

22 January 2023

Watch or Listen to the ServiceLatest Audio Sermon: <https://chooselifechurch.com/sermons/>YouTube link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=search&v=1518160588681871>

(Available until 8pm this Friday)

Sermon Notes**Sermon Title:** The Favour of the Lord**Pastor:** John Roebert**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 66:1-6 (NIV)**Introduction**Our theme for the year is **“The Favour of the Lord”**.

The theme was dropped into Pastor John’s heart by the still small voice of the Lord.

Having a theme is encouraging. We get a sense of what is on the Lord’s heart for our church. And when it comes to pass, we get to glorify the Lord.

The Lord watched over His word to perform it, and last year’s theme of “A Year of Growth and blessing”, was our experience. There was much growth and blessing to celebrate!

This year’s theme was confirmed as follows:

- By a well known Pastor saying to Pastor John, “I see God’s hand of favour upon your church and I want to journey closer with you”.
- Pastor Michelle Haswell from the USA prophesied the following last year when they visited us. “There’s a new season for you as a church. A turning of the page into a new chapter of growth, of greater freedom, greater provision and greater favour.”
- Isabel Skulason, one of the Teachers on the Catch the Fire team in Canada, prophesied, “There is a favour on your church that is doubling, for you have a Kingdom influence, but you also have a Governmental influence in the land.”

1. Defining the favour of the Lord

Favour can be defined as “Demonstrated delight”.

The favour of the Lord is when it becomes evident that the Lord’s delight is upon a person. When there is tangible evidence that a person has the approval of the Lord.

In Numbers 6 the Priestly blessing contains the following words, “The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you”.

God’s face lights up with favour towards us, His children. He rejoices over us with singing. He wants us to walk in His full favour and blessing.

2. God shows favour to those who delight in Him and honour Him.

Read Isaiah 66:1-6 (NIV)

It is easy to show favour to someone who enjoys your company. If someone disrespects us it is difficult to show favour to them. We are called to love our enemies, but we don't need to lavish our favour on them.

When we enjoy God's presence and honour Him, we experience His favour.

Isaiah 66:2b "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at My Word."

Some barriers to receiving God's favour:

- Unyielded to God
- Dishonour God
- Full of ourselves
- Proud
- Unteachable

2 Chronicles 16:9 (KJV)

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong on the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him".

God wants to release more of His favour and power on you, but first He wants your heart. We need to seek God's favour more than anyone else's favour.

Psalms 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart".

Read Isaiah 58:14

3. The favour upon your life can grow and increase.

Do you believe this?

Has the favour of the Lord been increasing in your life in the past few years?

Luke 2:52 (NIV) "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men".

If you are working in a Company and you aren't experiencing much favour, know that this can change. Begin to trust God for favour.

Jesus had the favour of His Father but also the favour of men. He related well with others, He loved those around Him, and people followed Him and wanted to be around Him.

Proverbs 3:1-4 gives us the clues on how to grow in favour with God and men.

4. God's favour is not fleeting. It lasts a lifetime.

Psalm 30:4-5 (NIV)

"Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but **his favour lasts a lifetime**; weeping may stay for the night but rejoicing comes in the morning".

Story of a Pastor who was experiencing great blessing. Someone said to him that he was just riding a good wave and that it would come to an end. This disturbed him for a while, but then he went to the Scriptures and found Psalm 30:4-5. He held on to the promise that God's favour would last a lifetime and peace returned to his heart.

God is not about to remove His favour from your life. You are His beloved child. You will experience divine favour all the days of your life.

Don't believe the lies that:

- Your best days are over.
- All the good jobs are taken.
- There are no more good waves for me.

Let faith rise in your heart. Say yes to receiving God's favour. Greater things are yet to come!

