

Divine Favour

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The word favour is associated with approval, acceptance and special benefits of blessings. It is also linked with the grace, goodness and mercy of God. Divine favour depends on God's pleasure and it is often extended in response to prayer and or righteous living. **Genesis 6:8 and Exodus 33:12-13** talked about two key Biblical characters-Noah and Moses. In a wicked world, Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Because of that, the Bible says he found grace or favour in the eyes of God. Moses interceded to God on the basis of the favour or grace that was given to him. **Psalm 84: 11** states that no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly. God, who is both the sun and shield will give such people grace and glory as was the case for Noah and Moses. In **Deuteronomy 33:13-16**, Moses blesses Joseph by speaking of his prosperity and fruitfulness. Moses declares that Joseph enjoyed the favour of God. The angel Gabriel in **Luke 1:30** told Mary the mother of Jesus that she had found favour with God and that she would bear a Christ child. **Luke 2:14** is about how the angels announced to the shepherds that God would send "peace to men on whom His favour rests. At the age of 12, Jesus had favour with God and men (**Luke 2:52**) as he grew in wisdom and stature. This is the same description given about Samuel (**1Samuel 2:24**).

1. Favour is different from Favouritism

Favour is not favouritism. Favour is God's prerogative that demonstrates His unfathomable grace. Favouritism is unjust, bias or partiality. It is the attention given to someone or something based on position, relationship, clothing or wealth among other things. **James 2:1-4** warns against favouritism. In the passage the poor man is discriminated against in the seating arrangement because of his attire. Favouritism chooses a person because of some merit or worth. Nepotism, tribalism, racism and other corruption tendencies of men lean towards favouritism. For example, one should be careful to say it was God's favour when they know clearly that they were engaged in corrupt practices. God is just and is no respecter of persons. God does not show favouritism. (**Romans 2:11**). He is, however, a respecter of humility, brokenness, righteousness, selflessness, obedience and sacrifice. All these attributes will gain God's favour. When God favours you, it is for His glory and that you will impact others. In God, everyone has access to one form of favour or another without bribe or corruption. Actually, the first and most important favour that we all have access to is called salvation.

2. Favour is both a blessing and a weapon

The Psalmist writes "*For you, O Jehovah, will bless the righteous with favour. You will*

surround him with a shield" **Psalm 5:12**. Favour not only blesses but shields God's people from opposition and all anti favour moves. This kind of favour was found on Daniel and his friends in Babylon. For reasons that can not be humanly explained they found favour amidst very trying times. (**Daniel 1:9**). There were many beautiful ladies who were not orphans and foreigners, yet Esther found favour and became the queen. (**Esther 2:15-17**). Favour made Esther to be chosen for a position that she would not naturally qualify for. David was disqualified by his father based on the culture of the eldest sons becoming king, he also did not have the looks for the position. He was disqualified by his brother and King Saul in the Goliath fight, but favour made him both King and giant killer. He was protected from the most dangerous and experienced fighter by favour (**1 Samuel 16:11-13**). Jabez is an example of one who sought God in prayer and all his requests were granted. He did not have the best name or the best background, but favour located him right there (**1Chronicles 4:9-10**). At the pool of Bethesda, a man who had been there for 38 years was located by favour. The favour was at a time and from a source that he least expected. He expected an angel to stir the water and someone to throw him into the pool. Both these expected sources of help were not there. Jesus (favour) appeared, chose him among many, healed him and left the scene. (**John 17:1-15**). Paul, the apostle was called

by God to do great things when he was not thinking or loving that same God. Favour appeared on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:1-6**)

3.Directions of Favour

Favour moves in many directions as God desires. These may include but not limited to the medical, the material, the mental, ministerial and manifold directions of favour

3.1. Medical Direction

As stated already, at the pool of Bethesda, one man was healed among many. He was singled out (**John 5:2-9**). In **2 Kings 5:1-14** Naaman an army general who had a brilliant CV but with leprosy met favour in his house through a servant girl from Israel. He was then healed miraculously. In **Luke 24:27** Jesus says there were many lepers in Samaria during Elisha's time, but it was only Naaman who was cleansed. He found favour. In fact, his pride of not wanting to wash in the Jordan nearly cost him of this favour. Pride is one of the killers of favour. On the other side, humility attracts favour.

3.2 Material Direction

In the material direction of favour, whatever you touch begins to prosper and people begin to wonder how. **Luke 5:1-7** talks about two boats that were in the sea. One belonged to Peter and the other to an unnamed fisherman. Jesus chose Peter's boat, used it and then performed a material miracle. Peter caught the boat sinking and net breaking fish that day. I believe favour is given for God's purposes and not man's enjoyment or pleasure. Peter was to become a fisher of men later

3.3 Marital Direction

Proverbs 18:22 says he who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favour from the Lord. I can even say he who finds a husband. Never mind the attack on marriage from various quarters, marriage is a favour from God. I have seen people who have changed completely for the good after they got married to the right person. People that were considered barren in the Bible found favour of bearing children. In **1 Samuel 1:9-20** those that were laughing at Hannah started laughing with her. Other very powerful bible characters from barren mothers include Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Samson and John the Baptist.

3.4 Mental Direction

Favour brings wisdom you can never explain. Adam's wisdom to name all animals single handed is favour manifest. Daniel (**Daniel 2:20-22**) was also favoured with wisdom so

was Solomon. **James 1:3** says if you lack wisdom ask for it from the Lord. Biblical community is encouraging, fun, attracts the Holy Spirit and is life giving

3.5 Ministerial Direction

After you are born again, all you are waiting for is the favour from God. In ministry, favour makes it easy to do the work of God. Favour gives you strategies and ideas to grow the work in all respects. A minister with favour preaches a simple sermon and multitudes get saved.

3.6 Manifold Direction

In **Genesis 45:4-13** Joseph was made "Lord" over Egypt because of God's favour upon his life. He even told his father to come to Egypt with all his family and he (Joseph) would feed all of them for the rest of their life. In **Genesis 41: 39** Pharaoh said to Joseph "There is none as wise as thou art". Joseph had a frightening mental capacity

4.Conclusion

Favour is orchestrated by God in order for Him to accomplish His purposes. It is never for individual gratification. It is Kingdom focused. Those that are financially favoured should give to the work of God and other who are in need. God will favour you in 2020 in Jesus Name!

5.References

As stated in the document: Various Bible Versions used

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About the Author

Stanley Maphosa is the President of ABC. ABC exists to create fellowship, capacity building and support for church leaders of all levels and individuals. It is also an oversight body that speaks with and behalf of the church to power ensuring that the body of Christ is relevant to society. Stanley Maphosa is an apostle, author, recording artist and sought-after international speaker who has been to every part of the globe. Stanley Maphosa is the Founder and Principal Investigator at S3R Consulting a company he started in 2006 which is involved in strategy, community development, disaster risk management and leadership. Professionally he is a Science Diplomat pursuing a PhD in Social Science at the University of Fort Hare. Stanley Maphosa mobilises Christians through the Christian Business and Services Directory.