

# The 8th Day Message

INSPIRATION FOR FEBRUARY 2010

Today, I am inspired to touch on the subject of FAVOR. In Dictionary.com there are many entries under this word, and I will share a few with you: *Something done or granted out of goodwill, rather than from justice or for remuneration; a kind act: to ask a favor. Friendly or well-disposed regard; goodwill: to win favor of the king. The state of being approved or unfair partiality; preferential treatment: to treat some people with favor and others with neglect.* As you read these entries, do they give you the feeling that some ulterior motive may be involved in "this kind of favor," some how?

In today's world we human beings often care about winning favor with *certain* people that we meet, for one reason or another. Who do you want to win favor from or with? Whose reputation is important enough that you would want to be associated with them? The biblical character, Job said, "You (God) have granted me life and favor, and Your care has preserved my spirit." (Job: 10:12 NKJV) Is there anyone in your life that can grant you the favor you are truly seeking? And, who is there, that you have ever met, that has preserved your spirit? We meet very special people along life's way, but who have you met that you can really say preserves *your* spirit, simply because of who they are?

The granting of favor and the preservation of your spirit has to come from someone who doesn't have any ulterior motives concerning what they do for you. This has to come from a very selfless person. Do you know anybody like that? Because of the "Sin" virus, we are all infected with on planet Earth, it is very difficult for us to do anything without any ulterior motives locked into anything we do for others! (If any of you out there want to challenge me on this, feel free to contact me.)

According to the Holy Scriptures, "A good (person) obtains favor from the Lord..." (Proverbs 12:2 NKJV) Are we saying then that true favor can only come from Creator-God? I believe the answer to this question has to be yes. Creator-God is the only Being who doesn't have any reason to harbor ulterior motives in anything He does or wants to do for us. He loves us with an everlasting love that cannot change because we do, and He only always wants what is good for us, even when we don't want what is good for ourselves!

Last but not least, the Holy Scriptures state: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52 NKJV) What do you have to do in order to grow in favor with God and mankind? Well, developing a relationship with Creator-God is a sure way to grow in favor with Him, but how do you grow in favor with man? Mankind has such a fickle mind—one minute he is for you, next, against—so, how *do* you grow in favor with man? The best advice is to focus on growing in favor with Creator-God. Learning to please God will help us to grow in favor with man, not because of us, but because God has the ability to open ways for us to do things that would help us to win favor with man. It's wonderful to know that pleasing a Being we *cannot* see can enhance our relationship with those we *can* see. Don't ask me how this works, because I cannot tell you; this is one of the mysteries of Creator-God, and the mystery

of a godly life. But, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Absolutely no one—if they know what's good for them! (Romans 8:31 NKJV) We can praise Creator-God today for His favor, which is for life, to those who call Him Father, and do those things that are pleasing in *His* sight!

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