**The Divine Providence of God**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Psalm 5:11-12**

**Sunday Morning**

**March 12, 2023**

**Psalm 5:11-12**

11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You. 12 For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

Saints, it is seen here in this passage that God is willing to bless the righteous and also protect them with divine favor. When the favor of God is upon a person, that person will be secured and protected against all oppositions and anti-favor moves of men.

Saints, the favor of God will come upon every one that lives in righteousness and will bring many blessings upon them. A man that refuses to please God will be separated from His favor.

In this morning’s message we will be expounding on three Biblical principles of our Christian Faith regarding the Divine Favor of God!

**1. The Description of Divine Favor**

**2. The Direction of Divine Favor**

**3. The Destruction of Divine Favor**

**1. The Description of Divine Favor**

Saints, we can see the divine favor operating in the life of Daniel. He and all the Israelites were prisoners in Babylon.

For reasons that can't be explained naturally, Daniel had divine favor with the leaders of the land.

**Daniel 1:9**

"Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs"

In other accounts we learn that Daniel had so much favor with the leaders of the land, he was elevated to prestigious positions in the Babylonian kingdom.

Even though the circumstances were stacked against him, Daniel eventually became the prime minister of Babylon.

Saints, when a person is elected by God for to carry out His will, God will always see to that person to have His divine favor.

For instance, Esther was selected among several other beautiful ladies that were qualified to be the queen.

**Esther 2:15-18**

15 Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.

16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Saints, King David was the most unqualified person naturally in his family, but God rejected others for God had divine favor for David.

**1 Samuel 16:11-13**

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Jabez was a man that sought the face of God in Prayer, and had all of his request granted because if God’s divine favor.

**1 Chronicles 4:9-10**

9 Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." 10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

Saul of Tarsus called by God to do a great work when he was not even thinking about God. God called him when he was due for destruction. God had Mercy, Grace and Divine Favor with Saul who became one the Greatest Apostles to ever live!

**Acts 9:1-19**

1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.

12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." 13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.

14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." 17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

**2. The Direction of Divine Favor**

There are many ways that God can guide you. If your heart and life are centered on God, His Word, and His Holy Spirit, you can rest assured that He will direct your path. God's primary means for giving us guidance is the Bible.

**John 3:5**

"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit'"

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

The Bible is our rule book of faith and practice. If we know and understand the scriptures, we will be well on our way to having His guidance.

He never guides His people contrary to the clear principles of His written Word.

Guidance comes from a knowledge of God Himself. We need to know what pleases Him and what displeases Him.

There is no substitute for walking with God, sharing with Him, and talking to Him daily.

But one of the problems is that an unregenerate heart will find it very difficult to follow the Direction of Divine Favor because:

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

**Romans 8:6-9**

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

**3. Destruction of Divine Favor**

Saints, when you read through the Bible you shall see what some people did that attracted the favor of God upon their lives, and what others did that separated them from the divine favor of God.

One of the greatest factors that will destroy the divine favor of God in a person’s life is:

**Disobedience to God**

**King Saul’s Walk of Disobedience**

**1 Samuel 15:23-26**

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."

26 But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

**Samson’s Thirst For Lust**

**Judges 16:18-20**

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.

19 Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. 20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

**In Closing:**

God’s divine favor can bring a lot of blessings upon a person. Divine favor can:

**1. Produce Supernatural Promotion and Increase**

**2. Bring Restoration of everything the Enemy has Stolen**

**3. Bring Honor in the midst of Adversaries**

**4. Produce Increased Assets**

**5. Give Great and Unusual Victories even against Impossible Odds**

**6. Give Recognition and Promotion even when you seem to the least likely one to receive it**

**7. Produce Prominence and Preferential Treatment**

**8. Get Petitions Granted, even by Ungodly Civil Authority**

**9. Win Battles you did not even have to Fight because God will Fight them for you!**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**