

SEP
27

September 27, 2026

Pastor Stephen Bryant

Walking in the Favor of God

The Blessing & The Reward

TEXT Psalm 5:1-12

ASK Am I asking God to bless my plans, or asking Him to let me join what He is already doing?

✧ We don't serve God to be blessed; we're blessed because we serve God, and His greatest favor is often the privilege of being part of what He is doing.

1

We Don't Serve God to Be Blessed

Serving God to get something turns worship into a transaction, as if obedience were deposits in a spiritual investment account. We follow Jesus because He is Lord. If He never gave us another material thing, He would still be worthy.

Matthew 6:33,
ESV



But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

1 Timothy 6:6,
ESV



But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Psalm 5:11, ESV



But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them.



REMEMBER

There is a wonderful difference between chasing God's blessing and discovering His blessing while you are chasing God.

2

Maybe We've Defined Favor Too Small

In Psalm 5:12 the word for cover (atar) carries the sense of surrounding or crowning, and favor (ratson) means goodwill and acceptance. Favor begins with relationship, not circumstances. It is not merely handed to you; David pictures it surrounding you.

Psalm 5:12,
ESV



For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

James 1:17,
ESV



Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.



REMEMBER

The greatest thing about God's favor is not what comes from His hand. It is the relationship we have with Him.

3

A Shield Means There Is a Battle

Tsinnah is the large shield, the kind that covers the whole body. Notice what David does not say: that nothing difficult will ever reach you. You only need a shield because there is a fight. This is not a trouble-free life; it is a life lived under God's protection while moving through a world where trouble exists.

Ephesians 6:16,
ESV



In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

John 16:33,
ESV



In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.



REMEMBER

A shield doesn't mean there is no battle. It means you are covered in the middle of one.

4

Stop Asking God to Join Your Story

"God, bless what I'm doing" is not a bad prayer, but there is a deeper one: "God, help me do what You are blessing." One begins with my plans and asks God to join them. The other begins with God and asks Him to let me join what He is already doing.

Psalm 5:8, ESV 

Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness; make your way straight before me.

Proverbs 16:9, ESV 

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Proverbs 3:5–6, ESV 

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.



REMEMBER

We see today's step. God sees the whole road.

5

There Are Things God Has Already Prepared for You

Paul doesn't describe us frantically inventing a meaningful life. He describes works God prepared beforehand and says we should walk in them. My job isn't to force every door open or manufacture significance. It is to walk with Him, obey what He puts in front of me, and trust Him with where the steps lead.

Ephesians 2:10, ESV 

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Psalm 37:23, ESV 

The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way.

Philippians 1:6, ESV 

He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



REMEMBER

Very often God does not show us the whole story. He shows us the next step.

You Don't Know How Far Your Yes Will Travel

We measure significance by what we can see immediately. God is not limited to the immediate. He can take something small, weave it into someone else's story, and produce fruit we may never see this side of eternity. Some of the greatest blessings are not things we possess but things we were allowed to be part of.

1 Corinthians
3:6–7, ESV



I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

Galatians 6:9,
ESV



And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Acts 20:35,
ESV



It is more blessed to give than to receive.



REMEMBER

Obedience is never wasted in the hands of God.

The Response

Maybe today the prayer isn't, "God, how are You going to bless me?" Maybe it is simply, "God, where are You going? I want to walk with You."

- ✓ Trade "God, bless what I'm doing" for "God, help me do what You are blessing."
- ✓ Take the next step of obedience already in front of you, even if it looks ordinary.
- ✓ Stop measuring blessing by what ends up in your hands.
- ✓ Say yes without needing to see how far it will travel.

"For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield." — Psalm 5:12, ESV

Father, I don't want to talk You into a better life. I want the life that is surrendered to You. Lead me, and let me walk in what You have already prepared. In Jesus' name, amen.