

# SERMON NOTES

July 1 & 2, 2023

## I Have Questions: Does God Favor America?

Psalm 90:17

1. If you want God's favor, \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Signs of living in God's Favor (Fruits of the Spirit)

Galatians 5:22-23

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

3. Shifting to a Freedom Mindset:

If you...	Then...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• think nothing's ever going to change</li><li>• are giving others power to make your decisions for you</li><li>• are leaving life to chance</li><li>• focus on all that you don't have</li><li>• waffle/sit on the fence about things</li><li>• sit on the sideline</li><li>• are critical of others</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____ with hope and expectation</li><li>• exercise _____ and own your decisions</li><li>• remember your _____ will determine your future</li><li>• recognize god's _____ and live in _____</li><li>• get off the fence &amp; _____ (start small if you need to)</li><li>• get in the game _____</li><li>• remove your _____ first</li></ul>

# Life Steps

**I Have Questions:** Does God Favor America? | July 1 & 2, 2023

## Monday

**Matthew 5:14-16**

**Reflect:** God created each of us to be in a relationship—a relationship with God and with each other. When we disconnect, isolate, and disassociate from others, we essentially cut off the means to give and receive the love of God with one another. What do you need, in order, to restore strained or broken relationships that can be fixed? What will you do today or this week to show love to someone who needs that from you?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, you call me to love others the way Jesus did, but sometimes it's hard. Give me the courage and the peace I need to show love even when I don't feel loved. And help me to remember that in those times I don't feel love, that you love me always, even when I don't deserve it. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness, Lord. Help me to love and forgive the way you do. Amen.

## Tuesday

**Galatians 5:13**

**Reflect:** God has created us with free will, that is, we have the freedom to choose what we do and don't do in this life we've been given. In choice, we have power. In what ways do you feel stuck in your life? How have the choices you've made over the years led you to your current situation? What choices can you make today that will affect your life years from now? Choose wisely.

**Prayer:** Lord, reveal to me the vision you have for my life. Help me to be clear about the choices I make today—that they will honor you, serve others, and create a life that favors you, now and in the years to come. Thank you for the gift of freedom. Amen.

## Wednesday

**Psalms 90:17**

**Reflect:** Another translation of the word for "favor" in this passage is "beauty." What would it look like if the "favor of the Lord" rested on you for the purpose of establishing your work? How would your world look if everything you had a hand in reflected God's beauty?

**Prayer:** God, may your favor rest upon me. Establish the work of my hands. May all I do be to your glory. Make me an instrument of your peace and a channel of your love and your grace. Use me as you will in everything I do. Amen.

## Thursday

**Matthew 6:25-34**

**Reflect:** What do you want? What do you need? Do you want what you need or have you grown to need what you want? What do you think Jesus offers us when he tells us to "seek first the Kingdom of God?" Do you view your own worth in the way that God does?

**Prayer:** Lord, when I find myself falling into the trap of wanting more, more, more... center me and help me to let go of my wants, my appetites, my need to control, and my measure of others through a material lens. You are enough for me. Give us this day our daily bread. Amen.

## Friday

**Luke 17:20-21**

**Reflect:** How does your life reflect the quality of the Kingdom of God that is within you? What does it mean to be a citizen of both the United States and the Kingdom of God? Can you have "dual citizenship?" How does being a Jesus follower influence the way you serve your country?

**Prayer:** God, guide me and work through me, wherever I am in the world, and keep me ever-aware that I belong to you and your kingdom and that you are with me always. Amen.

## Saturday

**Genesis 1:26-27**

**Reflect:** What does it mean to be created in the image of God? As a child might favor a parent, how are you reflecting the loving nature of God? What changes would you like to move closer to the person God has fashioned you to become?

**Prayer:** Lord, I am a work in progress. Please don't give up on me. Help me to grow in your grace, so that I might be the person you've made me to be—loving in your image. Amen.

## Sunday

**Galatians 5:22-23a**

**Reflect:** Take time for self-examination. Over the last 24 hours, how many of these "fruits of the spirit" have you exhibited? Ask someone who you spend time with to share their observations as well. What are you showing most? What do you need to work on?

**Prayer:** God, my actions reflect my faith. Forgive me where I've stumbled and fallen short, and help me to grow in each of these "fruits of the spirit" so that I might be authentic in my spiritual walk with you and with others. Amen.