challenge to the Goodness of Heaven.

Thank goodness that you are a citizen of Heaven, living here on earth, and you understand that challenge and you are ready for it. "Let us do good *to all* men, especially the household of faith." Galatians 6:10 But **let us do good to all people**. We are being challenged by the Goodness of God. That is the real challenge that is upon us.

Can we just raise our sights from the enemy and see Jesus? Could we just raise our sights from this sin-sick world and see Heaven? Can we understand that we are under a necessary and beautiful and wonderful challenge from God by His Goodness because it is the Goodness and the Kindness of God that leads people to repentance? We can go into areas that are devastated and call down the Goodness of God.

Seriously, what would it look like for people to gather together in their thousands in a district of a major city and just stand on the street corners and pray down the Goodness and the favor of God onto that community? What if we could just have hundreds of cars driving around a city with all the windows down and do drive-by blessings? I am serious. People congregating to spend their goodness on that subdivision, or whatever. To go into businesses and pray down the blessing of God in this economic down turn. The Goodness of God.

David said, "I would have despaired unless I believe to see the Goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13 The favor of God is the doorway by which we make Goodness available to the world around us. We make blessing available to the world around us. The challenge on us that we need to arise into is the one transforming thing that will change our culture and our society and it is when the church stops railing against sin, which is not our job, and starts actually releasing the Goodness and the Kindness of God and the Grace and the Favor and the Mercy of God into the earth. That is our job in the earth. To bring the Goodness and Kindness so people can get a taste and see that God is good. If we are going to pioneer anything, please could we just pioneer that? Could we pioneer Goodness?

 **Key:** The Church's job is to release the Goodness, Kindness, Grace, Favor, and Mercy of God into the earth, not to harp on sin.

Making Goodness Fashionable

One of the most powerful moves of God in British history did not come through an evangelistic revival. John Wesley at the height of his ministry led sixty-five thousand people to Christ, which is pretty decent for a guy on horseback. William Wilberforce never preached the Gospel once, but he started this movement in British history, in British tradition, in British life. The movement was called *Let's Make*

Goodness Fashionable. He got everybody involved, from the Royal family, Lords and Ladies, Parliament, Government, the police force, big business, anybody and everybody. He got everybody involved and they had all these little buttons, these badges made that said, *Let's Make Goodness Fashionable*. And they literally brought the whole country up by its bootstraps. From out of that place came a whole new culture, a whole new society, a welfare of looking after each other, of blessing each other. The economy actually upturned outrageously. *Let us make goodness fashionable*. Out of that movement, he never preached the Gospel once. Over a million people came to Christ and thousands of churches were started.

One man who believed. He is known for his anti-slavery thing. But, really, compared to what he did in our country, the anti-slavery thing was a hobby. Fifteen years that man went after it starting out as an individual alone against the government and then people coming in behind him. But fifteen years he stood and he would not go away. Eventually everything bowed to the Goodness of God and slavery was abolished in our country.

The Goodness of God; the Favor of God

Come on, if we are going to believe something, let us believe something Majestic. Let us believe outrageously. Let us believe something wonderful. Let us believe something so incredible, so enormous, it can change our culture and our society. Let us believe that. Let us believe something about Heaven. Let us believe something about Jesus. Let us believe something about the Goodness of the Father. Let us believe something about the genius of the Holy Spirit that causes us to rise up day after day after day, and with absolute joy and delight tell people, "Hey, I am going to pray for you and something is going to happen. I am going to give you my favor. You can borrow my favor."

The Way We Talk to God is Important

I was talking to a guy on a plane. He is a back-slidden Christian and just totally consumed with guilt. I said, "Man you know how to pray? You can pray." He said, "I just do not think God would listen to me. I am terrible; I am a terrible Christian." I said, "It has never been about your performance. It has only ever been about who Jesus is in you. You pray." He said, "I have not the faith to pray." I said, "Well okay, borrow mine. You can borrow mine." He looked at me and said, "What?" I said, "I give you some faith right now. Borrow mine." He said, "I do not even know what that looks like." I said, "Well, I will pray because I am brilliant at it. I will pray and if you pray what I pray in the way that I pray it the same thing will happen to you that would happen for me." And he went, "Okay."

So, he did. I start to pray. The three seats in front of us suddenly tilt back. I can see this ear in the gap between the seats. I am thinking, brilliant, we have an audience. I just start, I just pray out loud and he prays. I said, "Well, no, you have to say it the way that I say it, because it is the way that we talk to God. It is relational. Prayer is never functional. It is deeply relational. So, the way we talk to the Father is important."

So, I began to pray, talking to Jesus, and he began to pray. Suddenly you could see it on him! Suddenly it was like this darkness lifted and he starts to cry. There it is, bang! Right back. I just said to him, "Listen,

I am just going to pray and cut you off from all your unbelief and all that kind of stuff because here you are, you are right back. You are right back. Right back in the bosom of your Father.” I just cut him off from all unbelief and condemnation. Then I said, “Okay, so how about we go for broke and get you filled with the Holy Spirit?” He said, “I am up for anything right now.” That was a completely different response to what I was getting 10 minutes ago. I prayed for him to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Then we just chatted. It was great.

What did I do? I just gave him my favor, and probably the three people in the row in front of us.

Keep Giving Favor Away

You are favored. You are beloved. You are blessed. You have favor. Favor needs to be released. Do not keep favor to yourself, release it. Give it away, it will come back to you. Give it away, it will come back to you. Give it away, it will come back to you. It will come back bigger. It will come back stronger. It will come back fuller. It will come back fuller. Keep giving it away. Your favor needs to be constantly released. Every day you have to think who am I supposed to be favoring today? Who do I get to bless? Lord, who are we blessing today? It is a great adventure. You will love it. No one is safe from a blessing. Nobody is safe.

If you want to keep something in God, you have to give it away. It is the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. Guys, you have favor. It is really important for us to arise in our favor. You have had 45 years of being brilliant; now we are going to have another 45 years of being utterly astonishing. Now we are going to arise in something so magnificent it will take hold of our situations and circumstances in a completely different way.

Goodness Is the Soil of the Kingdom

You will see yourself growing. You will see yourself growing. Let me say it in English, you will see yourself growing. The nations will grow. Your Lighthouses will grow. Your regions will grow. Leaders will grow. Why? Because Goodness is the soil of the Kingdom. Everything grows in it.

Your favor is so critical for your own life. And if it is critical for you, it is critical for the people around you who have none. You need to give them favor so that they know they can have favor with God. They can taste that God is Wonderful and that God is Good.

Be Consistent Where You Release Favor

Your favor is more eloquent than any message you could give. It speaks in more powerful ways. Acts of Goodness. Let us just not make them random, let us make them intentional. Let us sow favor into the same family, the same family, the same family, the same family, the same store, whatever it is, be consistent in your favor. Let us not just do hits. If you are in an airport on a plane, be random, go for it. But amongst the people that you live amongst, be consistent in your favor. Be consistent in your blessing. The more consistent you are, the more you will have to give away.

 **Key:** Your own prosperity in the things of God depends upon what you give away, not on what you can accumulate.

“And so I challenge you, I challenge you to arise in My Goodness. I challenge you to a life of unprecedented goodness and favor in the abundance and fullness of your God. And I give you the wonderful, the incomparable, the beautiful, the powerful, the genius Holy Spirit to empower you to become just that.”

“I release to you all the resources of Heaven in your own prophecies, in your own promises, in your own scriptures. Look at them, read them, mine them for all the favor that is there because I intend, this is the Kind Intention of My will that you live in unparalleled, unprecedented favor that there will never have been in the history of the church - a generation, a people group, who have that sense of favor like you will have it, who have the reality of that favor like you will have it.” And I tell you, “That favor will destroy all lack and all need in your life.” And I say, “That favor will overcome the enemy in your life. Favor will open doors all around you. Favor will cause not only you but your whole community to prosper.”

And the Lord says, “The enemy will not be able to stand against the favor of God that is in you that is rising up through you. He will not be able to stand against the waves upon waves, the tsunami of Goodness, that will flow throughout the earth. We are going to make the enemy fight for every inch of territory and we are going to overwhelm him by the Goodness of God. We overcome evil with good.”

So, the Lord says, “I mark your calendar this day. And this day I set before you an open door in Heaven. I encourage you, take Me for granted. Take Me for everything I am worth. Take Me for everything that you are worth and you will find a new worth rising in the earth. People will seek you out because of your wisdom, because of your joy, because of your love, because of your goodness, and because of your favor.” The world around us is crying out for miracles. And the Lord says, “I am sending you as a gift to the world around you.”

Father, we stand here before You and we just say to You that we accept this challenge.

Let us say it together: We accept this challenge. We accept it in the Name of Jesus. We accept it for the sake of Jesus.