

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"FAVOR"

"May the favor of the LORD our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us---yes, establish the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

There is no question that we are blessed when the favor of God rests on us. I love to pray the second part of this verse: **"Lord, please establish the work of my hands."** Of course, I absolutely do want the favor of God. St. Luke 2:52 states: **"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."** As followers of Jesus Christ, we have a responsibility: **"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."** (2 Peter 3:18). Sometimes when asked how we are doing, some Christians respond with this popular saying: *"I am blessed and highly favored."* It is certainly good to feel blessed and highly favored by God, but we must be cognizant of the responsibility that comes along with the statement. The *favor of God* means that God is pleased with us. I always enjoy hearing the choir sing the hymn *"Satisfied with Jesus."* However, the chorus of the song always causes me to pause for reflection. It resounds: *"I am satisfied; I am satisfied; I am satisfied with Jesus, but the question comes to me, as I think of Calvary, is my Master satisfied with me?"* Good question, is it not? The favor of God resting on me implies that God is satisfied with me. It suggests that God is pleased with my relationship with Him. St. John 14:30-31 provides insight into finding favor with God. Jesus taught: **"I will not say much more to you for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly as my Father has commanded me."** Jesus explains that the devil will come, but He will resist him and obey His Father's will.

Read St. Luke 2: 40- 52 to get the full picture of an interesting interchange which explains more clearly why Jesus grew in favor with God and man. After being missed and found by His earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, Jesus speaks: **"And he said unto them, how is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"** (St. Luke 2:49 KJV). The NIV version of St. Luke 2:49 states: **"Why were you searching for me? He asked. Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"** In our verse for today, perhaps the psalmist placed asking God to establish the work of our hands right next to asking for God's favor because the two things go hand in hand. So, what have we learned? One especially important thing we know about Jesus is that He obeyed all the commands of the Father; He took care of the Father's business. **"But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."** (St. Matthew 6:33) Secondly, we know that Jesus knew Satan would come, but He never let the prince of the air, Satan, get the best of Him. When Satan tempted Him, this was His reply: **And Jesus answered and said unto him, "Get thee behind me, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the LORD thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."** (St. Luke 4:8) Always remember that: **"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."** (1 John 4:4) Praise God!

How will you respond to today's message?

Prayer May your favor rest on me and please establish the work of my hands. I want to be obedient to your commands as Jesus was. Thank you that greater is the Holy Spirit who is in me than the devil who is in the world. In the matchless name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.
