

An owl with large yellow eyes and brown and grey feathers is perched on a thick, mossy tree branch. The background is a soft-focus green forest. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

In Search of

Wisdom & Favor

Luke 2:51-52 KJV

And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. [52] And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

The Search for Wisdom

We should always ask ourselves if we are growing in Godly wisdom, or are we repeating the same mistakes over and over. Are we learning?

1. We acquire wisdom by seeking it. God is willing to give us wisdom and help us understand it, but we must be willing to seek it out truthfully.
2. We acquire wisdom by meditating on God's word. God is the source of all understanding. His word was given to us, for us.
3. We acquire wisdom by praying for it. God gives us generously when we ask Him. He wants us to know Him and understand Him. We pray for God to give us the right wisdom in the right situation.
4. We acquire wisdom by observing how God works in the world. We use God's creation for inventions, medicine, construction, etc.. We also observe God's work in the animal kingdom and in our own lives.
5. We become wise by heeding God's counsel. A fool says there is no God and leans on his own understanding. Listen to counsel and accept discipline.
6. We acquire wisdom by associating with other wise people. The blind lead the blind and both fall into the ditch. Fools suffer, wisdom creates happy countenance.
7. We acquire wisdom as a gift of God. God will bless those who are wise, fools are cursed.

Proverbs 2:1-7 KJV

[1] My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; [2] So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; [3] Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; [4] If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; [5] Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. [6] For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. [7] He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Wisdom is a Lifetime Pursuit

The question was raised, how does Jesus need to grow in wisdom if he was God? There was never a time that Jesus was not God in flesh but Jesus yielded certain attributes of deity and took on the role of man so that He could relate to us first hand. He accepted certain human limitations. He was present when the word of God was written but in his humility, he listened to men teach him and also taught the same men back.

Some of the Ways Jesus Grew in Wisdom:

1. God situated Jesus into a family circumstance.
Jesus obeyed his earthly father as he grew up even though his real father was God. He subjected himself to human beings even though he ruled over them.
2. Jesus taught us place our focus on God first and let God take care of everything else.
3. Jesus was frugal, not squandering what God had provided for him.
4. Jesus hand picked his twelve closest friends.
He chose the people God wanted him to chose including Judas and Thomas.

1 Corinthians 1:24-30 KJV

[24] But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. [25] Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. [26] For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called : [27] But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; [28] And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: [29] That no flesh should glory in his presence. [30] But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Matthew 13:54 KJV

And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

Revelation 5:12 KJV

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Favor is God's blessing in our lives.

It's wiser to seek God's favor on our life over our fellow man but too many seek approval from their peers and ignore seeking God's favor. God is well pleased with Jesus, therefore when Jesus comes into our life, and washes away our sins, we take on all the favor that God bestowed upon him. This is called grace, God's blessing even though we don't deserve it through our own actions.

Luke 2:14 KJV

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

This verse means that with salvation, peace rests on our shoulders and the favor that comes from God.

Psalm 5:12 KJV

For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

Psalm 90:17 KJV

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Jesus grew in favor with God - even though Jesus was God. He limited himself when he became a man so that he would grow in both wisdom and favor with God. It seems odd that Jesus, being God, needed to seek favor from himself. But Jesus became man in all physical aspects so that man could relate to him.

Every person who is saved has found favor with God but that doesn't mean every saved person is walking in favor with God.

1. God determines the degree of favor he bestows.
2. Not everyone will rejoice over divine favor.

We shouldn't let people rob us of our blessings by making us feel guilty, if someone feels jealous or tries to make us feel unworthy or imply that we've obtained our gifts underhandedly. Their opinion is wrong and it's between God and them to deal with.

3. A favored life brings blessings to others.
4. Give God all the glory for the favor you experience.

Examples of Favor in Scripture.

Genesis 39:4 KJV

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

Exodus 12:36 KJV

And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

Esther 5:2 KJV

And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

Daniel 1:9 KJV

Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

God will use people with resources and influence that you do not have to get you to the places he intends for you to go. He uses many people to help, so many can share in the blessing.

Requirements for Finding Favor with God:

1. Humility
2. Faith
3. Obedience

Requirements for Finding Favor with People:

1. Kindness
2. Sacrifice
3. Service

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 KJV

[11] Thine, O Lord , is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine ; thine is the kingdom, O Lord , and thou art exalted as head above all. [12] Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

God placed our judgement on Jesus at the cross so he could give us Jesus's favor and blessing.