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# RECOVERING *LOST FAVOR*

FROM

GOD

THE KEYS TO EXPERIENCING PERSONAL REVIVAL

by Gary H. Patterson

Go to [Homepage](#)  
[grace4u@gmx.com](mailto:grace4u@gmx.com)

## INTRODUCTION

If one single thing can be pinpointed as the major source of frustration within a person, that would be a lack of success after having put forth his/her best efforts. This teaching will show us how to regain or obtain God's blessings and favor upon our efforts at living this life while serving Him.

Questions like the following will be answered:

- Should I always assume that God will bless my best efforts resulting in my success?
- Should I assume that a lack of success is always caused by the devil?
- What must I do (or not do) to warrant a lack of favor from God?
- How important is it to have God working in, for, and with me, thus making my efforts successful.

The exertion of effort always precedes doing anything. *Fortitude* or *determination* would be a good way to define it. In order to prevent the frustration of our efforts, we must first:

“Trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not to our own understanding. In *all* our ways acknowledge Him and He will direct our paths” (Pro. 3:5-6).

Loving others as Christ does can and must become our heartbeat.

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 Jn. 4:10-11).

“We love Him because He first loved us” (1 Jn. 4:19).

The hope of having approved character before God is concrete, resting on this great promise:

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God *has been* poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Ro. 5:5).

Being transformed from the inside out can and must become our one consuming passion in all things, during...

- The good times and the bad
- Happiness and disappointment
- Times of plenty and of lack
- Times of having clear spiritual vision and of darkness
- Times of continually having to face the limitations of our humanity

We *can* be transformed because of the abundance of God’s grace. Grace defines everything we need in this life and the Kingdom of God. Into what is God transforming us? It is into becoming like His glorious and most excellent Son. As our beloved brother Paul revealed:

“...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; *for it is God who works in you* both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (14) Do all things without complaining and disputing” (Php. 2:13-14).

“Him [Christ] we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. (29) To this end I also labor, striving according to His working *which works in me mightily*” (Col. 1:28-29).

## GOD’S SIMPLE SOLUTION

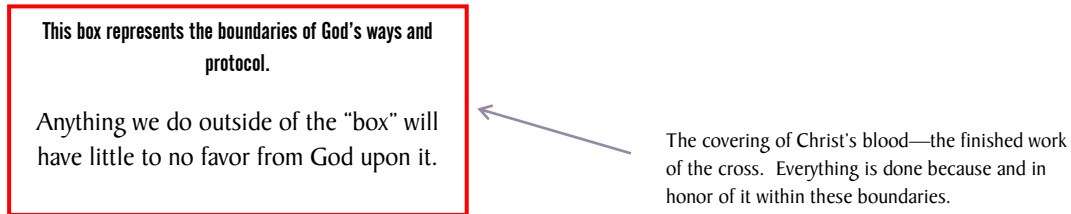
Important statements:

*True faith in God has His favor resting on it. Its foundation rests in God’s Presence behind the (torn) Veil. It does not struggle or strive but delights in simple obedience to*

*God's throneroom instructions. Along with that faith is the assurance that He is completely for us, will never leave us as orphans, and will do exactly as He promised.*

We have a hope as an anchor of our soul that is both sure and steadfast that is secured in the presence of God behind the veil (Heb. 6).

This illustration will help us to more clearly understand upon whom God's full favor rests:



[“Little favor” as used above is referring to the possibility of reaping the benefits of being a part of a family and/or church fellowship even while God's order is not being followed—the foundation is off. People will be blessed to a certain degree because of their faith in Christ but “the full blessing” will be evidently lacking. This will not change no matter how much prayer and effort is thrown at it. Until God's ways are honored above our own, we will not know His full favor.]

While God's favor is always received and cannot be achieved or merited, our failure to seek out, understand, and appropriate God's ways and protocol will result in frustrated efforts and possibly even disaster. As a crude example, when attempting to skin a rattlesnake, it would be quite beneficial for us to understand that it should be dead first. Remember what happened to King David when he attempted to return the Ark of the Covenant to its rightful place as recorded in 2 Samuel 6? His heart seemed right—he was passionate and all excited about what He was doing but ignored protocol (God's instructions). His efforts were frustrated and someone died as the result.

What if David had continued to attempt on several more occasions to restore the Ark in this manner? People would no longer trust his leadership. They would no longer look to him as a capable king. Now we can understand one main reason, according to current statistics, why church attendance is quite low in this nation (and others). People will consistently attend a fellowship when the leadership proves it is consistently capable and favored by God.

Why was Abel's offering accepted by God and not Cain's (Gen. 4)? Abel gave an offering based on what God required. Cain gave *his* best. He attempted to earn what could

never be purchased by human effort and ingenuity. Everything we do *can* and *must* bring due honor to Christ and His finished work and not the sweat of anyone's brow or the proficiency of anyone's intellect. Even our perception of what is "excellent" and our attempts to implement it must bow the knee to the excellence of the Son of God. This signifies that all of our feeble attempts at becoming "successful," blessed, or at having God's favor in this life are futile apart from giving due honor to Christ on a continual basis.

"Therefore by Him [Christ] let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to *do* good and to share [fellowship; commune], for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Heb. 13:15-16).

A heart that is enthralled with Christ [and His finished work] will prove it first by "the fruit of the lips." Our lips will continually give thanks to God by [because of] and in recognition of Christ and what He has done for us. The *doing* of good works will then have God's favor resting upon it. The "shared" fellowship and communion with the saints will be to our souls like falling rain after a summer drought.

#### FATHER, BLESS MY EFFORTS!

These verses of Scripture serve as guidelines to aid us to align ourselves with God's ways and protocol:

"O LORD, come back to us! How long will you delay? Take pity on your servants! (14) Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives. (15) Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery! Replace the evil years with good. (16) Let us, your servants, see you work again; let our children see your glory. (17) And may the Lord our God show us his approval [favor] and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!" (Ps. 90:13-17, New Living Translation).

Each verse explained and made more applicable:

##### 1.) "O Lord, come back to us!" (v.13)

- ☞ We must recognize that we have departed from God's favor (approval) and ask Him to come and rescue us. King David did not realize what he was doing would result in disaster until it happened. He was doing God's will (restoration of the Ark of the Covenant) but not honoring God's ways.

Everything we do in the service of God must be by grace through faith in Christ's finished work and not based on our resolve to do it better than the last time.

2.) "How long will you delay? Take pity on us Your servants!" (v. 13)

- ⇒ We must be steadfast in seeking Him during times of what we would define as "delays," appealing to His willingness to have pity (mercy) on us.
- ⇒ We must come before Him with the disposition of a servant to receive the favor of an *approved* son. The heart of a true servant seeks primarily and wholeheartedly one thing: *to please his master*.

3.) "Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives" (v.14).

- ⇒ We must recognize that experiencing Christ's unfailing love *every morning* is the key to recovering His favor and experiencing a deep contentment and satisfaction in our lives until the day we die (in Christ). That "real" love will be the restraining and constraining force in our lives, keeping us in the boundaries of God's favor. Provision has been made through the finished work of Christ on the cross for us to be able stay in Christ's love.
- ⇒ The result: A deep, lasting, and undying joy will be our strength and mainstay—our stronghold all the days of our lives.

4.) "Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery! Replace the evil years with good." (v.15)

- ⇒ We must take full responsibility for our departure from God's favor (approval) and the "misery" it has caused us and others who look to our leadership, input, or are in some way influenced by us. Only then are we qualified to ask God to give us "gladness" in proportion to our "former misery." Only then can God replace the "evil years" (which we have caused) with the good (specifically: grace, provision, benefits) allotted to those in covenant with Him.
- ⇒ This is a very important point. God desires to restore the years that have been "consumed by the locust." He has His eyes set on giving us recompense. This He will do only if we allow His chastisement of us to accomplish its goal.

5.) “Let us, your servants, see you work again; let our children see your glory.”  
(v.16)

⇨ In order to recover favor from God we must recognize that His works are not “seen” in our lives (and church meetings) in accordance with His desire to reveal His works. We must realize that we have frustrated His desire to bless us with His manifest presence (glory).

6.) “And may the Lord our God show us his approval [favor] and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!” (v.17)

⇨ The clearest evidence that we are lacking in God’s favor is found in the lack of God-given success in our efforts at doing His works (or living life). We must recognize that our “efforts” are lacking in God’s favor.

⇨ Does it seem that our efforts at serving God are frustrated? God resists (opposes) the proud (the self-sufficient<sup>1</sup>) but gives grace (favor, approval) to the humble? (1 Pt. 5:5-10). How often have we blamed the devil for the lack of favor that exists upon our efforts for which our lack of humility is to blame? Could it be that God is resisting us instead of giving us favor because of our failure to follow the pattern of humility exemplified in Ps. 90:13-17?

7.) The evidence of God’s favor on our efforts equals:

- i. Successful, God-anointed works, resulting in the growth and edification of the body of Christ and the advancement of His Kingdom in the earth (the Eph. 4:8-16 mandate).
- ii. Clear spiritual vision and direction. You are no longer oblivious as to why your efforts have been frustrated.
- iii. An absence of physical and soulish<sup>2</sup> toil and weariness. The reality of God’s favor on our efforts is our source of joy, peace, and rest. This brings physical and emotional healing and deliverance.

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<sup>1</sup> Prayerlessness or not acknowledging God in all our ways is a sure sign of self-sufficiency

<sup>2</sup> The mind and the mental processes, the will, the emotions, and the personality of a person

Always remember the base that underlies any of our efforts must be faith in response to God's abundant grace.

## IN CONCLUSION

By answering/studying these questions, we can further understand how to secure God's blessings on our efforts:

Read and study:

- ☞ Matthew 11:25-30 –Identify whose “yoke” you are carrying?
- ☞ Hebrews 3:11; 11:6 –What must be our faith's efforts and focus?
- ☞ Proverbs 3:5-12 –What is faith's priority; protocol?
- ☞ Romans 5:1-5; Psalm 5:12 –What is faith's reward?

...And, finally, in order to have God's full favor resting on our churches and nations, its restoration must begin at the family level. This is God's way—His protocol.

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