

# God's Favor: Given, Not Earned

*Somer Phoebus*

**All quotes are from Somer Phoebus unless otherwise noted.**

God's favor precedes our faithfulness.

Mary was more than likely 12-15, and we often bump her age up because her being so young makes us uncomfortable.

Mary was a poor girl in her early teens.

Being given favor means to be given grace. So often, though, when we think of being favored, we think of having material things.

Favor is grace.

Mary had favor with God before she was given an assignment and before she responded.

We serve God from a place of being favored, not from a place of earning favor.

A pair of turtledoves was accepted as a sacrifice only for the poorest families. After she gave birth to Jesus, her family still qualified for the "poor people" sacrifice.

God's favor in our lives is visible in a way that glorifies God, not us.

Don't define favor by the way the world defines it. Favor is God. PERIOD.

God's call on our lives is weighty, and that's how it should be. We should take our steps of obedience seriously as we realize we are serving Almighty God. It's a good weighty, but it's weighty. And if it's not weighty, it might not be from the Lord.

When you feel uncomfortable, unequipped, the presence of God is enough is to move forward. We don't need more talent, more money, more team members, a bigger platform, or anything else. If we have the presence of God, we have enough.

Our failures don't mitigate our favor.

We need to both rest in and wrestle with the fact that we don't earn God's favor.

Bottom line: It's okay to be fearful as long as your faithful. - Kent Phoebus

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Having fear and choosing to move forward means you know Who is in charge.

Luke 1:31-33 is a huge theological revelation because it confirms all of the Old Testament prophecy is true.

Mary asked HOW. She didn't ask WHY.

Is there something I'm asking God WHY about when I need to be asking Him HOW?

How much more peace and guidance could we get from God if we started asking less "why" questions and more "how" questions.

We should ALL be praying, "God, overshadow me."

God immediately gave God someone to lean on and someone to confide in with her cousin, Elizabeth.

Don't walk through the assignments God gives you alone. Ask God for your Elizabeth.

"For nothing will be impossible with God." - Luke 1:37

Mary's response was BOLD. "Behold" means "Pay attention!"

It's not humble to be disobedient. When we deflect the assignments He gives us, we diminish His power in our lives.

Mary was the definition of "not ready" but she did it anyway.

If you have an issue with pride, then deal with it. But don't diminish God's power in your life by playing off disobedience as humility.

This isn't about your confidence in yourself, but your confidence in the One who has called you.

### Three Main Takeaways:

1) God's favor precedes our faithfulness.

2) God's favor is not EARNED. It is given.

3) God's favor is His grace and His presence which we ALL have been given.

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YOU ARE FAVORED.

If you want to be used by God, the only thing that matters is your faithfulness and your obedience. He loves you, He wants to use you, and you already have His favor.

Seek more urgency to do what God has called you to do. You can't wait for everything to be perfect.

God's work is not a start-up that we have to prepare for in a human way.