



Joseph - A Man Favored by God

By Michael J. Burns

Genesis 37:18-19

18 Now when they (*his brothers*) saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.

19 Then they said to one another, "***Look, this dreamer is coming!***"
NKJV

One of the greatest examples of **God's Divine Favor** is found in the life of Joseph. The difficulties he faced did not stop **God's Divine Favor** from promoting him to 2nd in command in all of Egypt. This is the story where he became a slave after being sold by his very own brother's as a result of their jealousy and hatred of him! Joseph went from being a **Favorite Son** to a **Slave** and ultimately a **Prince** in Egypt!

Joseph's name means ***Jehovah will add; to Increase; or Prosperity.*** He was also the son of his father Jacob born to him in his old age. The names we are given by our parents can be a testimony as to what they saw when we were born with respect to our future. Some parents pick a name because it was once used by the family over the generations. ***Others name their children because they see a destiny in their future.***

For instance, **Hebrews 11:23**, *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they SAW he was a PROPER child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*
KJV

VERSE 23 reveals that Moses parents **SAW** something. There are a couple of Greek words for the term '**Saw**'. The Greek word *Blepo* means to *See, like a glance, I see or notice you and you see or notice me*. That's not the Greek term used in **verse 23**. The word that speaks of Moses parents who **SAW** is the Greek word, *Horao*. It means to ***perceive, to behold, to delightfully view, a scrutinizing look, or to look with the intent to examine. It also means understanding, experiencing and assimilating into one's self.***

WOW! Moses parents didn't just see him like parents today who would say how beautiful or good looking their new born baby is in their view. They saw beyond the physical and saw that he was more than a cute baby. ***He was a child with a destiny.*** That is why they did not fear or sacrifice him like many others did at Pharaoh's command!

Some translations say that Moses was a *Beautiful child* or as the NLT says, ***...he was an Unusual child.*** In **Acts 7:20** Stephen the martyr, prior to his death, gave a message that talked about Israel's journey which included this statement about Moses...he ***was exceeding fair when he was born!***

In **Hebrews 11:23**, it says that Moses' parents saw that he was a ***PROPER CHILD***. The Greek word here for *PROPER CHILD* literally means he was ***A CHILD OF A CITY*** or ***A CITY DWELLER!*** We all know that Moses became a great leader for the Children of Israel. Think about it! *What if his parents had feared the King's command to have Moses killed? What would the world be like without his contributions to this world?*

Joseph, was the child of Israel's/Jacob's old age and was loved by his father over all his other children. This caused problems for Joseph with his brothers.

Genesis 37:3-4

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.

4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. ESV

It seems odd to me that any parent would love one child over another. It's generally not the norm yet it does exist even today in some families. It's my opinion that all children should be equally loved by their parents.

My father experienced a sad thing when the last of his parents had died. His parents had 5 children. Dad was into sports big time and even became a physical education teacher as well as played on many various sports teams. He ended up falling into a gambling lifestyle and got himself into some serious debt of which his parents bailed him out.

I'm not just talking about a few hundred dollars I'm referring to many tens of thousands of dollars. When the last will and testament was read he found out that he had been cut out of the Will of his parents. Their wealth, which was substantial, was divided amongst the other four siblings. While it was true that his parents helped bail him out of significant gambling debts, they also helped several of the other children who had severe issues and vices too!

The real reason he was cut out of the family Will was my dad had given his life to Christ and had been born again and baptized in the Holy Ghost. His family were staunch Catholics but Dad's experience with the Lord had brought about such transformation to him that he was set free from his gambling and drinking. Something that never occurred in the mainline denomination he had been brought up in and attended as an adult!

Dad and Mom decided that the inheritance they had from the Lord Jesus was really all they needed and chose not to fight the family over

this seeming betrayal. Joseph's brothers could have taken the higher road and loved Joseph but they did not. Instead they plotted his death and ended up throwing him into a pit.

Eventually Joseph's brothers saw a caravan of gypsies and sold Joseph to them. These gypsies went to Egypt and sold Joseph into slavery. Remember that Joseph had received a ***Coat of Many Colors*** from his father Israel. His brothers took that away, dipped it in animals blood and took it to their father with the false story of his death by being devoured by a wild beast!

In Egypt Joseph was bought by a governmental leader named, ***Potiphar***. Joseph was now given a servants coat without any beautiful colors like the one his father had given him. While Joseph worked in Potiphar's house God caused it to prosper in such a way that Joseph was put in charge of all the household affairs.

Potiphar trusted him but his trust was broken by a false accusation. Potiphar's wife saw that Joseph was a handsome young man and tried to seduce him on several occasions. On her last attempt she grabbed Joseph's servant coat while Joseph ran away leaving it behind.

Feeling slighted by Joseph's honorable rejection of her attempted seduction she falsely accused Joseph of trying to sexually assault her. While Potiphar was saddened by it he stood by his wife and had Joseph thrown in jail! Even there in prison the ***Divine Favor of God*** worked for him in such a way that the head of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners!

The ***Favor of God*** on our lives will go with us wherever we go and whatever circumstances we might face. Though we cannot always see it, we must believe that **GOD HAS A PLAN** that He is working on our behalf!

While in prison Joseph had become acquainted with two former officer's in the Pharaoh's service...a butler and a baker as recorded in **Genesis 40:5-15**

5 Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who *were* confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night *and* each man's dream with its *own* interpretation.

6 And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they *were* sad.

7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who *were* with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?"

8 And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and *there is* no interpreter of it."

So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell *them* to me, please."

9 Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine *was* before me,

10 and in the vine *were* three branches; it *was* as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes.

11 Then Pharaoh's cup *was* in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

12 And Joseph said to him, "This *is* the interpretation of it: The three branches *are* three days.

13 Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.

14 But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.

15 For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon." NKJV

Joseph had a God-given gift of having and interpreting dreams. In the New Testament we see that it a manifestation of the supernatural gift of the ***Word of Wisdom*** in **1 Corinthians 12** that deals specifically

with the future. In this case Joseph saw the time of their dreams of 3 days when they would come to pass. He told them the meaning of each dream and the interpretation of each dream. The butler would be restored to his position but the baker would be executed.

Ultimately God used this encounter to help Joseph get out of prison when Pharaoh had his dream of 7 fat and 7 lean cattle coming out of the Nile river. The Pharaoh was looking for someone to interpret the dream and could not find anyone when the butler who had been in prison with Joseph told Pharaoh of the help he received from Joseph when he had his dream.

Pharaoh had Joseph brought out of prison and ultimately Joseph interpreted the dream. He told him of the warning Pharaoh had received in this dream. There would be 7 years of abundant bumper crops followed by 7 years of famine throughout the land of Egypt and the surrounding areas. **This interpretation prompted Pharaoh to put Joseph as the 2nd in command in all of Egypt!**

He was put in charge of the 7 years of plenty and the distribution of the food stuffs during the 7 years of famine. **God was setting up a reunion between Joseph, his brothers and his father Israel/ Jacob!** You can read the entire story in **Genesis Chapters 40 through 50**. In **Isaiah 46:10** we are told that God ***declares the end from the beginning!*** The reason God can do this is because ***He See's the End from the Beginning!***

In our lives we have a tendency to get upset when things don't go our way due to our limited physical sight. Joseph had many reasons to be *distraught, frustrated and disillusioned* by what had happened to him. Still Joseph seemed to stay at a restful place, not necessarily because of his circumstances but in the realization that he was ***Favored by God!***

This is how God wants us to see our lives in Christ. We are favored by God as His children and can expect to see His favor in our lives everyday just as in Joseph's life.

Here Are 10 Keys to Accessing God's Favor In Your Life:

1. Love God

Love God with all your heart. Without loving Him, we cannot expect to gain His ***favor***.

*"My son, do not forget My teaching, but keep My commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win ***favor*** and a good name in the sight of God and man."* (Proverbs 3:1-4)

2. Love people

What are you doing for the Kingdom? What are you doing for others? If you want God's ***favor*** then start caring for people. Ruth found ***favor*** with Boaz because of the things she had done and James says *'faith without works is dead'*.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'." (Matthew 25:34-40)

"Boaz replied, 'I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge'." (Ruth 2:11-12)

Ruth's was noticed for what she had done, she received more than she asked for, special treatment, protection, more than enough!

3. Hate what God hates

As you make a stand for God and His causes, His **favor** is released upon you.

*"But you have this in your **favor**: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."* (Revelation 2:6)

4. Give gifts and offerings

Abel's offering found **favor** with God but Cain's did not. Make sure your offering finds **favor** with God. Giving gifts leads us to find **favor** with both God and man as we see from the example of Jacob who found **favor** with Esau following his substantial gift.

*"And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with **favor** on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with **favor**. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast."* (Genesis 4:4)

*"I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find **favor** in your eyes."* (Genesis 32:5)

5. Be faithful

Noah found **favor** with God due to his faithfulness. He walked faithfully with God and that led to **favor**.

*"So the Lord said, 'I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.' But Noah found **favor** in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless*

among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.”
(Genesis 6:7-9)

6. Be righteous/blameless

As we can also see in the example of Noah, being righteous and blameless is a key to finding **favor**. We also find this call to righteousness in the New Testament.

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.” **(Matthew 6:33)**

*“Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your **favor** as with a shield.”* **(Psalm 5:12)**

You can be blessed with **favor**. **Favor** leads to blessing.

7. Be Submitted

Esther shows us how submission brings favor. She didn't take matters into her own hands. This is an ingredient to receiving favor. She exemplified **submission**, **humility** and **confidence** in God and won the favor of everyone who saw her.

*“When the turn came for Esther to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And **Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.**”* **(Esther 2:15)**

8. Be humble/have humility

Through her humility Esther received immediate care and attention, provision, the best place, helpers, assistants and attendants. Furthermore, ***her favor created favor for all around her.*** Through our humility, let's create an atmosphere of **favor** in our lives that can overflow to others.

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” **(1 Peter 5:5)**

9. Be honest

Honesty is a key to **favor**. Joseph found **favor** with Potiphar because he could be trusted.

*“The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find **favor** with Him.” (Proverbs 11:1)*

“Joseph found **favor** in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.” (Genesis 39)

10. Get Wisdom

Wisdom is a key to favor. As Solomon makes clear in the **Book of Proverbs**.

“For those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord.” (Proverbs 8:35)

As you use these 10 keys I believe you will see the **favor of God** on your life. And, remember, **Favor comes in stages**. You have to grow in it. You do not necessarily receive maximum **favor** all at once. “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in **favor with God and man.**” (Luke 2:52) *If Jesus had to grow in **favor** then so do we!*

NOTE: This section on the 10 Keys to God's Favor was adapted from an article written by Ward Simpson who leads the Global GOD TV Network.