**FOCUS Bible Study - September 21**

[**VIEW RECORDING - 97 mins (No highlights)**](https://fathom.video/calls/152353291)

[**@0:01**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1.12) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**This meeting is being recorded.**

[**@0:03**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3.1) **- Laurie Nelson**

**How are you?**

[**@0:04**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4.76) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**I'm blessed.**

[**@0:05**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5.64) **- Laurie Nelson**

**are you doing? I can't today. That's good day.**

[**@0:09**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=9.76) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah. Good to see you after a while.**

[**@0:12**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=12.2) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Yeah. Good to see you too.**

[**@0:13**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=13.48) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Good to be back. Yeah. Yeah. been treating you.**

[**@0:17**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=17.9) **- Laurie Nelson**

**You know, I can't. I got to say it's been pretty good. I mean, God's always been good to me.**

[**@0:23**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=23.06) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**And it's just a matter of remembering it. Yep. Yep. That's it. It's it. enemy can get our attention away from the blessings of God.**

[**@0:31**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=31.6) **- Laurie Nelson**

**And, you know, he's one half the battle. Yep. It's just all it takes is just one moment of realizing who he is.**

**That just totally tears down any type of stronghold.**

[**@0:43**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=43.96) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yep. Yep. That's exactly right. in the reading of Job right now. You know. But it's probably perfect, you know, for some of the struggles that we have.**

**Because, you know, Job starts off blessed.**

[**@0:58**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=58.58) **- Laurie Nelson**

**You know, he knows he's blessed.**

[**@0:59**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=59.78) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah. And, you know, the enemy is allowed to attack him and, you know, he starts off great. And then he kind of wavers as time goes on because, you know, difficulty as you focus on the difficulties, because he starts saying, man, I wish I was never born, you know, all those kinds of things.**

**And, you know, you get your eyes off the fact that God blessed, you can do it then, he can do it again.**

**And then he doesn't make that shift again, you know, to realizing, you know, because he says whether God's slavery or not, I'm going to still rise at some point and it all turns back around for him.**

**So yeah, we all go through that cycle, you know, I've often said it's just like the Israelites and in the desert, they were, they are up and down and it's instead of like high points and low points, we want to just kind of even that out a little bit, you know, yes, we can't totally avoid it, but we just want to kind of even it out.**

[**@1:51**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=111.64) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Yep, sounds like my blood sugars.**

[**@1:54**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=114.58) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah, yeah, because you're type one, right? Yes, yes.**

[**@1:59**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=119.02) **- Laurie Nelson**

**My daughter. Yep. Yep. Yeah. I can't always avoid these, but to get them as close to the middle as possible, that's what you want.**

[**@2:06**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=126.04) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**That's what she's perfect. Morning, Brian. Morning, Luke. Thanks for joining us this morning.**

[**@2:11**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=131.9) **- Jamie Theis**

**Martin.**

[**@2:13**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=133.48) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**We're excited to have Lori back.**

[**@2:14**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=134.82) **- Jamie Theis**

**We're excited that you guys are here. Yes. Hi, Lori.**

[**@2:19**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=139.34) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Good morning, Brian.**

[**@2:20**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=140.9) **- Jamie Theis**

**It's good to see you. Yeah, good to see you.**

[**@2:23**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=143.42) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Is Jamie hiding over there somewhere?**

[**@2:26**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=146.08) **- Jamie Theis**

**She is. She's just fixing her hair so she looks beautiful.**

[**@2:29**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=149.22) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Oh, tell her I says hi, and she's beautiful.**

[**@2:32**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=152.3) **- Jamie Theis**

**Anyway, thank you. You ever see Lori? You okay?**

[**@2:39**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=159.92) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Yeah, I have to say. Yeah, I'm doing okay. I just went through a season of sort of separation is what I called it, I guess.**

**And the best way I can describe that is when you're in really heavy traffic and you turn the radio down.**

**to thrive better.**

[**@3:02**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=182.02) **- Jamie Theis**

**I guess that's the best analogy that I have for it. Sometimes that's good. You know, you can actually step back and think, you know, or pray.**

[**@3:13**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=193.48) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Exactly. Yep. Sometimes you got to just lock yourself in that inner room without isolating with the evil one too, because that's a trick.**

[**@3:23**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=203.34) **- Jamie Theis**

**Right. Well, good. Glad to see you back.**

[**@3:30**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=210.64) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Good to be back. We're just about nine o'clock. We'll just give it a few minutes. Okay, guys. Oh, I asked Lori how life was treating her.**

**How's life treating you guys?**

[**@3:46**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=226.4) **- Jamie Theis**

**Are you talking to me or Luke?**

[**@3:48**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=228.34) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah, you and Luke. Whoever was.**

[**@3:51**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=231.74) **- Jamie Theis**

**Yep. Yeah. That's Luke. Talk for a bit here.**

[**@3:55**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=235.94) **- Luke**

**Just just getting things settled and cleaned and You know having a good Sunday. I'm sorry. I have any good Saturday morning with my father.**

**It's just had some breakfast Doing well, and can't I'm praising the Lord for his goodness.**

[**@4:13**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=253.72) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Awesome Glad to hear that.**

[**@4:16**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=256.86) **- Jamie Theis**

**Yeah, and the Brian I know you're preparing for tonight's cell group meeting Yes Yes Yeah, good one good good looking forward to it.**

**Yeah, good.**

[**@4:28**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=268.86) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Good morning Alicia.**

[**@4:30**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=270.22) **- Alicia**

**Thanks for joining us Morning how goes the battle this morning? Oh Well, we got home late last night. So it's uh, yeah We were at for King country in Milwaukee and didn't get home until about midnight with my kids, so Yeah, yeah, got my kids dropped off at church and so they're there until noon And so I got quiet space today.**

[**@4:55**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=295.16) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**All right. Well, we're glad you chose to join us in that quiet space Sometimes when I get that quiet**

**space. I don't want to do anything or see anyone. just want to enjoy it.**

[**@5:04**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=304.98) **- Alicia**

**Yeah, it's kind of nice and I need to clean the house.**

[**@5:08**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=308.38) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**So this is better. Well, thank you. We're at 901. Let's just give it two more minutes here before we get started.**

**Oh, I forgot to put poles out there. Maybe I'll do that while we're waiting here. see how easy it is for me to...**

**I did write the questions down. just didn't put them in yet. I mean, I wrote them down on my notes.**

**So let's see. Yeah, someone else coming up? Michael coming in? I think I just have to ask these questions instead of having written poles today if that's all right.**

**I thought I was on time and I thought I was doing well but my daughter called me this morning which if I really appreciated and we had a nice half hour of conversation and I was enjoying the conversation and I realized oh I better get going.**

**Morning Michael, thanks for joining us this morning.**

[**@6:20**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=380.3) **- Michael**

**Good morning.**

[**@6:21**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=381.72) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**How are you doing?**

[**@6:23**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=383.2) **- Michael**

**Good.**

[**@6:23**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=383.78) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**How are you? Good.**

[**@6:28**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=388.44) **- Michael**

**You're outdoors, huh?**

[**@6:30**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=390.4) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah, I'll talk about that in one second here. Actually, we'll just wait one more minute anyway. So yeah, I'm paying homage again to my wife.**

**Julie is not here this morning and this is the closest kind of outdoor-y,-y type picture I could find in the backgrounds on quick notice.**

**She's over. I don't like to call it Devil's Lake which is the no-name. I call it God's territory. She's out with a friend, the local camping once a year around this time and her friend has a camper out that area in Barabu.**

**and they spend a couple days hiking all over and they wear each other out with conversation and hiking and just have a good time.**

**So, you know, I'm here batching it today, so. well, let's go ahead and get started. 903, I think that's a good time.**

**I don't have poll questions to pull up, but I'm going to ask them and let's just get some verbal responses if I can.**

**Let me ask you, what is your favorite ice cream? Favorite flavor of ice cream?**

[**@7:34**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=454.06) **- Michael**

**Anybody?**

[**@7:37**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=457.86) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**I know you're going. What's ice cream got to do with the lesson?**

[**@7:40**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=460.96) **- Michael**

**You'll see in a minute.**

[**@7:42**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=462.58) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Chocolate. Chocolate. Okay, we got a vote for chocolate. Anybody? Oh, we got two votes for chocolate.**

[**@7:48**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=468.7) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Anybody else?**

[**@7:50**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=470.46) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Mint chocolate chip. Mint chocolate chip, all right. Anybody else?**

[**@7:56**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=476.54) **- Jamie Theis**

**Favorite ice cream?**

[**@7:58**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=478.56) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Plain vanilla. I'm on that vote. So, chocolate and vanilla-tied, Alicia, you got a time breaker or you got a flavor of your own?**

[**@8:05**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=485.6) **- Jamie Theis**

**Anything that I'm...**

[**@8:07**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=487.32) **- Alicia**

**Yeah, I think it's usually a vanilla with something mixed in, like most tracks or... Vanilla-tried something, yes.**

[**@8:15**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=495.76) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay, so we're not going to have a time breaker on an ice cream debate, but we do have the outlier of mint chocolate chips, so that's interesting.**

**What about your favorite color? What's your favorite color? Mine's purple. Okay, it has to be Anybody else?**

[**@8:31**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=511.56) **- Jamie Theis**

**Yeah, Brian. Yeah, right there.**

[**@8:33**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=513.36) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Oh, tie with purple, okay.**

[**@8:35**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=515.22) **- Luke**

**Anybody else?**

[**@8:36**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=516.52) **- Alicia**

**Orange.**

[**@8:37**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=517.62) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Orange.**

[**@8:39**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=519.68) **- Alicia**

**Alicia?**

[**@8:40**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=520.86) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Pink. Okay, my wife detests pink.**

[**@8:44**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=524.08) **- Alicia**

**Well, I shouldn't say that. She detests like a fluorescent pink, you know. Okay, yeah, I'm all colors of pink.**

[**@8:50**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=530.34) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**All shades. Michael, what's your favorite color? Blue. Blue.**

[**@8:56**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=536.52) **- Alicia**

**Okay, any particular shade? Uh, just a medium blue.**

[**@9:00**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=540.0) **- Michael**

**I like what the sky is for state.**

[**@9:02**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=542.36) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**OK, nice. And what's your favorite color?**

[**@9:06**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=546.32) **- Laurie Nelson**

**I have to agree with Michael.**

[**@9:08**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=548.08) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**It's blue. Blue, same shade or?**

[**@9:11**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=551.82) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Actually, the reason I say blue is because there's so many different shades, so I don't have to commit to one color.**

[**@9:17**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=557.0) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Oh, there you go. That's kind of cool. Let me ask you one more personal favorite. Do you have a favorite somebody in your life?**

**Do you have a favorite somebody? And I will say, between my two children, I love them both equally. So there's a difference between favorites and love.**

**OK, I love them both equally. But I have a kind of a favorite with my son, because he just makes me laugh.**

**So do you have a favorite somebody in your life?**

[**@9:50**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=590.94) **- Laurie Nelson**

**My daughter, Lily, for the same reasons, we're like, I'm her mom first, but she's also like my little best friend.**

[**@9:59**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=599.42) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**I love her. Cool. Okay, kudos to Lily. My favorite somebody, anybody? Now I know this is a little more personal, so if you don't feel like answering it, I'm not gonna put you on the spot there.**

[**@10:12**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=612.04) **- Alicia**

**Yeah, probably my husband.**

[**@10:14**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=614.28) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay, cool. Anybody else?**

[**@10:21**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=621.14) **- Luke**

**We'll move on. Okay. My nephew.**

[**@10:23**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=623.72) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Your nephew?**

[**@10:24**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=624.88) **- Luke**

**Yeah.**

[**@10:25**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=625.96) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Cool. How old is he?**

[**@10:28**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=628.54) **- Luke**

**He is 33. Okay. He just got married, he's expecting, and he's got two inherited daughters, but he didn't.**

[**@10:43**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=643.02) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Wow, sounds like a lot on there, that's awesome. All right, well thanks for sharing that, Luke. All right, so we all have favorites.**

**We got favorite ice cream, favorite colors. We got probably lot of favorite everything. It's like I even had a favorite car, know, because I've had many cars over the years.**

**and I had a little MX-3 at one point. it first came out, I think they just called it the Mazda 3 at that point.**

**It didn't have the MX in front of it, but it was a cute little car. was a stick shift and it would go and it was my first brand new car that I bought on my own.**

**And it was my favorite over the years, know, I'm looking back. So I'm sure you've got lots of other favorites.**

**But do you think God has favorites? What do you think? Do you think God has favorites? A lot of people shaking their heads know.**

[**@11:34**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=694.56) **- Luke**

**My mom thought so. She even had a little pin that says something about I'm God's favorite. Don't tell anybody, but I'm God's favorite or something like that.**

[**@11:46**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=706.54) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**I love it. I love it. Well, welcome to me. Glad you're joining us. You gotta get caught up here.**

**We got to know your favorite flavor of ice cream.**

[**@11:54**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=714.18) **- Jamie Theis**

**You could be the tiebreaker. Oh boy.**

[**@12:04**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=724.18) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay, so no, no tie breaker there, but we got two outliers, we got the mint chocolate chip, and we got the cookie dough, and then of course we got a tie for vanilla and chocolate.**

**What's your favorite color? Blue is in the lead, by the way.**

[**@12:17**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=737.96) **- Jamie Theis**

**Purple.**

[**@12:19**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=739.26) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Oh, there we go. Purple. Purple has taken the lead. Well, thank you for letting us know. So, yeah, we were talking about God having favorites, and so Luke says, yeah, perhaps because his mom had a shirt saying that she was God's favorite, and a lot of shaking heads.**

**No, you don't think God has favorites. Well, I'm going to tell you, we're going to see it in scripture, that God actually has favorites.**

**He shows favor, and so we're going to find out in this lesson, hopefully, how do you obtain God's favor?**

**How do you obtain God's favorite? So let's open with a word of prayer, and then we're going to jump in.**

**into it in scripture. So Lord Jesus, we thank you for our time together, thank you that you can make these fun and enjoyable for us and we thank you God that you can also make things serious and help get to our hearts.**

**You get to our hearts through laughter, get to our hearts through tears, you get to our hearts through your word Lord and through it all Lord you desire to change us and grow us and bring us into your favor.**

**instruct us, lead us and guide us into a deeper revelation today about what that means. give you glory and give you praise and I thank you for using me and using our words here today in Jesus name.**

**Amen. All right let's turn to Romans chapter 2. Romans chapter 2 and let's read verse 11 and Lori would you mind reading that for us when you with God?**

**No respect to persons. So God, that seems contrary to what I'm trying to say, doesn't it? But I just said God has favorites, but this is saying God has no respect to persons with God.**

**So what does that really mean? Well, we got to study the word, the word respect in Hebrew there. And I'm going to put you the pronunciation.**

**But I'll try my best is Prose-O-Pul-A-Sia. Yeah, that's a mouthful. Try to say that, right? I'll try to say it little.**

**Mailed it. Yeah, Prose-O-Pul-A-Sia, like that. But what's more important is not only means respect or favoritism, but it also means partiality, especially when it comes to judgment.**

**So the cart of the word, the crux of the meaning there, if we replace it, is saying like God does not show partiality in respects to judgment when it comes to people.**

**Does that make sense? So, some people will use this scripture and say, God doesn't have favorites, he doesn't show respect per persons.**

**Well, no, wait a minute, back up, understand what it's really saying is God doesn't show partiality and there's a difference between partiality and having a favorite.**

**Okay, we're showing favor. The Oxford dictionary defines respect as a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited, here's key, by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.**

**We do regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others. So, if you simply went with the dictionary definition of respect, respect is based on somebody's abilities or their qualities or achievements.**

**So even now, with the understanding what this word really means in Hebrew, we can see that God doesn't show things.**

**favor, if you will, or respect based on what you can do. OK, that's awesome. And he also doesn't show partiality when he passes judgment.**

**OK, that's cool. I can live with that, you too? OK, so the Oxford Dictionary also defines partiality because we need to understand that word then, what does partiality really mean?**

**And it means unfair bias in favor of one thing or person compared to another. So how do we kind of really comprehend this?**

**How do we really make this applicable? Partiality is like saying, OK, you've got two people in front of you, and they both j-wocked.**

**And there's a law in the books that say you shouldn't j-wock. But you treat one, and you let them off the hook.**

**And you treat the other, a lot you use the ticket tool, right? shouldn't j-wock. blockage ticket. Why? What? You know, what caused you to apply one, the principal to one versus the other.**

**You know, they both should have gotten the ticket if you're going to hold them accountable to the law, right?**

**And so maybe it was the way one person was dressed, maybe one was a woman, maybe one was a man, maybe one was black, maybe one was white, maybe one was rich, one was poor.**

**mean, who knows, right? When anything comes in to factor how you treat somebody that is called partiality. You with me so far?**

**Okay. And God, now understanding the scripture doesn't show partiality to people. So he's going to hold you accountable to the same standard.**

**And what standard is that? Well, we already know it's this, the written word. Okay. So now with that understanding, we can go forward.**

**Let's go to Psalm 106. Psalm 106. We're going to read verse 4. Brian, when you find Psalm 106, 4, you mind reading that, please?**

[**@18:17**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1097.78) **- Jamie Theis**

**Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have toward your people. O, me with your salvation.**

[**@18:25**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1105.32) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay, so this scripture clearly is indicating that God has favor to the people. So now that we have an understanding of Romans, don't ever let somebody say there's contradictions in scripture and say, here, let me show you a contradiction.**

**And they'll point out God chose no respect to persons. now they'll point out, you know, it got you those favor to people, you know, that in the natural without an understanding of the meanings of those words, you would see contradiction.**

**And that's where people get confused about scripture. Sure. And they could be easily manipulated. And so you don't want to be like that, right?**

**Nobody wants to be manipulated. You want to have understanding so that you can truly navigate your own course. And so with that understanding, that means you have to apply.**

**You have to dig in. You have to research. have to comprehend, right? And so let's do the same thing with favor because we don't want to take it on the surface.**

**We want to dig into that word. What is it? What is he really trying to say here with that word favor?**

**Well, again, the Oxford, the Oxford dictionary defines favor as approval or support or liking for somebody or something and act of kindness beyond what is due to usual.**

**So in other words, favor is like approval. So same example, two people standing in the street and they're waiting to cross the street.**

**Now they don't choose to jaywalk. They choose to wait. He's the light. Thing is being recorded. Yep, that's the right thing to do, right?**

**That would be favorite. An act of kindness beyond what is due. Well, now that traffic cop is sitting there and he's watching them waiting for the light, the light changes, and he actually helps them across the street.**

**Didn't have to, right? They could have done it on their own, but he's going above and beyond out of the way and escorting them, giving them protection as they go across the street.**

**That is favorite, right? Helps them both because we both show partiality. They're both obeying. They're both being obedient and he's helping them both across the street.**

**That's favored versus partiality. You want me so far? Okay. The Hebrew word for favor, this one's a little easier to pronounce, and I think I can do a better job with it, is rason, rason.**

**get the little R in there, right, rason, and what it means is not only favor, but delight, acceptable, pleasure, or desire.**

**So now with that understanding, let's dig back into Psalm 106. Remember, Lord, with the favor or the delight or the pleasure you have towards your people, right, or that you have in your people.**

**Whose people are they? Are they their own people? Are they the enemies people? Whose people are they? God's people.**

**Yeah, yeah, thank you, boy. wasn't a trick question. Yeah, great. So they're God's people. So that means they are obeying or pleasing, right, if we use the definition of the word favor there, they are pleasing.**

**God, so he's showing them savor or an act of kindness beyond what is due, and how, what is the act of kindness that he's going to give them?**

**What's that second half of the verse there? And in my book, it's separated with the colon. So what comes after the colon?**

**What's the second half of the verse?**

[**@22:25**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1345.6) **- Jamie Theis**

**Visit me with your salvation?**

[**@22:27**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1347.52) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah. Yeah. So he's going to give them salvation. So if they are his people and they are pleasing, he's showing them favor because they are his, meaning they are trying to please him, then what is he going to give them?**

**Salvation. It's pretty simple when you think about it, right? But the key is we have to think about it.**

**All right. So now, based on this, let's go and we're going to read a long passage because it's a story that's going to set the example.**

**So let's go to Genesis, chapter 39. Genesis 39. We'll split that. We're going to end up reading the whole chapter, but we'll split it apart here.**

**Say about eight versus each or let's say six versus each because we'll read through the whole thing. Let's start with Jamie versus one through six and then pause and we'll go to the next person.**

[**@23:22**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1402.46) **- Jamie Theis**

**Okay. Okay. Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Now, Joseph had been taken down to Egypt Potiphar an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard brought him from the ishmaelites who had taken him there.**

**The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant.**

**Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household, and all of that he owned, the Lord blessed the house of the Egyptian because of Joseph.**

**The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care with Joseph in charge.**

**He did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now, Joseph was well built and handsome.**

[**@24:36**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1476.48) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay, thank you. So we pause there for a second. So we see the word favor a couple times in the description, right?**

**And we see associated words with it like success, grace, blessed, okay? We're starting to paint the picture. I got the paint brush out and dipped it in the paint, I'm starting to put a big broad strokes on the canvas because we see these words.**

**Success, grace, favor, blessing. Right starting starting to get it. Okay, we'll put more of the detail into the picture in a minute But nod your head if you're starting to see it a little bit of it Okay, let's continue with verses seven through 12 Alicia And after while his master's wife took notice of Joseph inside come to bed with me But he refused with me in charge.**

[**@25:24**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1524.72) **- Alicia**

**He told her my master does not concern himself with anything in the house Everything he owns. He has entrusted to me his entrusted to me to my care.**

**Sorry No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me Except you because you are his wife.**

**How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God and And though she spoke to Joseph day after day he refused to go to bed with her or even**

**it be with her. One day he went into the house to attend to his duties and noticed and none of the household servants were, was inside.**

**She caught him by his cloak and said, come to bed with me, but he left his cloak with her and ran out of the house.**

[**@26:20**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1580.9) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay, let's there. Let's add some more paint strokes to this picture, a little more fine detail. So besides favor, now we see things like no concern.**

**The master had no concern because of the favor. So there was greatness, greatness with who, Joseph, right? That there was greatness associated with the favor.**

**And now we're starting to see some avoidance of witness. We're starting to see resistance to temptation that associated with favor.**

**Okay, you're with me. You're starting to pick those things up as well. Let's continue verses 13 through 18. Luke, would you mind reading that, please?**

[**@27:08**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1628.2) **- Luke**

**You said 13, right?**

[**@27:09**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1629.9) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**13, 18, please, yes.**

[**@27:11**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1631.68) **- Luke**

**When she saw that she was holding his book and had fled, she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running.**

**Look, she said, my husband has brought this Hebrew slave to make a fool of us. He came into my room to me, but I screamed.**

**When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me. She got the cloak until her husband came, then told him her story that Hebrew slave you brought, brought into our house, tried to come in and fool around with me, she said.**

**But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me.**

[**@27:58**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1678.28) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Hey, thank you. And Michael, would you finish it up? For us, 19 through 3rd, 23, please.**

[**@28:10**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1690.52) **- Michael**

**Now, when his master heard the words of his wife, which he spoke to him saying, this is what your slave did to me, his anger burns.**

**So, Joseph master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners worked in fine.**

**And he was there in the jail. But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the side of the chief jailer.**

**The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge, all the prisoners who were in the jail, so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it.**

**The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did,**

[**@29:03**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=1743.14) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay, a couple of other words that we pick up at the last part of there are kindness and prosperity for prosper, right?**

**All right, so let's evaluate this story because this is a story about favor. But it doesn't seem that way on the surface, does it?**

**Because we know, excuse me, we know on the back story to Joseph before he got to this particular point that we're reading about.**

**The back story is that he was the favorite child, favorite child, get it? Of Joseph, I mean, of Jacob, remember Jacob had 12 sons and of the 12, Joseph was his favorite.**

**gave him the multicolored coat, made him stand out, Joseph had dreams, that God was going to use him. didn't quite understand those dreams, didn't quite understand how it would come to pass, but he kind of boasted of it, he bragged a little bit about it.**

**And so his brothers despised him, they saw the favoritism being showed, and really, that favoritism was partiality by Jacob.**

**Okay, because now we understand the difference between partiality and favor. Partiality was he wasn't treating Joseph in the same manner as he was treating everyone else.**

**So there was not only favoritism as though showing pleasure, but that partiality perhaps was also being like he sent the other sons out to take care of the sheep, but he didn't send Joseph.**

**Okay, so that's where some partiality the human side of favoritism came in because really it should have been everybody's responsibility to take care of the household, to take care of the herds and responsibilities.**

**That's what they were. They were herdsmen. They grew they, you don't say grew flocks, raised. They raised flocks, right?**

**So it was everybody's responsibilities, but as humans we have a hard time separating out real favor from partiality. Okay, we tend to gravitate towards something and show favor.**

**But then it leads into partiality and that's what happened with Jacob. so as a result, the brothers get jealous.**

**They get jealous of the partiality. They get faith jealous of the even the favor because there was appropriate favor as well that the favor comes in the coat, right?**

**Everybody gets to have a coat to stay clothed to stay warm. But his was colorful, right? And that that was above and beyond.**

**That was a pleasure, experienced, expensed on Joseph. So that was the favor shown. And they got jealous of that.**

**they said, you know what, we're going to deal with this. And they took matters in their own hands. They were initially going to kill them, but they got talked out of that by Reuben.**

**He probably wasn't even fully aware of the favor. probably was aware subconsciously, but not outrightly, right? He didn't think of anything wrong with the favor because to him.**

**it was natural. It was like this one he experienced since day one coming to this earth. And so he had learned to grow into it, and he was adapted to it.**

**But all of a sudden he's yanked from that favor, he's yanked from that partiality, and he's thrown down in the well.**

**And a well is deep. So it's like thrown down and probably hurt, right? It's not like they lowered him gently, right?**

**It's like they tossed him down there. So he probably bent his leg, bruised his knee, bloodied his elbows, you know, on the way down.**

**If not broken a bone or something, you we're not told that. But let's let's assume it wasn't a pleasant ride down into the well.**

**And he was before thrown down, stripped of his coat, stripped of his garments, and probably man had a little bit.**

**And so he's down there dry, desperate, doesn't know what's gonna happen. He gets then yanked back out, know, they throw a rope down.**

**And that's not another pleasant experience, because you know, you either put them in the rope under your arms and it's**

**cating something or rubbing against your skin not very comfortable and then he's sold into slavery so he's traveled across country and probably abused and misused on the way there but he winds up in this general's house potterford and it says that god is showing him favor in that house right but yet he's a slave that means he's probably not fed the highest quality food he's eating with the rest of the students are eating he's not wearing the best quality garments because that's reserved for the for the general and his wife and and his family and he's not living in the in the posh palace he's living in this in the servants quarters you know so it's not like he's got the best of everything but yet god says he's favored well the general's wife has attracted to him and you know she wants to have a relationship with him and you know this woman is probably not ugly because she's**

**she's highfalutin by society, she probably paints herself up like the Egyptians did, has nice clothing on, you know, so she's probably fairly attractive.**

**And so she's trying to take advantage of him, but he stands guard, he said, no, I'm not going to, he does the right thing, he flees, and he gets lied about.**

**He gets falsely accused, and as a result of that false accusation going forward, he gets thrown into prison. So whatever niceties he even had as a servant are taken away from him, and he's mishandled and misused in the prison.**

**His sleeping quarters are even worse now, his clothing is even worse now, his food is even worse now. But what does it say about him in the prison?**

**He's still favored. What? This is the favor of God, and this is what we want, this is what we would be pursuing.**

**Yes, it seems counterintuitive, but yes, why? That's the question, then why? Why was God showing favor? Why did he show favor in Pharaoh's house?**

[**@35:05**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2105.82) **- Alicia**

**Anybody?**

[**@35:06**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2106.56) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Anybody that is why Pharaoh was being shown? Why Joseph was being shown favor in Potiphar's house?**

[**@35:16**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2116.04) **- Laurie Nelson**

**The scripture says that Potiphar could see that the Lord was with him and that everything he did was prosperous.**

[**@35:22**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2122.56) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah. So God was showing favor to Joseph so that whose attention would be captured? Not Joseph's. He already had Joseph's attention.**

**He was trying to capture the attention of Potiphar and his wife because he already knew they were living in sin.**

**Because if she did this to Joseph, she probably did it to other people. And she probably had success, meaning she was probably an adulteress.**

[**@35:47**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2147.66) **- Alicia**

**So she was living in sin.**

[**@35:49**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2149.46) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**That's probably was he. They knew nothing about them. So God was showing them favor so he would capture their attention.**

**Why did he want their attention? of the right way to get to that to the right now why do you think God wanted part of her and his wife's and whoever lived in the house's attention probably just about the salvation for God what we read in the in Psalm 106 right that he wanted to be showing favor so that he could draw people to salvation he could get their attention on him and help them change their lives help them start living for him so that didn't work out they they cling to their own sin they didn't want to have anything really to do with God and so you know they push back they push and that's typically when you are doing the right things for God when you are trying to live for God what do you time tend to do?**

**encounter from others push back okay that's normal it's gonna be expected we get frustrated because we don't expect it well wait a minute if you expect it then you don't have to get frustrated if you expect the difficulty if you expect the challenge then the only remaining thing to do if you expect it is to rise above it and so one second way and so the next thing is they they push back and they throw them into jail we'll talk about that in just a second Laurie go ahead yeah just the contrast between you get favor with God and man that's what scripture says but then understanding the difference between that and then the push back it's kind of like a really it's a weird dance that you experience and not getting caught up in other things because of that exactly exactly exactly that's what we're gonna we're really trying to talk about today so**

**that that's the heart of what we're going to really discuss.**

[**@38:02**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2282.9) **- Michael**

**And so go ahead, Michael. Yeah, it says in the New Testament, all the food desires to live godly will suffer persecution.**

[**@38:12**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2292.2) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yep. Yep, exactly. So it should not be strange to us as we live for God that we encounter that pushback in our families, in our jobs, in our friends, or other relationships, or even the people we're trying to witness to at times, right?**

**We're going to get that pushback. But again, we get startled when we don't expect it. It takes, it's almost like getting punched in the gut when you don't expect it.**

**Think about Houdini, right? The great escape artist. He would inflight his stomach, his lungs, and then tell people that, okay, go ahead and punch me, right?**

**And then he would do his trick. Well, they punch him and he was fine because he expected it. He prepared himself for it.**

**And then he would go and do his escape, right? He got, he died because he got punched in the gut when he didn't expect it and did his trick.**

**Okay. So, so it's the same thing. with us as witnesses, right?**

[**@39:01**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2341.88) **- Alicia**

**If we expect it, we can overcome it.**

[**@39:05**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2345.0) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**That's only the next logical thing to do. But when we don't expect it, like takes our breath away, we step back and we lose footing on where we were supposed to go.**

**And see, Joseph, he expected it. He didn't lose footing, you He knew exactly what to do. He escaped the house.**

**It didn't take him by surprise. We don't see that he fought this, that he, that he seemed to suffer because of it.**

**He was then thrown in God shows favor, right? Even in this worst circumstance, again, why does Scott show favor?**

**Well, now we understand so that the jailers and under others in the jail get their attention drawn to God, right?**

**So those in prison can end up being free. And like Michael said, underlying all of this, God has a purpose and a plan for Joseph.**

**But understand that Joseph's purpose and plan isn't totally separate from everybody else's he's encountering. His purpose and plan for Joseph is intertwined with the plan and purpose for Haudifer, for his wife, for the jailers, for the dreamers of the baker and the butler in jail.**

**Our purpose is our intertwined. There's a reason we come together even in this Bible study. Our lives intersect for a reason because we're all experiencing the purpose and plan that God has for us and we're here at this moment in time perhaps to learn something from each other that helps us honor our journey and purpose and plan with God.**

**But if we don't understand that we have these connections, we're not going to get the most out of them.**

**That's why Scripture says don't esteem yourself better than somebody else, esteem them better than you. In other words, what it's trying to say is learn from every situation, from every person.**

**Even the negative situations, even the negative people have something that they can teach you because you can watch somebody totally going off the rails and say, well, okay,**

**What I can learn from that is I don't want to go that way. I don't want to be like that, right?**

**You can see how somebody's life falling in shambles and you go man if I follow that same path that's gonna be me No, I'm not gonna do that.**

**I'm gonna learn from that. You can see how somebody living for God. You can go. Okay Yeah, I see how God is showing them favor showing them blessing showing them kindness these words We described as success and grace and blessed.**

**can see that in somebody when they following God Hey, I want that. I can learn from that. What are they doing to get that?**

**can do the same things Right this all making sense All right, good. All right, so let's now understand more about how we get God's favor.**

**Let's go to Exodus chapter 3 And let's read verse 21 Exodus 3 verse 21, and I think I Back to Lori, please**

[**@42:00**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2520.0) **- Laurie Nelson**

**I'll give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and it shall come to pass that when you go, you shall not go empty.**

[**@42:07**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2527.38) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay, Exodus three is a promise. The Israelites have not been freed yet from is from Egypt. Okay, God is talking to Moses and he's setting up Moses so that he will lead the people out of Egypt.**

**And he's telling him a front, this is what I'm going to do. So we've been told up front, God has promises for our lives.**

**He wants to show us favor, okay, and understand, I will give this people favor in the sight, eyes in the eyes, figurative or literal of the Egyptians, okay, so we're not talking about physical sight while we are talking about it in the story that they will be looked at physically, but he's really for referring more, more like figuratively, like, hey, people will get the concept.**

**that there is favor on your life, and as a result of that concept, that feeling, that sense, that overwhelmingness that they have, that God has somehow blessed you, and they may not be able to put their finger on it, but they'll know they will sense, they'll have discernment that God's favor is on them, and they will act in a certain way as a result of that.**

**So he's going to transition from slaves to free people, and the result of that, the Egyptians are going to see that God has favor on them.**

**Now, how does that happen? Let's exit Exodus 12, Exodus 12, verse 36, and Brian, would you read that, please, Exodus 12, 36, and the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted down what they**

[**@44:00**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2640.0) **- Jamie Theis**

**question. Thus, they plunder the Egyptians.**

[**@44:04**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2644.58) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**So we went from promise to chapter 3 to fulfillment in chapter 12. How did they get there? Because it literally came to pass.**

**That's what we have to understand. If God gives us a promise, He's literally going to bring it to pass at some point.**

**But you have to figure out how to get from A to Z. there's a lot of stuff going on in between A to Z.**

**There's B to Y. I did my alphabet, right? There's a lot of stuff in between there. We know in this story the stuff that happened between the promise in chapter 3 and the actual realization of it in chapter 12 were what?**

**What happened? was the main things that happened? What did we call them?**

[**@44:48**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2688.5) **- Alicia**

**Ten Commandments?**

[**@44:51**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=2691.04) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Well, the Ten Commandments came after in the desert. But what ten things happened between the promise given to the actually walked out of Egypt?**

**the plagues yes yes now plagues mmm that doesn't sound favor you know favorable well it wasn't to the Egyptians but it was to the Israelites because what was the difference the plagues did not affect them so in their lives nothing changed from well nothing changed from the result of the plagues right what happened up front when God gave the promises the pushback came they Pharaoh said well you want to let the people go because they're idle so they took away their straw but yet they kept them labor of bricks the same so they got the pushback from those in authority they got the pushback from those they were trying to affect and it got harder for them in in the sense of their work but the plagues had no bearing on their actual lives so their actual lives stayed the same and what the**

**Egyptian saw as a result of the plagues is their lives were getting worse, right their land and their herds were being affected But they would look at the Israelites and see the favor of God meaning God wasn't touching them These plagues weren't touching them.**

**They equated that to the favor of God Michael go ahead Yeah, it's amazing that God knew fair to put him in Goshen, which became a very fertile Biting area and that's where like you just said the plagues didn't hit Goshen Yep, and so God may put you Let me put it this way The problem you get a promise from God He has put you already in the spot where he knows that you are going to benefit if you trust and follow him It will be that it stay in that spot with him that relationship with him He will bring that promise to pass no matter what happens from A to Z to get you there**

**You with me? And although it may seem to you like nothing has changed, those around you will notice. The favor on you, you might not realize you're in God's favor.**

**Do you think Joseph in Potiphar's house realized the favor of God was on him? Probably not. Let's be honest, because he's probably just going about doing his job.**

**But the mindset that he had was probably different than the other servants in the house. Because the other servants realized they were servants, slaves, in the situation.**

**Probably they thought was hopeless, was never going to change. So they probably just did the bare minimum to avoid the whippings.**

**But Joseph's mindset was like, I know God and I know this is not the end. I know something better can happen that God can deliver, that there is miracle power with power with God if you just stay faithful.**

**So his mindset was do the best because every opportunity could be the opportunity out Right every opportunity could lead to a better opportunity So if I do my best not just the bare minimum Then then I could be opening a door for me to walk through next right So if we if we can shift the way we think and stop just doing a bare minimum in our life What's the bare minimum I can do to please God to serve God?**

**Then I'm never going to see the blessings in those doors of opportunities He said before me because my eyes Down when I'm depressed when I'm doing a bare minimum when I am making positive and keep my head up I'm seeing outward.**

**I'm seeing now opportunity the different roads before me So I need my spirit to be uplifted and encouraged to keep my head up And how do I do that David said I have to encourage myself in the Lord So that means I have to remember his promises.**

**I have to remember that yeah He is a miracle working God that he can take care of me that he could create something out of nothing.**

**He created the world simply by speaking it. So if I do my best, he could take my best and create something I can never have imagined.**

**So we have to change our minds at our paradigm and say, what's the most I can be doing? Isn't that even what I think somewhere in scripture, Jesus said, you know, if maybe you just said it through one of the other writers, but basically, you know, if all you're doing is the bare minimum, you're the lousy servant.**

**You need to be aware of being doing the best and the most you can, especially when it comes to God.**

**That's how we start to obtain God's favor. Even in the jail, don't think Joseph was like, Oh, God's favors on me.**

**Again, we know he was just doing his best, making the lives of the others best around him, right? All right.**

**And so the plagues came to Egypt to get their attention, get the Egyptians attention onto what was happening with the Israelites that God was showing them favor that they too, hopefully would want that same favor.**

**Okay. Well, as a result, they didn't want it. They pushed them out and God said, OK, well, take their riches and spoiled blessings with you.**

**So you go through God gives you a promise. You just do your very best. And as a result, the blessings of God will follow you.**

**Laurie.**

[**@50:21**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3021.02) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Yeah, I was just going to say about what you just said about serving God, even though Joseph was doing servants' duties that seem like the smallest thing you can be faithful with.**

**If you're faithful with the smallest thing God gives you, then you're going to be faithful in much is what the scripture says.**

[**@50:40**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3040.96) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**That's just what that reminded me of, that's all. Yes, that story of the servants who were given some investment money, and they some invested it, and one didn't, right?**

**You just buried it, right? faithful with little. God will give you more. Let's go to Numbers, chapter 11. Numbers chapter 11 and we're going to read verse 11.**

**Numbers 11 verse 11. And Jamie, is it your turn? This, didn't forget you.**

[**@51:12**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3072.2) **- Jamie Theis**

**Numbers 11, 11, He asked the Lord, why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me?**

[**@51:29**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3089.72) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**So here we have, they're finally progressed out of Egypt and the people are complaining, right? They're talking about not having enough to eat, not enjoying the things that were their favorites, leaks and garlic and onions that are kind of nasty on their own, right?**

**They didn't understand what could be better. So they picked, you know, this little thing that was at least some slice that happened in their misery.**

**even though the misery, it was still misery, and they're like, well, let's go back to that. Because at least that was a little bit better than where we feel we're at now and even Moses is subject to this Sometimes getting our eyes down instead of keeping our head up, right?**

**He says, why to God? Why did you reflect me? Haven't I found favor, right? yet you're laying this burden from his people on me He didn't under he didn't understand in that moment.**

**It was still part of his journey his purpose with God to help Moses grow See even the great people that we read about in the bible had to go through the same things that we go through We can't put people up on a pedestal and think man, they got it all together We have to learn from them.**

**How did they get there? got there like Moses going through the same thing we go through He's like man.**

**I can't it. Am I out of your favor God? We sometimes question that We we think It told the glory at the before everyone else jumped on.**

**I'm reading the book a job and the book a job. It's like he was He was blessed of God and then God allowed the enemy to attack him and then he was like covered in Boils and he lost all his herds.**

**He lost all his children He is like those miserable and he's thinking, you know, I'm looking for God, but I can't find him He's not ahead of me.**

**He's not behind. He's not you know, I can't feel him I don't know where he's at and this is Moses's crisis at the same moment He's like all the way to this people.**

**Where are you God? I thought I was in your favor Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever felt like I've been there?**

**I've been there several times like man God I thought you promised me this. I thought I thought by living for you.**

**I'd experienced this and I've only had to learn that wait a minute. That's the wrong perspective I've had because God is the same scripture says yesterday today and forever It says he will never leave us nor forsake us.**

**So when we can't perceive him that's nothing to have to do with God That has to how do with how we are looking at our own situation our own circumstances because**

**Because what we're really doing in those moments is not equating favor, but we're looking for partiality. When we're looking for partiality, that's when we get tripped up and messed up.**

**Favor is not partiality. We've already drawn that separation, right? Favor is God blessing us beyond what we expect, but when we expect it, then we're expecting partiality.**

**It could be a fine line. Laurie, go ahead.**

[**@54:33**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3273.34) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Yeah, I was just thinking about how God reveals these things to his people before he does them. And that really is true.**

**If you're in the inner space and God speaking to you, he's going to be like, okay, I'm going to bring you through something you've never been through before, but trust me, you're going to be brought forth as gold.**

**And if you can keep tethered to that promise, if you can really ground yourself to what he has told you about it, it really doesn't matter what happens.**

**B to Y because you're hanging on to Z and you know that God's going to bring you there. You know what He said to you and if you trust God, if you really trust what He said to you, you're going to know that it doesn't matter what happens.**

[**@55:16**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3316.1) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**He's got you. It's a matter of reminding yourself to remember. That's exactly right. That's exactly right. That's why in Exodus 3, God said, this is what I'm going to do and by Exodus 12, He did it.**

**In between that, they held on to that promise. If you hold on to that promise and you know that God is faithful, it doesn't matter, right?**

**And even when you can't feel Him, even when you can't sense Him, you have to know, right? You may not feel it in here, but if you know it up here, then this doesn't matter so much.**

**This isn't going to pull you in the wrong direction. Hopefully you can see my heart or whatever, right? So, Job, since I mentioned Him, let's go to Job chapter 10, chapter 10.**

**Verse 12, Alicia, would you read that for us, please?**

[**@56:03**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3363.62) **- Alicia**

**Job 10 is 12. If he snatches away, who can stop him? Who can say to him, what are you doing?**

[**@56:14**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3374.2) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**I think that's very good scripture.**

[**@56:16**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3376.82) **- Alicia**

**You sure that was Job 10 verse 12? No, it was nine. All right, let's see. You gave me life and showed me kindness.**

[**@56:28**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3388.78) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**And in your providence, watch over my spirit. Yeah, and kindness there is translated as favor in the King James.**

**So kindness favor. Remember, we picked that word out when we're reading about Joseph. So favor and presence is also translated as visitation.**

**Right. So in other words, it we have to remember we don't we don't deserve anything from God to be honest with you because of sin, we deserve death.**

**If we keep the right perspective that it's got to. gives us life, who has saved us, and that should be like good enough for us, then just being in his presence is everything.**

**When those moments, when you can sense him, soak it up, right? That's like when you want to hold on to that, right?**

**Because when you get to those moments and you will, because we all do get to those moments, like Moses, like Joseph, where we go, where did you go, God?**

**You can remember, Hey, I was once in his presence, and I will be there again at some point, right?**

**But for this moment, it might be moment of separation that you feel separation, but God isn't separated. It's so he can teach and mold and separate and help you.**

**It's like the potter putting the clay on the wheel. He's got to take a part of it from the clump that's there, and he's got to put it on the wheel, and he's got to start molding it and shaping it, right?**

**And sometimes it's not working out. It's resistant. He's got to squash it back down. And and try something new, right?**

**Sometimes that's our lives. It's like God's leading us, correcting us, but because of sin, or because our resistance, or because we're just not getting it, he tries it from a different angle.**

**And when he starts to try it from a different angle, it can be like, whoa, wait a minute, God.**

**Where'd you go? I was used to this. Like Joseph was used to the way Jacob was treating him until he got thrown into the assistant, right?**

**He didn't lose the father, he didn't lose his family. It was put on hold for a minute. But in the end, he got it all back, and he got it in a greater way.**

**Same thing with Job. In the end, Job was better off. And you have to remind yourself, when you're feeling that way, when you're feeling like, God, where'd you go?**

**What's happening? The patient, don't rely on this. Trust in the word, put it in here, trust this, and trust what you know, according to the word, and know that it will be better in the end.**

**Psalm 5, let's go there. Psalm 5, verse 12. Psalm 5 verse 12. And Mike, would you mind reading that, please?**

**Mike, you might be on mute.**

[**@59:23**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3563.98) **- Michael**

**Yeah, Psalm 5 verse what?**

[**@59:25**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3565.94) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Well, please.**

[**@59:29**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3569.3) **- Michael**

**I wasn't sure if there were too much.**

[**@59:32**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3572.14) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Oh, not today, at For it is you who blesses the righteous man, oh Lord, you surround him with favor as with a shield.**

**So he blesses or shows favor to the righteous. The righteous are those who do write things. The right things when it comes to God is obeying his word.**

**It's that simple. And the shield is a protection. favor would be in the fact that he protected X, U, Psalm 35, let's go there, Psalm 35, verse 27, Psalm 35, verse 27.**

**And Luke, could you read that for us, please?**

[**@1:00:22**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3622.2) **- Luke**

**But give great joy to those who came to my defense, let them continually say, great is the Lord, who delights in blessing and servant with peace.**

[**@1:00:33**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3633.24) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**And that word peace is also translated in other translations as prosperity. And so not only means peace, prosperity, but it So in other words, when you are following God and you're trusting Him, know, righteous, right, doing the right things, the favor comes upon you and it makes you content, it makes you complete.**

**Psalm 41. verse 11. Psalm 41 verse 11. Laurie, would you mind reading that please?**

[**@1:01:10**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3670.4) **- Laurie Nelson**

**By this I know that thou favors to me because my enemy does not triumph over me.**

[**@1:01:16**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3676.9) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**And we know God favors on us because the enemy won't be victorious. He might have a slight edge at times, like when Joseph was kicked out of the Potiphar's house into the jail, but he wasn't victorious because he didn't destroy the attitude.**

**He didn't destroy the mindset. He didn't destroy the relationship Joseph had with God because in the end he prevailed.**

**He got out of the prison. He became second charge, right? He prevailed. enemy did not prevail. It might seem like it times he has the upper hand even in your life, but if you trust God and you keep doing the right things, he will not win the ultimate victory.**

**You will. What will be the ultimate victory? Salvation. Psalm 119. Psalm 119. verse 58. And Brian, when you find Psalm 119 verse 58, would you read that please?**

[**@1:02:11**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3731.26) **- Jamie Theis**

**I entreated your favor with my whole heart. Be merciful to me, according to your word.**

[**@1:02:17**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3737.96) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**I entreated, in other words, I pursued it. wanted God's favor. What is that favor? pleasing that you want to please God with your whole heart.**

**seat of your emotions. How can you control you? The seat of your emotions. This thing here, through this thing here.**

**You have to know God's word, follow God's word, and you'll be able to control your emotional responses and know that God will honor his word.**

**And he will show you the favor, right? How? keeping his commandments. That's what he's showing here. His word is his commandments, right?**

**When you keep his word, you pursue it with everything here. You control your emotional response. You honor God. You know he's going to pour out favor on you.**

**Proverbs chapter three Proverbs chapter three to see you know, I'm not making all this stuff up. It's clearly in scripture verses one through four Proverbs three one through four Jamie, please My son do not forget my teaching but keep my commands in your heart For they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity Let love and faithfulness never leave you Bind them around your neck write them on the tablet of your heart Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man And there it is that's summing it up everything that I've just said right because if you do not forget God's law if you in other words If you don't forget that means you are doing it You can't forget something you are actively doing if you are doing God's word You're keeping his commandments then it will you'll start to see God's favor on you long life prosperity peace**

**all these things added to you, right? And if you like buying them on the neck, it's almost like saying like enslave yourself to God, right?**

**Because you put a collar on the dog so you can control it, right? They used to do that to slaves.**

**They'd put a collar on a slave so they can control it, control them. But it's like you willingly saying, God, I'm going to I'm going to be your servant, you lead me wherever you want me to go, you have me do whatever you want me to do.**

**Because I know that the favor God is the most important thing in my life. And in so doing, I'm going to please you and men are going to see what's happening in my life and be one to you because of it.**

**That's the summation of what you just read there, right? Proverbs 8, Proverbs 8, verse 35. Alicia, please.**

[**@1:04:57**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3897.5) **- Alicia**

**For those who find me, find life. and receive favor from the Lord.**

[**@1:05:02**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3902.8) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yes, what is the thing if you go to the beginning of this problem, you're going to see wisdom, verse 1, does not wisdom cry?**

**So what he's talking about is wisdom. Who said, me, wisdom, my wife, and she obtained favor. Now, if you want to get an understanding of how to get to the place of wisdom, go back and watch the Bible study from the last time.**

**I've got it out on the website, but it's about the seven spirits of God that leads you to wisdom.**

**It starts with fear of the Lord, understanding counsel, might, et cetera. I'll lead you all the way to wisdom, leads you into the presence of God.**

**So in other words, you are pursuing God because that's the embodiment of wisdom. If you go back and study the lesson, you'll see the lesson that at the very heart of that is God.**

**That is who God is, he's an embodiment of wisdom. In other words, if you are pursuing the path to get to know God, you will then find the favor of God.**

**Isn't that what we've been talking about the whole time here? God has asked you to do. follow Him wholeheartedly.**

**You will then obtain the favor. That is the pleasure of the delight of God. Proverbs 11. Let's go there.**

**Proverbs 11 verse 27. Just a few more scriptures and we'll be wrapped up today. Proverbs 11 verse 27. Luke, would you read that for us please?**

[**@1:06:30**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3990.14) **- Luke**

**If you search for good, you will find favor. But if you search for evil, it will find you.**

[**@1:06:36**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=3996.54) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**mean, how much clearer can it be, right? Actively search. Pursuit. Find it, right? Don't just settle. Don't just, like we said, just drop your head and say, this is the best it's ever going to get.**

**No, your head. Pursuit. Pursuit. Search. for it. word. Right? Proverbs 12, chapter 12, verse 2. Mike would you read that, please?**

[**@1:07:14**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4034.72) **- Michael**

**A good man will obtain favor from the Lord, but he will condemn a man who devises evil.**

[**@1:07:23**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4043.38) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**That's, I mean, it's drawing the line from what Luke just read and what Mike just read, isn't it? Like, you pursue what's good instead of what's evil, you will find God's favor.**

**Proverbs 13, verse 15. Lori, would you read that, please?**

[**@1:07:39**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4059.98) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Good understanding, give a favor, but the way of transgressors is hard.**

[**@1:07:45**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4065.74) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Again, I'm going to point to last Bible studies lesson. Understanding is a step towards the pursuit of wisdom. It's fear of the Lord, understanding counsel, might, all that, right?**

**You will take you right to wisdom you it's a step-by-step process searching is a day-by-day thing you can't like search and say there it is and grab a hold of it right it's it's a little bit elusive kind of like a story Brian was telling me yesterday um they went to this place uh the white the light what was it called Brian where the light was the dandy light holding light holding and you're telling Michigan you look in and you can look down this train set of train tracks and way off in the distance you'll see this light and it's kind of a dancing light right and you start walking to it but like you never reach it because it like disappears right not what you said so it's kind of like the same thing we pursue good and you're good perhaps in the moment but dude is an ongoing thing you're never going to reach good it's a pursuit you're never going to fully reach the completeness of God but he's a pursuit right we can't**

**fully know God here on this earth, but you can get to know more and more and more and more about him as you search you can I'm trying to think more of this correctly like I want to know as much about God as I can and I don't want to become deflated because I didn't get to where I thought I was gonna get Right and that that's what happens to a lot of us in our pursuit of God.**

**think like okay I expect God to be like this and we start pursuing him in that Avenue and then he shows up over here on this other This other way we're like what wait a minute God.**

**was pursuing healing. I was pursuing you in How you're a miraculous healing God and also boom you showed me, you know that not only you healing God But like you've got prosperity in mind for me.**

**Well, wait a minute. Wait. should pursue that It's like you need to pursue everything about God When the Israelites came out of Egypt, they knew it took a strong hand**

**for them to be released. They could not have been released through weakness. They were released through strength. So when Moses went up to the mountain to communicate with God and get the Ten Commandments, they were left behind and they were like searching for leadership and Aaron didn't quite give it to them because he wasn't the one to meant to give them the leadership Moses was.**

**And so while they were there, they're like, hmm, we want to worship. We're happy that we're free. We see an aspect of God.**

**So what they did is they took all our gold and made this golden calf and they started worshiping it.**

**And what did they say about it? They said, this is what brought us out of Egypt. What was the this?**

**They weren't referring specifically to the ox. They knew an ox didn't literally bring them out of Egypt. What did the ox represent?**

**It represented strength. They knew it was something strong that brought them out of Egypt. They said it was the strength of God that brought them out of Egypt.**

**They were pursuing only one thing about God. And when you get your mind so focused on only one thing about God, it can lead you into idolatization.**

**tree. And that's what happened. They then got way off kilter doing things that should never have been doing because they forgot about all the other aspects of God.**

**Not only is God strong, but he's wise, he's merciful, he's kind, he's loving, he's all these things that they forgot about that he's pure, that he's holy.**

**And because they forgot about his purity and his holiness, they got involved in debauchery, right? Because they saw it as symbol of strength.**

**They got they got way late into idolatry. See, as we pursue, as we search, as we seek the favor of God, we don't want to become just focused on one thing because God is so much more.**

[**@1:11:40**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4300.12) **- Michael**

**Michael. Yeah, we talked about this on another Bible, say, you know, you know, the world plans out their lives.**

**I'm going to make a million by 40 or whatever. But the word says don't say I'm going to go here and there and sell in a year.**

**It says if the Lord builds, I'll do this or that.**

[**@1:11:59**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4319.58) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**So we're not like you We are to simply seek God's will, because like that phrase says, if God's will, well, how do you know God's will?**

**got to search for it. That's what we're talking about. You got to search for God's favor. His will, where is he pleased?**

**I do this, is he pleased? When I do that, is he pleased? Is his favor showing? Is his favor on me?**

**Do I feel his delight? I'm acting this way, am I feeling his delight? When I'm saying this thing, am I feeling his delight?**

**That's how we start to guide ourselves into his will for our movies. Proverbs 18, verse 22, last scripture. Proverbs 18, verse 22.**

**Lori, would you read that for us, please?**

[**@1:12:49**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4369.42) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Who's so fine at the wife?**

[**@1:12:51**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4371.14) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Find it the good thing and obtains favor of the Lord. Okay, so I'm married. I found a wife. I think I've got some good favor.**

**What is that really talking about? Because it's only talking about, oh, yeah, Brian too, right? So so it's only talking about one side of the equation.**

**Well, what about wives? Why? And you find a husband and did you find a good thing? I would hope so.**

**So what is it really trying to say to us? We are the bride of Christ. Aren't we supposed to be the wife, so to speak, of Jesus, of God?**

**God is pursuing us. He knows there's good in us. He knows because he created us. He's trying to bring that out of us.**

**He's trying to bring the goodness out through our lives. Think about Joseph, same thing. He created Joseph for a purpose.**

**He knew he gave Joseph dreams, aspects, revelations that it was going to happen. But without God growing that out of him, he would never have been able to fulfill it.**

**He had to allow God to develop his character to get to the place he could fulfill it. And so what God is trying to do in all of our lives?**

**times is to develop the character to carry the weight of his glory, to carry the weight of his favor.**

**That means we have to be tested, we have to be true, like we have to go through difficult situations and circumstances.**

**But what develops it, what brings it out is how we respond to that. There's a hint, like in the air, you walk by a rose bush, but I guarantee you, you flip that rose, you take it home, you crush it, now you get the full effect of it, right?**

**Things that God has put in you cannot come out into your life, into others' lives, until you handle the challenges, the difficulties in your life with the right attitude, the right perspective.**

**and what's so awesome about God is we all make mistakes. We all have failures that we wish we could go back and like, man, I wish I could have done that again, done that differently.**

**He gives us opportunity to do so. That's why sometimes you find your life in a circular pattern, right? man, didn't I just go through this?**

**Why am I going through this again? It's for one of two reasons. Either you didn't learn it the first time and he's trying to teach you and help you realize that you can move forward or you are successful at it and he's trying to get more of that out of your life in more of the juice of a squeeze, more of that goodness to bubble up from a slightly more intense situation.**

**Here's how you can know the difference. It's similar, right? There's no intensity difference, perhaps, and your mindset is the same going into it.**

**You feel like it's like, man, this feels so much the same about what I've gone through in the same situation.**

**situation. Why am I going through this again? It's because you need to learn. Other hand, you're going through this and you're like, man, I know I've been through this before and I know what I'm going to do differently.**

**I'm this, this is now is a greater opportunity to shine. That's the difference. It's about what's going on in here as you can do it.**

[**@1:16:22**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4582.08) **- Alicia**

**So would that be like, it's more for them than done.**

[**@1:16:26**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4586.98) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yes. The first time you go through something is primarily helping you to learn. It's always interconnected. Understand that it's always interconnected.**

**Joseph and Pharaoh's house was about him learning more than it was about reaching Pharaoh, a part of pot of earth and his wife.**

**God wanted to reach them. He was hoping to reach them. He's doing his best to reach them. But he kind of also knew their hearts.**

**He knew where they were at and how they would respond because God knows everything. So at that point, it was more about like dedicating Joseph to**

**to his ideal of following God, knowing God. But the harder, because it got harder when he got to jail, same kind of circumstance, thrown somewhere, he didn't want to be thrown into, same kind of circumstance.**

**But now is more about reaching the others, of having a greater effect on them, so he could then reach his full potential.**

**So that's really, over and over, just two more things I'll summarize here, then we'll open it up for greater discussion.**

**Over and over, the Bible uses the phrase, and you can see it if you just go to Bible gateway and Google this, and Bible gateway type in the search bar.**

**If I found favor in the site, that phrase is used over and over, especially in the Book of Esther, for example.**

**What that shows us is that people want to know, it's the favor of God on their lives or not.**

**It indicates that God is constantly, too, watching over us for opportunities to pour. brought his favor on us. We just need to keep asking ourselves if we found it, if we're pleasing him, right?**

**I mentioned, which really means are we asking ourselves, are we doing what pleases God that these are the things he likes to see, that these are the things that capture his attention, not us.**

**So in other words, what makes your favorite ice cream your favorite? What is it about your favorite ice cream that makes it your favorite?**

[**@1:18:29**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4709.38) **- Michael**

**My particular taste buds probably.**

[**@1:18:32**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4712.56) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yes, because it's satisfying to you. So it doesn't matter if it's chocolate or vanilla or or chocolate chip or cookie dough, because Michael, if you have cookie dough, you're not going to be satisfied with it, right?**

[**@1:18:45**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4725.1) **- Michael**

**Because I think you said chocolate, right? It could be, but yeah, I can do it.**

[**@1:18:51**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4731.0) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**But man, if I had two choices in front of you, cookie dough and chocolate and you'd be able to gravitate to the chocolate, right?**

**That's right. because chocolate is more satisfying to you. What you favor is what satisfies you. That car that I told you about.**

**The reason I favored it is because it's responsiveness. The colors that you chose are because they please you. The person that might be your favorite is because of the connection you have.**

**You see? So if you want the favor of God, you've got to say, am I satisfying to God? Am I responsive to him?**

**Am I pleasing him? Am I connecting with him? That is how you have the favor of God. How's this hit you guys today?**

**What moves inside of you as a result of this today?**

[**@1:19:47**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4787.0) **- Michael**

**Well, I just wanted to say something you said earlier reminded me of a lyric in a Keith Green song.**

**He said do your best, pray that it's blessed, and he'll take care of the rest.**

[**@1:20:00**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4800.0) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**piece. That's a nice way to sum it up. I like it. Thank you, Mike. Laurie, you got your hand up.**

[**@1:20:07**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4807.58) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Yeah, I think one of the biggest things you biggest points you made was that God's favor doesn't always look like what we have in our heads, it should look.**

**And ultimately, it's exercising your faith in God. Ultimately, it's, are you allowing this to have its perfect work? Are you, are you really allowing God to have your life and to say, I trust you with it, no matter what?**

**And another thing too is when you're going through it, and you're real, and you're realizing God, trust you. But here's also how I'm feeling.**

**Here's also like the real human part of me that's not enjoying this very much. And I want to tell you that too, because I think some**

**Sometimes we get afraid to be honest with God during it or through it, and he's not afraid of how we really feel about it, that feeling part that we're talking about.**

**We should bring that to him too so that he can put in this part of us the end of the end of so he can speak to us and minister to us and you know surround us in that time because if we're not spending that time with him through that difficulty, we're not going to shine his glory.**

**It's not going to happen if we're not constantly keeping in touch with him through it.**

[**@1:21:43**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=4903.4) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**That's exactly right, that's exactly right, and I know I was drawing a lot of differences between this and this, but you need both, understand you need both.**

**not saying you can't, you've got to cut this out completely, you can't because we're human beings and you can't just, you can't cut this out completely.**

**go with this, you need to balance both. You need both. But the way to control this more is this, it's in this order for a reason.**

**start here to get here, right? you look, I think the crux, that God is stirring me right now through what you were saying, sometimes as Christians, the challenge is when we are challenged by other Christians.**

**When we face challenges in the world, it's sometimes easy because we have this, we have some understanding of what this is, right?**

**We've gone to these Bible studies, we've gone to church, we've learned some things, so when the world comes at us, we can sometimes fend that off fairly easily.**

**What happens is when other Christians challenge us, is that we're told, hey, you're doing that wrong. Sorry, but you're doing that wrong.**

**That's That's not what God's word teaches or that's not what God's word says and and we get all defensive and we're like, well, wait minute I'm a Christian, you know, I what are you talking about?**

**You know, this is where I interpret it and we're not We're not open to say, okay Let me think let me pray.**

**me dig into God's word and let me find out for myself Because what most Christians do is they'll take Somebody else's word for it and what I'm hopefully encouraging in this Bible says don't take my word for any of this I'm trying to encourage you to look down an avenue to do some searching of your own And confirm it with yourself and find out if what I'm saying is true And if you find out that it's true then live it If you find out that what I'm saying is incorrect then come back to me tell me Show me what you've learned and then I can make an assessment as I search it out and dig it out**

**and say, okay, yeah, you're right. And then I can apologize and say, you know what, I was wrong. I'm sorry, I didn't have a full understanding, I'm gaining some understanding, and I'm moving now in this direction.**

**I wish we as Christians would do that, but we are so, all of us are affected by pride at different levels in our life that keep us from doing these things.**

**the only way to get God's favor is to eliminate that pride and say, you know what, I'm gonna go where you lead God.**

**I wanna do what you tell me to do, because the only one I'm really wanting to please is you.**

**I don't have to please myself, I don't have to please my spouse, I don't have to please others when it comes to my relationship with you, God.**

**Mike, go ahead.**

[**@1:24:43**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5083.86) **- Michael**

**Well, what said made me think, you know, of all the great people I ran, Moses, David, Paul, most of their life was trials and suffering.**

**We just remember their ending good, but most of the time they were having a hard time.**

[**@1:25:00**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5100.0) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yes. Yes. Yeah, maybe that should be my prayer, know, and I think because I'm getting older and older, as you could tell from the more gray and more white in my beard here, you know, is like, I just want to finish well.**

**John Maxwell did a whole lesson on that years ago that I listened to. You he talked about people in ministry and how majority of them, you know, after 10, 15, 20 years are no longer in ministry because they just get worn out.**

**They get burnt out because they didn't have a full understanding what God was calling to. It wasn't about like leading them to minister those people.**

**was about having a relationship with him, no matter what the people they were leading were doing. Same thing with Moses, right?**

**I think, you know, we read that one phrase about Moses, but Michael said you look at Moses and you know that, okay, he overcame that one moment.**

**Yeah, we all have those moments where we go, God, what are you doing? I don't get it. That's okay.**

**That's, that's expected. That that's understandable. Well, what's not understandable is if we just live there then We have to go forward And even his brother Aaron and Mary and God on you know, she turns white they they even complained about it Yep.**

**Even those you love closest to you. Sometimes can be the biggest challenge you have All right, it's again. That's why I said it's not about your spouse.**

**It's not about your children It's not about your in-laws. It's not about your neighbors. It's not about your coworkers It is but it isn't meaning if you first and foremost Desire pursue the favor of God on your life, which means that you only are concerned about pleasing him Having him take delight in you And everything else will take care of itself whether it's good or bad.**

**That's totally up to God to take care of all that stuff done Lori Yeah, it reminds me**

[**@1:27:00**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5220.0) **- Laurie Nelson**

**of the lyrics of a song that was ministering to me for quite a while and it says, Jesus, what an honor to suffer well with you.**

**And if our only duty in this present moment is suffering, then let's suffer well with him. You know, let's do that to the best of our ability and what better way than to look at Jesus who became our sin, right?**

**He became our sin so that we could become his righteousness. You know, we don't become righteous on our own and then get to God.**

**You know, we become his righteousness because he becomes our sin.**

[**@1:27:39**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5259.06) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**It's just beautiful. Yes, amen. Anything, any other thoughts anybody wants to share, how it impacted you, what you think, what what stirs you, anything.**

**Brian.**

[**@1:27:57**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5277.64) **- Jamie Theis**

**Yeah, it's just, you know, it's like when I'll use myself as an example, but when I was first born again, the way I reacted to stimuli around me was still mostly carnal.**

**It was the way I used to react to negativity or whatever, flying out the handle of whatever the case was, but as I've grown and leaned into God, that reaction is different because I want what he wants and I know what he wants.**

**My reaction is different and I think before I speak, which I should have done a long time ago.**

[**@1:28:49**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5329.94) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah, he had to teach me that too. Thank you for sharing that. All right, else, anything else? Luke, you look like you want to say something?**

[**@1:29:04**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5344.98) **- Luke**

**Well, it's just going to be a repeat of somebody else's, that's what, that's why I hesitate. just being, you're doing your best and becoming the best version of yourself each and every day and the only person that's appropriate for you to compare yourself to is the person you were yesterday.**

**So it's very similar to that and very encouraging. And I like something you said earlier, too, was really impactful for me.**

**you were down, we're talking about looking down, I often look down. OK, that's my issue. But just the revelation to look up and be hopeful and, you know, know that you're in the favor of the Lord.**

**Wow, that's awesome.**

[**@1:29:52**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5392.5) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Yeah, you know, I've learned that lesson early on in my youth, thankfully, because after in high school, my freshman year.**

**I had to start walking home. I lived like two miles away from school, and I remember I'd have to walk home through through kind of a field and then through the squirey to get on the main road and home and remember once hearing something about a majority of people when they walk they look down and I don't know where I heard that from What I thought but I I Evaluated myself and it was right.**

**I was looking down all the time walking home, and I thought why am I doing that? I'm missing Everything I'm walking through because it was cool.**

**The field was cool The quarry was cool to look at it, you know, and I missed so much by looking down I resolved, you know from what when I walked now Lift my head up and it just it changes your perspective changes your life if you can just do that like Luke said When you're looking up understand when you're looking up, you're in the just even that you're in the favor of God Ryan Ryan Yeah, I do believe I just saw something where it spoke**

[**@1:31:00**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5460.0) **- Jamie Theis**

**of that. And I didn't know it before, but the practice of looking down and keeping your hands closed is a Buddhist practice.**

**And Islam, I mean, because that's how they do it. They put their face straight down to the floor. But Christians are the ones that are told to put your head up.**

**Yeah. So I thought that was really interesting.**

[**@1:31:29**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5489.56) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**I know the difference there. When you think about hoping your hands, you know, that's what I was just gonna say, like you always say to receive.**

**All right. Well, hopefully we received a lot here today. Let's go ahead and close with word of prayer and we'll take prayer requests.**

**Okay. Lord Jesus, we just again, thank you for this word, for sharing your insights, your word with us today, impacting our hearts, touching us God, help us to retain this, help us to put even the**

**Little things in the practice God one thing at a time so we can continue to grow in you Lord We want to pursue your favor.**

**We want to just please you with our words with our actions with our It's an entire lives God, but let us start with one thing here today God.**

**thank you Give you glory.**

[**@1:32:17**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5537.7) **- Luke**

**Thank you for my friends bless them Lord Bless the couple of weeks ahead Lord until we meet again and God now we just gonna lift up Some prayer requests that you ask that we ask that you move upon Lord in Jesus name All right, so who needs a prayer request what's going on that we can pray about If we could continue prayers for my father, he uh this last week I think it was a Thursday he had to go to the ER due to extreme pain and Now he's been put on some pain medications and is doing better, but uh continue first Thank you name was Robert.**

**Is that correct?**

[**@1:32:56**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5576.24) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**No, Ronald I'm Ronald. Okay, I was close Ronald of course, you know, Perry from Ronald. Anybody else? Yeah, Ryan.**

[**@1:33:04**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5584.72) **- Michael**

**Yeah, probably for that God will strengthen me. I have a new part-time job. And some of the personalities there I'm kind of learning to deal with.**

[**@1:33:16**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5596.02) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay. Of course, Michael, pray for that. Ryan, you had your hand up? Oh, I thought you did. So, go ahead.**

[**@1:33:26**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5606.98) **- Laurie Nelson**

**Yeah, it was recently the anniversary of my mom's death and my brother sent out a text message that sort of it was a very sweet one about my mom and just kind of her in certain ways that maybe we would have forgotten.**

**And all of us kind of responded in a like all kind of way, but one of my brothers responded with just like a sad face.**

**And I think that he might be struggling with that. So, if we could pray for my little brother, David is his name.**

[**@1:33:59**](https://fathom.video/share/KMe5cttR5v7isFyCQGv3MGDMPtakqdd-?timestamp=5639.76) **- Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

**Okay. Yeah. for sure. Any other prayer requests? Okay. I'm just going to ask that we also pray for Julie, who's with her friend right now, Dawn.**

**That Dawn needs salvation, know, in our family, needs salvation, we've witnessed all of the men for years and years, but just that Julie would be given wisdom, and that Dawn would receive it, right?**

**Okay, so let's pray. Lord Jesus, we know that you've heard these requests, even before we've uttered them, Lord, because you saw our hearts, knew it was in us, Lord, and God, just pray that you would move in a miraculous, wonderful way to all of these requests.**

**We lift up Ronald, Luke's Father, that God you'd subside the pain, Lord, that you'd remove the pain, that you'd give him comfort, physical comfort, spiritual comfort, emotional comfort.**

**God, speak to him, embrace him, let him feel your warmth, your healing touch, Lord. Thank you, God, for helping him stay firm and his walk with you.**

**Thank you for giving him courage. Thank you, God, for giving him strength. We know that you're able to do these things, Lord.**

**Lord, we lift up Mike in this new adventure, this part-time job that he's having, Lord, that Lord, you'd give him wisdom.**

**Guidance, help him to adapt, help him to adjust, speak through him, Lord. Show him favor, Lord God, and let the others express that favor to him, Lord God.**

**Help them to receive him, help them to receive the word that he'll share, Lord, because I know you're going to speak through him.**

**Give him opportunities at the right moment, help him be sensitive, help him to have discernment, Lord, to be even the wind wearing whom to share.**

**And God, may they receive it. Soften, Lord God, the personalities, remove the agitation, remove the conflict, Lord God, the confrontational aspect to it, Lord.**

**Help them to receive, help them to be a conqueror in Jesus' name. Lord, we also lift up Laurie and her family, especially David, Lord, that you help him deal with his grief, with the pain of loss, Lord, that you would stand in the gap for him.**

**That God, he would be remembering the good and the positive things. Lord, God, somehow, someway, he would be drawn closer to you.**

**this, God, for your goodness. Use this, God, for drawing him to a place of repentance, Lord, and that he would build up a greater relationship with you, Lord.**

**Lord, give Laurie wisdom, guide her words, guide her expressions to help him minister to David. Lord, I also ask that you touch Julie and give her wisdom as she speaks with Dawn.**

**God, just use the right moment, the right place that Dawn would receive, Lord, God, embrace what you're trying to say to her.**

**That God, it would cause a mind shift, a heart shift, a spiritual shift in her life, God, to embrace you.**

**thank you for all that you're doing and all my friends' lives. I thank you, God, for all that you're doing through this Bible study.**

**I thank you for the ministry. I thank you, God, for the Word. I thank you for the opportunities. Help us keep our heads up.**

**Help us keep our focus on you in Jesus' name. Well, thank you everyone. I appreciate you. We love you.**

**We'll see you in two weeks, okay? God bless. Thank you.**