

DECREERING FAVOR | HARVESTING HOPE

The Power of a Resurrection Seed

Pastor Hutchins

COC

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I. IN CONCERT WITH OUR SISTER CHURCHES, WE HAVE EMBARKED UPON A 21 DAY FAST LEADING UP TO RESURRECTION SUNDAY —

- A. We are preparing ourselves for what we believe **God** wills to do among us —
- B. We believe this is the hour **He** is giving **His Church** new levels of Authority in the gospel works of salvation & in the exercise of dominion —
- C. The Scripture tells us, **"Open your mouth with a mighty decree; I will fulfill it now, you'll see! The words that you speak, so shall it be!"** Psa. 81:10 TPT
- D. A time of fasting & prayer is intended to be dedicated period of a time in which we interrupt our daily schedules & the routines of life to seek the face of God —

E. I'm challenging you to set yourself apart from this date forward to ***Resurrection Sunday***.

1. I join my faith with yours & I declare that the ***Lord's storehouse*** of supernatural favor is opened to you now.

2. I want you to be ready to receive everything God has for you — Receive it NOW!

II. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HEAR THAT YOU HAVE FAVOR WITH GOD?

A. Many people read the Bible, and many people are convinced that the Bible is true.

1. And yet, they are reluctant to become a fully invested follower of ***Jesus Christ*** —

B. Some people don't follow ***Jesus*** because they believe their life will be dull & boring; that they must give up all enjoyment of life —

C. However, the exact opposite is true — when we become ***fully invested followers*** of ***Jesus Christ***, we find something better than *happiness* —

D. We find **Joy!**

E. It is true, we all want to live happy lives.

1. *'Happiness,'* wrote Aristotle, *'is the meaning and purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.'*

F. But the truth is, there is something even better, greater & deeper than *happiness* —

1. *Happiness* is dependent on what *happens* — our circumstances.

G. **Joy** is far deeper & is not so dependent on our outward circumstances.

1. **Joy** is a blessing from **God**.
2. **Joy** is the characteristic of an encounter with **Jesus** even in **His** mother's womb (Luke 1:44).

H. In **Luke 1**, we read of the account of **Luke** to **Theophilus** —

1. And in it, we are introduced to a Greek word that we translate **'blessed.'**
 - a. It means to be *the privileged recipient of God's favor, & to be fortunate & happy because of it.*

I. The Amplified Bible describes "**blessed**" as being **'happy, to be envied, & spiritually prosperous – with life-joy & satisfaction in God's favor & salvation, regardless of their outward conditions.'** Matt. 5:3, AMP

J. In Psalm 34, we read a *Psalm of David* in which he declares, "1 ***I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*** 2 ***My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: The humble shall hear thereof, & be glad.*** 3 ***O magnify the LORD with me, & let us exalt His Name together.*** 4 ***I sought the LORD, & He heard me, & delivered me from all my fears.*** 5 ***They looked unto Him & were lightened: And their faces were not ashamed.*** 6 ***This poor man cried, & the LORD heard him, & saved him out of all his troubles.*** 7 ***The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, & delivereth them.*** 8 ***O taste & see that the LORD is good: Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*** 9 ***O fear the LORD, ye His saints: For there is no***

want to them that fear Him. 10 *The young lions do lack & suffer hunger: But they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.*

Psa. 34:1-10

- K. Have you ever traveled to a *new* destination?
1. If you have, then you can relate to the reality that sometimes, in those *far-away places*, you are introduced to strange cuisines made with unique foods —
 2. In fact, oftentimes, the adventure of the travel is in the culinary surprises you *taste & see* —
 - a. To experience **food** you've never *tasted* before or to *see* the **fare** you've never seen before —
 - b. There is only one way to find out – there is only way to *experience* it — *'taste and see.'*

L. *David* says, *'Taste & see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him'*

Psa. 34:8

M. This is what we are designed to experience when we began to follow **Jesus**.

1. Once we experience **His goodness**, once we **"taste and see"** — our desire is to get that message out to as many people as we can, & say to them, **'Join us in spreading the news; together let's get the word out'** (v.3, MSG).

N. Like *David*, we are to continually praise **God** for all the favor our relationship with **Him** has brought to your life.

1. We praise **God** **'at all times'** (v.1) not just when things are going well, or it is convenient to do so, but **"I bless God every chance I get; my lungs expand with His praise. I live & breathe God; if things aren't going well, hear this & be happy."** Psa. 34:1–2, MSG

O. There are four things we can praise **God** for:

1. #1: **Answered Prayer** ———

a. *David* writes, **"I sought the Lord, & He answered me"** (v.4a). **God** helped him in times of trouble, **"When I was desperate, I called out, & God got me out of a tight spot."** Psa. 34:6 MSG

2. #2: **Freedom From Fear** ———

- a. *David* continues by explaining exactly how **God** had answered his prayers in this instance: **"He delivered me from all my fears"** Psa. 34:4b
- b. Those who fear **God** are delivered from all their fears. **'Fear [of] the Lord'** (Psa. 34:9a) is the equivalent of **'seeking the Lord'**
- c. There is a vivid comparison between vs. 9 & vs. 10 —
 - i. **"those who fear Him lack nothing"**^{vs.9} with **"those who seek the Lord lack no good thing"**^{vs.10}
- d. Notice now, *David* does not say we will lack nothing, but he does say, **"Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing"**^{vs.10b}
 - i. Or as The Message puts it, **'Worship opens doors to all His goodness'** Psa. 34:9b MSG

3. #3: **Radiant Faces** ———

- a. One of the things people notice, long before they are moved by your words, they are

touched by the radiant expression on our faces —

b. As a Christian, our demeanor speaks before a syllable is formed or a sound is made —

As Christians, we are to be **God's** shining example to the world — to be ***"Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame."*** Psa. 34:5

4. #4: **Angelic Protection** ———

a. ***"God's angel sets up a circle of protection around us while we pray"*** Psa. 34:7 MSG

b. It's amazing to think that as we pray & worship **God**, we experience Angelic protection.

c. This is why **C. S. Lewis** wrote vociferously, *"All enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise,"* ... *"all delight is incomplete till it is expressed."*

Let us be mindful to always give God praise with Thanksgiving for His PRESENCE & His FAVOR!