

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Title: Receiving God's Favor

Text: Luke 4:1 - 30

Introduction:

Review of the last Sunday's devotional:
Joy to the World

1. The Suffering Servant
(The Lamb of God – the Cross)
2. The Servant King
(Christ's rule in the 1,000 year kingdom)
3. The Supreme King
(The eternal kingdom)

Read: Luke 4:1 – 30

Compare Isaiah 61:1 – 3, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, (2) to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; (3) to grant to those who mourn in Zion – to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.”

1. Favor as an Heir:

1.1) John 1:12 – 13, “*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*”

~ Romans 8:16 – 17, “*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may be glorified with him.*”

1.2) Ephesians 1 gives us an introduction to some of the favor that every believer receives at salvation: the fact of election, truth of predestination, the reality of redemption, revelation that we are adopted, joy of forgiveness, the will of God for us as children, reality of being sealed by God, and the promise of a future inheritance.

2. Favor as an Obedient Son:

2.1) The habit of meditation.

Psalm 1:1 – 3, “*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; (2) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (3)*

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”

2.2) The habit of focus.

Matthew 6:33, “*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*”

2.3) The habit of obedience.

Matthew 7:24 – 25, “*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (7:25) And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.*”

2.4) The habit of giving.

Luke 6:38, “*give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.*”

2.5) The habit of praying.

Philippians 4:5 – 7, “*Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; (6) do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

2.6) The habit of giving thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18, “*Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*”

2.7) The habit of witnessing.

1 Peter 3:15, “*but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*”

Conclusion:

As we allow the Holy Spirit to develop these and other godly habits in our lives we will see our personal faith grow...

Hebrews 11:6, “*And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*”; such faith opens our soul to the continual infilling of the HOLY SPIRIT. . . Ephesians 5:18, “*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*”