

My FAVORite People
Proverbs 3:3-4
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- Do you have favorite people in your life? People you favor over others?
Why are they favorites? Why have they found favor?
→How can YOU find favor with others? Are there secrets for God giving you favor with others?

1. THE MEANING OF “FAVOR”

- The word “favor” in the Bible has its roots in the concepts of approval and acceptance; being well thought of
→God extends His favor (or grace), in kindness and compassion toward us

2. THE EXMPLES OF FINDING FAVOR WITH OTHERS

- +**Jesus** (Luke 2:52) “and Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in **favor** with God and men”
+**Samuel** (1 Sam 2:26) “Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in **favor** with both God and men”
+**Nehemiah** 1:11-2:5 “... grant (me) compassion before this man...if it please the king and if your servant has found **favor** before you, send me to Judah...”,
+**Joseph** (Gen 39:3-4; 21) “now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found **favor** in his sight”
“But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him **favor** in the sight of the chief jailer”
+**Esther** 2:17 “The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found **favor** and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that he...made her queen...”

Prov 22:1 A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, **Favor is better than silver and gold.

3. THE PATH TO FINDING FAVOR WITH OTHERS- Proverbs 3:3-4

- NASB- “Do not let kindness and truth leave you. Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.”
- ESV- “Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you”
- NKJV- “Let not mercy and truth forsake you”
- CJB- “Do not let grace and truth leave you”
- NIV- “Let love and faithfulness never leave you”
- NLT- “Never let loyalty and kindness leave you”

-“kindness” (hesed) is often translated as “mercy” and sometimes as “steadfast love”
-“faithfulness” is associated with “truth”

SO WHAT? NOW WHAT? TAKING IT HOME!!

1. In Proverbs Kindness and faithfulness are often associated with two behaviors

→Generosity

- Prov 22:9 He who is **generous** will be blessed, For he gives some of his food to the poor.
- Prov 11:24-27 There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. 25 The **generous** man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered. 26 He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, But blessing will be on the head of him who sells it. 27 He who diligently seeks good seeks **favor**, But he who seeks evil, evil will come to him.

→Refreshment

- Prov 25:13 Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he **refreshes** the soul of his masters.
- Philemon 7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been **refreshed** through you, brother
Philemon 20 Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; **refresh** my heart in Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 16:17-18 I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. 18 For they have **refreshed** my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.
- 2 Corinthians 7:13 For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been **refreshed** by you all.
- 2 Timothy 7:16 The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often **refreshed** me and was not ashamed of my chains;

→Sadly, followers of Jesus are often the least generous and rather than refreshing, they bring weariness

2. How are you doing with finding favor with others . . . with your family and friends . . . and beyond?
3. How would you rate yourself on generosity and refreshment?
4. Let’s make our homes, neighborhoods, and work places locations where our generosity and refreshment make a difference for Jesus

Let’s make HOPE CITY a place where hope is found because of our generosity and refreshment