

Understanding The Favor of God Part 1!

KJV Psalm 30:5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

The word **anger** here means “*the flaring of the nostrils in displeasure.*”

Anger affects the head and heart, causing a tightness in the chest and heavy breathing, that shows up in the face and nostrils.

Sin is missing the mark of righteousness God established in His Word angers God, especially when the people should know better.

The giving of sacrifices (in the OT appeased God’s anger) **they gave off a sweet-smelling savor that soothes God’s anger!**

KJV Genesis 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done.

Our actions and behavior effects the atmosphere (the air around us) **and creates a supernatural aroma in the spirit realm—either foul or sweet.**

- Our actions create an aroma that either **smells bad** and **angers God** and releases His wrath or **smells good**, like sacrifices and **pleases God** and releases His **FAVOR!**

This is also why worship is crucial, it changes the atmosphere and releases an aroma that pleases God, then He releases Favor!

Nothing changes attitudes and atmospheres like the worship of prayer, praise and giving!

We shouldn’t relegate praise to hyping people up, no we to understand when done properly it can release the favor of God into the atmosphere.

If we fail to enter His gates with thanksgiving and go into His courts without praise, we risk giving the impression that God pleasing us is more important than us pleasing God!

- **Favor** is when God delights in us, when His pleasure in us manifests in tangle ways e.g. blessings!

Exo 29:18 "And you shall offer up in smoke the whole ram on the altar; it is a burnt offering to the LORD: it is a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

The priests offering sacrifices appeased God's anger over sin and allowed God's favor to remain upon His people!

Sacrifices are "**sweet smelling savor or soothing aromas**" to God!

- **Favor has many forms and manifests in different ways:**

In the Old Testament God showed His people favor by sending the rains, the former and latter rains to increase their harvests.

Rain gives water, water is essential for life on earth, everything benefits from water. Rain causes growth of every living thing, producing **increase** in every area of existence.

ESV Zechariah 10:1 Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain, from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field.

This spring we have gotten more rain than needed, what we need to pray for is **spiritual rain, and outpouring of The Holy Spirit on earth!**

Rain

When God's people came from Egypt Moses tells them what the favor of God looks like by the type of land God Promises.

ESV Deuteronomy 11:10 For the land that you are entering to take possession of it is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated it, like a garden of vegetables. **11** But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that **drinks rain from heaven**.

What made The Promised Land so promising, is that God would give it **Rain from heaven!** No other land would receive the **consistent rain of heaven!**

- **Just as rain is a sign of God's favor, the lack of rain was a sign of God's anger!**

Deuteronomy 11:16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

17 then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and **he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield**

no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you.

Jeremiah 3:2b ... “You have defiled the land with your prostitution and wickedness.

3 *Therefore the showers have been withheld, and no spring rains have fallen. Yet you have the brazen look of a prostitute; you refuse to blush with shame.”*

- Open unrepentant sin withholds the rains and the favor of God!

ESV 2 Chronicles 7:13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,

14 *if my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

But humility, sincerity and prayerful repentant hearts get God’s attention because their prayers become a sweet-smelling savor in His nostrils.

ESV Isaiah 55:6 "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

7 *let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

8 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.*

When God says our ways are not His ways, this is a direct correlation to **Matt 6:33** “seek ye first The Kingdom of God and His rightoueness (or His right way of living) and all the **things** the Gentiles seek will automatically be given to us!”

We lack the things we need because we lack The Favor of God, we lack the Favor of God because we don’t seek to please Him above all else!

In **Matt 15** a Canaanite women comes to Jesus begging for mercy because her daughter was seriously tormented by a demon.

Jesus ignores her and the disciples try to send her away, then Jesus said, “**I am sent only to the lost sheep of Israel!**”

Then she comes worshipping, saying Lord Help me!

She offers up a **sweet-smelling savor**, her worship touches the heart of Christ!

Jesus tells her *“It’s not right that I should give a non-covenant person what I came to give to my covenant people.”*

I shouldn’t do **favours** for people I didn’t come to **favor!**

The women said, *“true that, but even dogs get favor from being close to their masters.”*

Jesus answered her and said... *“O woman great is your faith, what you wanted will be done for you!”* At that moment her daughter was healed!
At that moment the rain of heaven was falling on her daughter!
