

Growing In Favor With God And People

Series: Following Jesus: Growing & Maturing

Luke 2:52 NLT (0921)

Steve Wood

June 14, 2009

Luke 2:52 NLT ⁵²*Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and all the people.*

Favor = *Greek charis especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in life. The effect of grace, the spiritual state of those who have experienced its exercise* (Strong's/Vines)

I. The journey to favor with God

a. God loves you no matter what, but his blessing requires obedience

Psalm 84:11-12 NIV ¹¹*For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.* ¹²*O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.*

Luke 2:14 NIV ¹⁴*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”*

John 15:10-11 NIV ¹⁰*If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, ... so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

b. Accepting God's plan for my life

Exodus 33:12-13 NIV ¹²*Moses said to the LORD, “... You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’* ¹³*If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.*

c. Mentored by the Word and by the Spirit of God

II. The journey to favor with people

a. Christians often hold to one of two extremes relating to other people

John 15:18 NIV *If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.*

Holman Bible Dictionary World = 1) The whole created order; 2) The earth and its inhabitants; 3) The arena of human activity (wealth, focus); 4) All that is hostile, rebellious, and opposed to God

Acts 2:42 NIV ⁴⁷*praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Titus 2:10 NIV *so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.*

Galatians 6:10 NIV ¹⁰*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

b. We too often choose pretense over the hard work of truth in love

Ephesians 4:25-27 TM *What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself. Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.*

c. Choosing to reflect the heart of Jesus

Favor = Greek *charis* especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in life. The effect of grace, the spiritual state of those who have experienced its exercise (Strong's/Vines)

Exodus 34:8-9 NIV ⁸*Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.* ⁹*"O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes," he said, "then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."*

Luke 6:26 TM *There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them.*

1 Corinthians 9:21 TM *I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view.*

John 4:21 TM *The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.*

Exodus 33:12-13 NIV LORD, "...You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'¹³*If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.*