



Sermon: Favour for New Life

Theme: Living in the favour of God (FOG)

Date: 5 September 2010 – Morning service

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Introduction

- Father God graciously offers us new life through Jesus Christ.
- What does this mean? And do we fully enjoy it?
- There is no doubt in my heart that the life He invites us to enjoy is a life lived in His favour!

Text: John 10:9-10 (NKJV)

'I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.'

Main points

1. The doorway to new life

- Jesus is the doorway to this life. This is what He says in John 10:9.
- What kind of life does He offer? It is life in quantity, in other words, eternal life. No more death but eternity spent with Him.
- He also offers quality of life. This is abundant life – lived in the fullness of His blessing and favour.
- The life Jesus offers, however, is not just a commodity. He **is** the sum total of this life. It is the Christ life.
- Jesus is the full expression of God's favour towards us.
- Christ makes the difference. When God looks at us, it is a look of love and not of wrath or anger.
- God's favour comes to us through and in Christ so that, in the words of Romans 6:4 (NIV), 'we too may live a new life.'
- Are you living in this new life or are you battling to salvage or fix the old? It's time for a new life!

2. The place where this new life starts

- The Bible says when you believe in Jesus Christ, you become a new person with a new life.

'What this means is that those who become Christians become **new persons**. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A **new life** has begun!' (Emphasis added)

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

- What I would like you to note is that this new life starts in a specific *place*. It does not start on the outside, but in the heart. The life that Christ offers us affects the heart first. That's where we become new people. This means doing life from the heart, from our connection with God.
- New life works itself from the inside out. Let's put our emphasis in the right place. I challenge you to check the condition of your heart. How much life do you have inside of you?
- Many people long for change and the *new* but are looking for it in the wrong places. They think if they could only find a new job or a new partner or a new home or a new country or a new thrill, they would have a new life. Unfortunately it does not work that way. God's order is *new heart – new person – new life!* Only Christ can do this.
- However, it is not only about receiving new life and eternal life. It is particularly expressed in the favour of God!
- When Jesus gives you new life, it opens the door for you to live in the fullness of God's favour. This favour affects your heart first of all.

3. Favour affects the heart first

- Your heart is the treasure house of your life. To this treasure house God brings His true spiritual riches. That's where He deposits His favour.
- First of all favour does not come in the form of things that we can see. The true riches of His favour are things unseen. These things circumstances cannot cancel and man cannot take away from us.
- Favour does not start with the blessings we receive on material level. It starts in the heart. My quality of life is determined by the condition of my heart and I am glad to say my heart has been affected by Jesus and His favour.
- The affect of His favour often manifests in contradicting ways. His favour makes it possible to experience His love in the midst of rejection and hatred; His peace in the midst of turmoil; His joy when happiness fails and power when we are weak. That's what His favour does!
- Our position in Christ means that we have favour with God and access into His presence. The greatest joy in my life is that I can enjoy my Father's presence and have fellowship with Him.
- I know God's favour is on my life because I experience His love, His peace and His deep joy that makes my heart sing! When I have communion with Him, experience the power of His Spirit flowing through me and hear His wonderful voice, I know I'm living in His favour! These are matters of the *heart* that really carry value in life. No amount of money can buy these. They are results of God's new life and favour. Learn to savour these things that the heart feasts on!
- Christ gives us a new life – a life of favour untold as we enter through Him as the door into God's presence. In His presence we taste real pleasure:

'You will show me the path of **life**;

In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.'
(Emphasis added)

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

- Are you experiencing His favour in this way?

Conclusion

- Just as we have entered into a new season in the natural, God is also inviting you to celebrate a new season of life and favour through Jesus Christ!
- If you have never stepped into this new life, God's invitation through Jesus Christ is for you! Accept His invitation today – start a new life!
- If you are a Christian, I want to ask you, 'How fresh is your new life?' Has it become a bit like old bread? Many precious Christians have not yet stepped into the fullness of His favour and are living in the desert. It is time for a new season. Believe His favour is also for your life and step into it with thanksgiving!
- Feast on His love; let His peace fill you; drink from His fountain of joy and embrace His presence.
- His new life never grows old – it is fresh every day. His favour adds quality of life inside, no matter what the circumstances around us say.

'For His anger is but for a moment, but His favor is for a lifetime or **in His favor is life**. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.' (Emphasis added)

Psalm 30:5 (AMP)