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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 104

Entreating His Favor

Psalm 119:58 (ESV),

I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

I was giving myself time recently to take this Scripture in and appropriate it into my heart. While doing this a question arose from within my mind. That is, when do we take time to entreat the Lord's favor with all of our heart?

I am sure you may come up with many responses and answers to this question, but one answer looms in my mind. That is, of course, when things are really difficult and the pressure is on. I know that not everyone may agree with this one singular answer and I am aware that there are other times in one's life that they will entreat the favor of the Lord. But for the sake of this teaching, I want to place our attention on this one. I hope that we may become a little wiser concerning the work of God in our hearts and souls and thus grow in the faith and hope that are in Christ Jesus.

Let me begin unfolding this with a construction term known as ground contact. Ground contact is a piece of lumber that is treated specifically for placement wherever the lumber will touch concrete. The reason for this is that at the concrete level there is a high chance that the lumber touching it will receive moisture as well as other nuisances like termites and will deteriorate and ruin the integrity of the lumber placed there if it is not treated correctly. The type of lumber used as ground contact goes through a process where it is pressure-treated and it is so because it is treated with heavy amounts of pressure. When this happens to the lumber it strengthens it and causes it to better withstand the moisture and other nuisances that can ultimately plague and deteriorate it.

There is a reason for this illustration and it has to do with difficulties and trials in this life where we find ourselves at the literal end of ourselves much like the Israelites that after leaving Egypt were stopped at the Red Sea with nowhere to

go (right before the Lord parted the waters) with the Egyptians barreling down on them to overtake them. With nowhere to turn or any options left for them, they panicked. Right at the perfect moment, the Lord called Moses to stretch out his staff, and voila the waters were parted. The Israelites made it over on the dry ground and the pursuing armies of Egypt were swept over when the Lord made the waters fall on them.

Now to connect the dots to bring out of this passage of Scripture something we can digest and apply to our lives we will begin with the places we come to in our lives where we literally have no options or chances of coming out on top. It is the place where we stop and panic and are overcome with fear at the pursuing armies of doubt and confusion and utter hopelessness. I picture falling on my knees or face before God proclaiming to Him my frustration and utter hopelessness and mustering up all I have left to entreat His favor with all my heart.

O brothers and sisters this is a beautiful place we must get to in our lives from time to time. We have exhausted all our strength over the situation and turn to the Lord with all of our hearts and souls and lift our cries to the King of Heaven for just a touch of His favor. We can still recall the days of walking in His Presence and favor and can still feel a semblance of sanity. Oh God if we had that taste and see experience of Your favor once again we would know that even if this extreme situation we find ourselves in does not go away we will be kept by Your favor. Hallelujah!

Now let's reflect on the ground contact or pressure-treated lumber we spoke of earlier. Picture with me if you will, you are this piece of lumber. Wouldn't you rather be the piece that gets no treatment as far as it depends on you? I know I could use less pressure in my life. However, is that really God's plan or purpose for our lives? I would have to say a bold no. As we learned about the Israelites, God could have led them by another way. But He chose instead to lead them to the sea where they had no options left. Then in God's timing, He parted the waters and let them pass through on the dry ground. I can feel the pressure they must have gone through in that situation.

Much like the ground contact being pressurized and strengthened we must go through the same. It gives us the ability to withstand deteriorating circumstances that may come to us in the future. In short, the pressure is strengthening us.

What does this part have to do with entreating the Lord's favor you might ask?

I am glad you asked! Well, it is in these dire moments in our lives where we must turn to the Lord and entreat His favor with all of our hearts. I am hoping

this is making sense to someone. God is so faithful brothers and sisters. While He may not relieve us circumstantially He does promise that if we entreat His favor we can have His grace to pull us through. Along these lines, I share the extremely overwhelming circumstances that are pressure-treating me at the present. I have been having to handle things that I never thought in a million years would come my way. In most if not all of these things I am left at the literal end of myself. As I have been entreating the Lord's favor with all my heart, I have found that He is not so interested in making this necessarily easy for me, but is definitely meeting me with His favor. It is just enough to keep me moving along His path and purpose for my life. I share this with you because I am all too well aware that the things that I am going through are not at all exclusive to me. In fact, I know that many of you experience this as well. That is why I want to encourage you to entreat the Lord's favor with all your heart and be satisfied with the measure He gives at the present knowing that there is more ahead.

We truly pray for each one of you that the Lord would shower you with His favor at the present and give you enough strength to continue in what He has called you to, in Jesus name. Amen.

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc

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