

# THE DIVINE FAVOR OF THE LORD

Proverbs 3:1-4

## 1. FINDING FAVOR.

### 1. Favor with God.

1. To the righteous - *"For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield."* (Ps. 5:12).
2. A good man - *"A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn."* (Pr. 12:2).
3. Those who seek wisdom - *"For whoso findeth me (wisdom) findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD."* (Pr. 8:35).

### 2. Favor with man.

1. Joseph - *"But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison."* (Ge. 39:21).
2. Israelites in Egypt - *"And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians."* (Ex. 12:36).

### 3. Favor with God and man.

1. Samuel - *"And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men."* (1 Sam. 2:26).
2. Jesus - *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."* (Lu. 2:52).

### 4. Reputation and favor more important than riches - *"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."* (Pr. 22:1).

2. OUR WHOLE DESIRE SHOULD BE TO PLEASE GOD AND TO GAIN HIS FAVOR.

1. Better to gain the favor of God than the favor of man.
2. The Word of God is the key.
  1. My son forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments.
  2. For thy commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.
  3. The only true way to happiness, health, prosperity, and peace of mind is to lead a disciplined life, which is a life of instruction.

3. BLESSINGS OF DIVINE FAVOR THROUGH THE WORD (9 divine blessings).

1. Partakers of His Divine Nature through His Divine Power. *"According to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* (II Pe. 1:3-4).
2. Divine life.
  1. Pr. 3:2 - *"For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."*
  2. *"Length of days is in her right hand (wisdom); and in her left hand riches and honour."* (v. 16).
3. Divine guidance.
  1. *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (vv. 5,6)

2. Is. 30:21 - *"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left."*
3. Is. 42:16 - *"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them and not forsake them."*
4. Is. 48:17 - *"Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit; which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go."*

4. Divine health.

1. Pr. 3:7-8 - *"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."*
2. Ex. 15:26 - *"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee."*
3. Pr. 4:20-22 - *"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."*

5. Divine prosperity.

1. Pr. 3:9-10 - *"Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."*
2. Ps. 41:1 - *"Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord*

*will deliver him in time of trouble."*

3. Pr. 11:25 - *"The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."*
6. Divine correction - correction is for our benefit. Perhaps the reason we don't have disciplined kids is because we ourselves are not disciplined.
  1. Pr. 3:11-12 - *"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."*
  2. Re. 3:19 - *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."*
  3. Chastening and correction is a form of discipline; or instruction. To chastise means to be instructed or taught; to cause one to learn; to correct with reproof and admonition.
  4. Correction is grievous to those who forsake the way. *"Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die."* (Pr. 15:10).
  5. All scripture given for...reproof and correction. *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..."* (II Ti. 3:16).
  6. Correction of children.
    1. *"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.* (Pr. 22:15).
    2. *"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die."* (Pr. 23:13).
    3. *"Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."* (Pr. 23:14).

4. *"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." (Pr. 19:18).*

7. Divine happiness.

1. Pr. 3:13-14 - *"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold."*
2. v. 17-18. *"Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her."*
3. Happy is the people whose God is the Lord.

8. Divine protection.

1. Pr. 3:21-22 - *"My son, let not them(wisdom and understanding) depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: so shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck."*
2. v. 23. *"Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble."*
3. v. 24. *"When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."*
4. v. 25. *"Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh."*
5. v. 26. *"For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken."*

9. Divine presence.

1. Pr. 6:20-22 - *"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and*

*when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee."*

2. In His presence is fullness of joy.

O, the Glory of His Presence

Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place

Come Into His Presence with Thanksgiving in Your Heart