

**2018 A Year of the Lord Favour**  
**Growing Stronger, Going Deeper, Reaching Further**

**Welcome to 2018 A year of the Lord's Favour**

- A year to Grow Stronger, Go Deeper, Reach Further

“Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband, ” says the Lord. [2] “Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. [3] For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. **Isaiah 54:1-3**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, [2] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, [3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion---to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. [4] They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. [5] Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. [6] And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. [7] Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. **Isaiah 61:1-7**

**Define Favour**

- It's undeserved, unmerited help, kindness ... Favour
- It's God Grace given to us in Christ Jesus
- It's God's preferential Treatment

An ounce of Favour is worth a lifetime of labour - **Tommy Tenny**

It is the favour of the Lord that enables us to grow people, raise leaders establish new congregations even build buildings, to grow the prayer culture and expand the mission of God.

"Look at the nations and watch---and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

**Habakkuk 1:5**

**Get Ready For:**

- New Beginnings or a New Chapter

- Reset and Go again - Fresh Start
- Beauty for Ashes
- Joy for mourning
- A year of praise
- Breakthrough in the places you contended
- It's winter into Spring

See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. [12] Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. [13] The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me." **Song of Songs**

### **2:11-13**

- It's life, New Life
- It's awakening
- It's the salvation of families
- It's light and hope
- It's a year of unending, overflowing grace
- It's a year of intimacy
- It's a year of prayer
- A year of radical obedience

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." **Zephaniah 3:17**

- Wolverhampton will be a City of joy because God is in our midst
- We are his bride and he is our victorious warrior
- God desires to bless his children with Favour

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

### **Matthew 7:11**

- Abba says yes, get ready for favour

### **Purpose of the Favour**

Timothy Kim - Sept 17

- get ready year for a Joseph anointing year, 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years famine, and then the whole world comes for help
- May not be a literal 7 years but a given season

#### **1. The Favour on Joseph's life led to thousands saved from famine**

- I see two things:
  - Joseph attracted favour to his life by his devotion and consecration to the Lord
  - The favour on Joseph's life led to the saving of thousands upon thousands of life

But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. **Genesis 45:7**

## 2. **The Favour on Esther led to the saving of a people group**

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" **Esther**

### **4:14**

- There is favour on your life Esther, don't waste
- This is the reason you were born
- A bigger purpose than yourself
- She already had favour but when she came with humility and made a bold ask, more favour was granted

## 3. **The favour of Psalm 67 is for the Nations to know God**

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us--- [2] so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. [3] May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. [4] May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. [5] May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. [6] The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. [7] May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him. **Psalm**

### **67:1-7**

## 4. **The Favour on the early Church was for others to know Christ**

praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:47**

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. **Acts 9:31**

*Favour enables us to do what we could not do in our own strength or ability to bring about God's divine purposes upon the earth.*

*The favour upon an individual is not about the individual but about what the Lord is doing through them to reach and touch others!! Favour is rarely about the person who is experiencing favour!*

## **So Then What do I do - Application**

You cannot earn favour but you can position yourself for it

I can flip a switch, but I don't provide the electricity. I can turn on a tap, but I can't make the water flow. There will be no light and no liquid refreshment without someone else providing it.

And so it is, in a limited sense, for the Christian with the ongoing grace of God. His grace is essential for our spiritual lives, but we don't control the supply. We can't make the grace flow, but God has given us circuits to connect and pipes to open.

**David Matthis**

While there's no final and complete list of such spiritual disciplines, the long tally of helpful habits can be clustered into three big groups: hearing God's voice, having God's ear, and being with God's people. Or simply: word, prayer, and fellowship.

## **David Matthis**

### **1. Love The Bible**

The Lord is asking us to prepare and position ourselves for a year of Favour -

Make your face shine on your servant and teach me your decrees. **Psalm 119.135**

For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. **Ezra 7:10**

Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. **Ezekiel 3:3**

### **2. Set Yourself Apart**

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." **Joshua 3:5**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33**

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: [16] "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." **Esther 4:15-16**

- A lifestyle of obedience, fasting, prayer, humility - Holy lives brings favour
- Our Fasting and prayer is a part of that positioning

### **3. Christian Community - Fellowship**

All the believers were together and had everything in common. [45] They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. [46] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:44-47**

## **Conclusion**

Let get ready for unprecedented Favour

2018 a year to:

- Grow Stronger
- Go Deeper
- Reach Further

## **Do Not Fear**

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

### **Isaiah 41:10**

God is calling all of you to not be afraid. Fear not, because God is with you. Fear not, because God is your God. Fear not, because God will strengthen you. Fear not, because God will help you. Fear not, because God will support you and hold you up by his victorious right hand.

“I am your God.” That is, I am above you. I am over you with my mighty hand. Over you. I am with you. Beside you. I will help you from whatever angle the enemy may come — or the attack or threat. I am all around you as your help. I will strengthen you from inside out. I will be your strength. And I will uphold you from underneath you. Do not be afraid.

And there is one great ground for fearlessness: God. You have a God who is infinitely more powerful! He is God! He is God! Do you believe him? Do not be afraid.

Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God” (John 14:1).

What else can we say? “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” **John Piper** sermon 1993 ‘Fear Not, I am with you, I am your God’