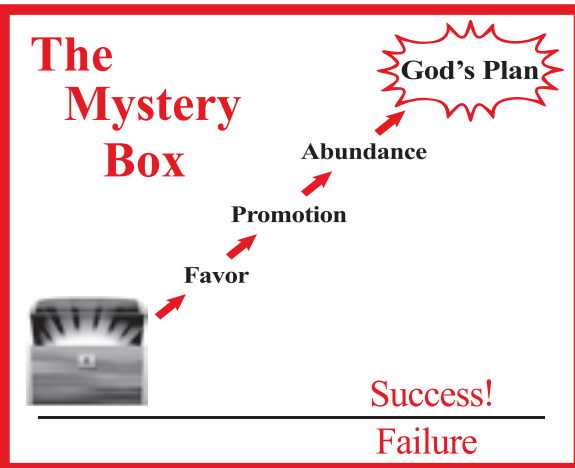


The Mystery Box

As we continue our study, the following diagram will help you understand the process of God's favor. In Joseph's story (and, in other scriptures), we can see that God's favor eventually brings promotion, blessing, and the outworking of His plan. God's favor will open just the right doors / at just the right time / with just the right people. On the other hand, if we insist on our own way, it will take us on a downward spiral. If you've been in a phase of going your own way, then let me encourage you to pause a moment and repent. **Ask God to forgive you and make a firm decision that you want to go His way. If you will do this, then God's favor will be activated to help you.** Things will not change overnight – but they WILL change if you will stay the course. Study this diagram and memorize it --



1. **The Mystery Box** - What secret ingredient in the mystery box activates God's favor? **[Answer – The secret ingredient is “working as to the Lord” in all you do, trusting Him to promote you].** Most people miss this key and never activate God's favor. Study these NT passages for this key: Col 3:23-25 / Eph 6:5-9.

2. **Success vs. Failure** - Notice on the diagram that the “upward path” leads to success and the “downward path” leads to failure. Success is defined as finding and fulfilling God's plan. Failure is when you opt to do your own thing. Notice that the mystery box starts the upward process.

3. **Favor** – When you “work as unto the Lord in all that you do”, God's favor is activated. No, it's not a get rich scheme. Joseph's story teaches otherwise. But in time, God's favor will lead you, open the right doors, and connect you to key people.

4. **Promotion** - God's favor eventually brings promotion. Joseph was promoted in Potiphar's house; he was promoted in prison; and ultimately he was promoted to be second-in-command of Egypt. Gen 41:41

5. **Abundance** – When God promotes someone, they come into a place of greater resources. It says that Joseph had a gold ring, a personal chariot, fine linen, and control of all Egypt's grain. Gen 41:42-44

6. **God's plan** – call it fruitfulness, success, prosperity, or whatever. God wants you to fulfill His plan for your life! He wants you to have all the resources, tools, and man-power that you need to get the job done. We must “abide in the vine” to see His fruitfulness. John 15:1-8

Whatever You Do – Unto Christ

I can tell you from the Bible (and from personal experience) – that if you want the “experiential side” of God's favor you must determine to “work as unto Christ” in all that you do. Stop performing for the sake of “eye service” [only working hard when your boss is looking] and start putting your faith in God's ability to reward you. No matter what type of work you do now, have faith that God can lead you from “here” to “there.” He can take you to your destiny. I've applied these principles since I was a teenager. Through the years, I worked in landscape, an oil refinery, on the assembly line, and in many more venues. Whether you clean bedpans or close million dollar deals, God has more for you! Start working as unto Him and get on the “upward” path of God's favor and promotion.



Dear friend, may you learn to work as unto Christ in all that you do, trusting Him to bless you and lead you.

■ Jason Peebles

Key Memory Verse:

“And whatever you do, do it with all your heart as for the Lord and not man, knowing that the Lord will reward you.” Colossians 3:23,24

Prayer to Walk in God's Favor

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. I want to walk in your favor and follow your path. I choose to have an attitude of “working as to the Lord” in all that I do. I will trust YOU to open the right doors with your favor. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen.”

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Walking In God's Favor

by Jason Peebles

The Bible tells us that we can experience God's favor in very practical ways. Psalm 5:12 says, **“For you, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor you will surround him as with a shield.”** The word “favor” means: 1) to approve or support, 2) to facilitate or help, 3) advantage, benefit, preference. **What an awesome thought that the God of Creation wants to “favor you” and shield you with His blessings and guidance!** He wants to open doors, connect you with key people, and help you fulfill your destiny.

Positional vs. Experiential

As we examine the subject of God's favor, it's important to grasp two main concepts. The first is what we might call the “**positional side**” of things. The Bible teaches that in Christ you are already blessed. Ephesians 1:3 says that in Christ **“you have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.”** It's important for you to realize that from God's point of view, you already have His favor and blessing. What a wonderful starting point! You can count on this fact, not because of your goodness, but because of what Jesus did for you. His sacrifice paid the price. God's favor is not something that you can earn – it's a free benefit that comes with salvation. However, that's not the end of the story. There's also an “**experiential side**” of things to consider as well. Just because something is promised or declared in the Bible doesn't mean that you will automatically experience it. **I've seen some Christians try to claim God's favor while they are lazy, showing up late to work, bitter over some past event, and in general**

walking in the flesh. The Bible teaches that walking in the flesh will short-circuit God's blessings (Gal 6:8). This study is dedicated to helping you walk in the "experiential" dimension of God's favor.

Joseph's Life – Keys to Favor

The life of Joseph is a great study on God's favor and success. **His story is a classic example of how someone can face unbelievable rejection and setbacks and still come out on top with God's favor.** I'm sure you remember the story. As a young boy, Joseph was sold by his own brothers into slavery (Gen 37). Can you imagine the horrible rejection and hurt that an event like that could produce? I'm sure that Joseph was tempted to be bitter just like anyone would. Yet, when you read the whole story, there's no mention of bitterness or a desire for revenge. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Joseph seems to have risen above the hurt through His faith in God's destiny for his life. The Bible says that when his brothers sold him, the slave traders put him in chains and took him down to Egypt (Gen 39 / Ps 105:17-22). There, he was sold again and ended up in Potiphar's house. At that horrible time in his life, look at what Genesis 39:2-4 says about Joseph:

“And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found FAVOR in his sight, and he served him; and he made him overseer over his house and all that he had put into his hand.”

Keep in mind that this was said of Joseph when he was a slave and owned absolutely nothing. Prosperous? Favor? This one passage alone confirms that God's view of prosperity and success is far different than the world's view. **In God's mind, “prosperity” is all about who you are on the inside, not what you have on the outside.** God looked upon Joseph's faith and attitude and called him “prosperous.” And because he was prosperous on the inside, it was just a matter of time until he experienced God's favor and blessing on the outside. Never forget that prosperity is first and foremost who you are on the inside.

Sowing & Reaping on Steroids!

Building on Joseph's example, I want to look at a powerful key that is generally overlooked regarding God's favor. In fact, I have come to believe that this is

the MAIN KEY to the “experiential” side of God's favor. In Joseph's story, we see him time and again **“WORKING AS TO THE LORD AND NOT UNTO MAN.”** I don't know if you can grasp the depth of this principle or not, but no matter what Joseph was asked to do, in his heart **HE WORKED AS THOUGH HE WERE WORKING FOR THE LORD.** In Joseph's mind, his boss was the Lord -- not Potiphar, Pharaoh, or the jailer. Christians need to grasp this powerful principle and never forget it. It will cure laziness and slackness. God is your “boss” – not an individual, a company, or a government. Thus, whether your job at the moment is washing dishes, working in a factory, cleaning bathrooms, or conducting business in a private jet – **your attitude should be that you are working “unto the Lord” and not for man.** This one simple key will revolutionize the most mundane tasks. It will turn everything you do into “faith-seeds.” It's really the law of sowing and reaping on steroids! **You should work as unto the Lord and expect your promotion to come from Him (Col 3:23-25).**

Keep in mind that when you do this, you are not “earning” God's blessing. No, it is simply a powerful way to release your faith and put your expectation in what God alone can do. Joseph did not just sit around bemoaning his plight like most of us would have done. We would have blamed our evil brothers for the rest of our lives! Yet, we are told that Joseph quickly got to work wherever he found himself. **He had a deep confidence in the dreams that God had given him as a young boy (Gen 37:5).** Joseph refused to let circumstances rob him of his faith and destiny.



Endure as a Good Soldier

In my lifetime, I have known people who have been hit super-hard by circumstances like Joseph was. I have seen families lose children and love ones in tragic events -- lose spouses, homes, ministries, businesses, and end up broke. Yet, I have seen how many of them kept their eyes on the Lord and trusted God anyway. **Without exception, these overcomers seemed to have one unshakable conviction – that “God is good and the devil is bad” (Jn 10:10).** In other words, no matter what happened, they did not blame God for their hardships. They knew that the enemy of their souls (Satan) is the one responsible for the war that rages around us (Eph 6:12 / Rev 12:11). Thus, they kept their eyes on the Lord. 2 Timothy 2:3 says, *“Thou therefore, endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”* On the other hand, I've observed others who let much smaller tests and trials completely wipe them out. **They get bitter, hard, and stop walking with God. It makes me wonder what kind of “faith” they had in the first place.**

I remember the dark day in my own life where I had to attend the funeral of my own 19-year-old son. Friend, can you imagine the horror of such a thing? For a parent, can anything be worse? All our efforts – all our days of loving, caring, packing lunches for school, and going to soccer games seemed to evaporate before our eyes. I remember on that day I waited until most people had left the gravesite, and then I stood beside his grave and prayed from the depth of my broken heart: *“Father, I still believe that you are a good God and that this is not the end of the story. Father, I have many questions that I know will not be answered in this lifetime – but my faith is in You and in your promise of bodily resurrection. I confess this day that we will once again embrace Ryan in our arms and enjoy eternity with him. I believe and confess this in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.”* Yes, it took me some years to recover from the emotional trauma and drain of such an event, for sure. But I can honestly say that I never once blamed God – not even tempted. I knew then and I know now that God is good and the devil is bad. **Dear friend, as I write this, I am now 61 years old -- and let me say that we need more of this kind of faith in the body of Christ. Some people only want to walk with God during the good times.** Good soldiers carry on even when it gets hard. They may get knocked down or lose some battles – but they know that ultimately we will win the war.

In Joseph's life, even after being sold as a slave, the attacks in his life continued for a season. The Bible tells us that Potiphar's wife began to flirt with Joseph and

wanted him to sleep with her (Gen 39:7-23). It reads like a story right out of a soap opera! When Joseph refused her daily seductions, her lust eventually turned into hatred and she falsely accused Joseph of rape. Thus, Joseph was thrown into prison by her naïve husband. **Wow! Have you ever wondered if things could get any worse? I'm sure those thoughts ran through Joseph's mind too -- but he endured.** The account tells us that Joseph held onto his faith and once again we see him “WORKING AS UNTO THE LORD” even in prison. And the result? God's favor was activated and Joseph was made the overseer of the prison (Gen 39:21-23). The account says that the Lord was “with” Joseph / that he found “favor” / and that the Lord “made him” to prosper. What an amazing story of favor! When we examine Joseph's life (and include insights from the New Testament), there are a number of favor-keys that we can discover. These keys will help you better understand how to experience God's favor in your own life:

Favor-Key #1 – Prosperity is first and foremost who you are on the “inside” (in your mind, heart, and character) and not what you have on the outside. God already sees you as a winner.

Favor-Key #2 - If you are a prosperous person on the inside then it's just be a matter of time until you will see things change on the outside (if you refuse to give up). Hold on to your faith.

Favor-Key #3 - The experiential side of God's favor is linked to how you respond to adversities, setbacks, offenses, and temptations. Keep trusting God.

Favor-Key #4 - The principle of “working as unto the Lord” activates God's favor and blessing. It's the way you can express your faith each and every day regardless of what kind of work you do.

