

# Embracing and Recognizing God's Favor in Our Lives!

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Greetings Family,

Welcome to November 2024. In the United States, we recognize the month of November as the month of Thanksgiving. There are a lot of gatherings with family and friends who enjoy great food, plenty of American Football watching, and a sense of thankfulness. It's a great season!! Today, I am fired-up to talk about a portion of our spiritual journey that should be tied to thanksgiving...it's **recognizing and being thankful for God's favor in our lives**. Let's jump in!!!

**What's favor PJ?** God's favor is His supernatural influence in our lives that leads to spiritual growth, provision, and breakthroughs. Simply put; it's those things that happen in our which have no natural explanation. It's those, "It must be God.." moments that happen in our lives; without any effort from us. ***Favor is God's kindness on display!*** We don't earn but freely receive it. (Ephesians 2:8)

Family, ***every day we experience the favor of God in various ways***. Please don't miss them!!! It's the unexpected financial blessing, a timely word of encouragement from a friend (when you need it most), the customer service agent that says, "*I'm not supposed to do this...but I'm going to do it for you!*" or the unexplained peace you experience during challenging times. These moments, big or small, are signs of His loving presence and kindness in our lives. Again, I call these experiences ***FAVOR! That's right - God's Favor upon our lives!*** I'm sure you have your own testimonies of God's favor...please share them with me, I'd love to hear about them.

I encourage each of you to keep your eyes open for God's favor upon your life...and when you see it take a moment to thank God for His unmerited kindness towards you! Additionally, take a moment to record these instances, share them with others, and celebrate it! Finally, as a baseline, go back to those times when you know that the Lord had shown you favor and give Him your best praise!!!!

**Here is my point:** *"If it had not been for the Lord Who was on our side...Who showed up right on time, when I needed answer, or a way out...when all hope*

was lost... **The Lord showed up, right on time..and He showed out (That Family is FAVOR!!!)** Can I get an Amen!!! And because of this I'm thankful!

You may be reading this and are saying, "Wait PJ! I haven't received the FAVOR of God, but I want to...what am I missing here?" I get it, I have been there myself. Below, will provide a few practical things you can commit to today:

**Strengthen Your Relationship With Him:** Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act (Psalm 37:5). Prioritize daily prayer and Bible study to deepen your relationship with God.

**Mirror the Word of God:** As we strive to live according to God's word, let's do it with integrity (*just keep it real*) and humility (knowing we are works in progress), following His commands and teachings.

**Serve Joyfully:** "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Whether you're greeting newcomers, working a ministry, cooking your favorite dish for after service fellowship, or helping in your community, your serving (*of course with the right motivation*) plants seeds of favor not only in your life but also in the lives of others.

**Give Generously:** (*Time, Talent, or Treasure*) We can never out-give our Gracious God. But don't allow this to be your excuse for NOT giving something. :) We share in God's generosity by sharing what you have. This could be supporting a church project, participating in benevolence, or simply sharing a meal, snack, or coffee with someone in need.

**Note:** Again, the above is not an all-inclusive list for posturing ourselves for God's favor, but it's a start. Remember, it's all about our heart and the motivation behind what we do.

As we look forward to the rest of this year and beyond, let's eagerly anticipate an outpouring of God's favor in our lives, families, and church. **Let's be proactive:** positioning ourselves to receive, recognizing these blessings, and allowing our hearts to overflow with gratitude and joy.

Jewels and I continue to thank God for each of you! Thank you for being such an amazing part of our church family whether near or far away. Your faith, prayers, and dedication are a constant source of encouragement to us!

I declare, "The BEST is yet to come!" Get ready!!!!

Blessings PJ