

## Basis of Favor

### I. Opportunities to Shine

#### A. Some Dreams Stir Up Trouble (Creative Chaos)

Gen 37:3 Now **Israel loved Joseph more...** 4 But .. his brothers, they **hated him ...** 5 Now Joseph **had a dream**, and when he told it to his brothers they **hated him even more.**

18 They **saw him ...** 19 They said ..., "**Here comes this dreamer.** 20 Come now, let us **kill him ...**"

24 And they ... **threw him into a pit.** The pit was empty; there was **no water** in it. 25 Then they **sat down to eat.** And **looking up they saw a caravan** of **Ishmaelites** 28 And they drew Joseph up ..., and **sold him ...** They took Joseph to Egypt.

#### B. Overcoming Slave Attitudes - order to chaos light in the darkness

Gen 39:1 Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an **officer** of Pharaoh, the **captain** of the guard, **an Egyptian**, had **bought him ...**

2 **The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man,** [slides 2&3] and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 [slides 4&5] **His master saw** that **the LORD was with him** and that **the LORD caused all that he did to succeed...** 4 So **Joseph found favor in his sight** and ... **he made him overseer of his house** and **put him in charge of all that he had.** 5 From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, **the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD** was on **all** that he had, in house and field.

**CHAOS to ORDER!**

#### C. Promotion Patterns - for you down is the doorway to UP

20 And Joseph's master took him and put him **into the prison**, the place **where the king's prisoners were confined**, and he was there in prison. 21 But **the LORD was with Joseph** and showed him steadfast love and **gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.** 22 And the keeper of the prison **put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners ...** 23 **The keeper** of the prison **paid no attention** to anything that was in Joseph's charge, **because ... whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.**

*This pattern will repeat itself on a global stage...*

Gen 41:41 **ESV** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, **I have set you over all the land of Egypt.**" 42 Then Pharaoh took his **signet ring** (royal seal) from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and **clothed him in** garments of **fine linen** (rank) and put a **gold chain** about his neck. 43 And he made him ride in his **second chariot.** And they called out before him, "**Bow the knee!**" Thus he set him **over all the land** of Egypt. ... 45 Pharaoh called Joseph's name **Zaphenath-paneah.**<sup>1</sup> [slide 6]

*His brothers only betrayed him into his destiny!*

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<sup>1</sup> *revealer of hidden things; creator/sustainer of life; God speaks, he lives*

## II. Foundation for Favor - shining in the darkness

### A. Faith in God's Goodness and Openness to You

Jer 29:11 NIV For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

### B. Faith that Jesus Has the Power and Makes the Promises!

2 Pet 1:3 NIV His **divine power** **has given us everything we need** for **life** and **godliness** through our **knowledge of him** who **called us** by<sup>2</sup> **his own** glory and goodness<sup>3</sup>. **4** Through these **he has given us his very great<sup>4</sup> and precious promises**, so that **through them** you may **participate in the divine nature** and **escape** the **corruption** in the world caused by evil desires.

*"may become partakers of" – not "if," it is an INVITATION*

His **Divine Power** has given us everything we need to live a godly life!

His Glory and Goodness have given us his **VERY GREAT** and **PRECIOUS PROMISES**

*Through them you have **invitation** to **become** full partners in the divine nature*

*Through them we are set free to **RUN AWAY (ESCAPE)** from the corruption all around us.*

### C. Living Faith that Manifests in our Response

2 Pet 1:5 NIV For this very reason, **make every effort** to add to your faith goodness (virtue) ; and to goodness, knowledge; **6** self-control, perseverance, godliness, **7** brotherly kindness, and love.

*We respond by making every effort to steward and increase the potential fruitfulness in our lives!*

### D. Faith in the Authority of God's Word in Your Life

2 Pet 1:16 For **we did not follow cleverly devised myths** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **we were eyewitnesses of his majesty**. [slide 7] **17** For when **he received honor and glory from God the Father**, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," **18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven**, [slide 8] for **we were with him** on the holy mountain.

**19** And **we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed**, [slide 9] to which **you will do well to pay attention** as to **a lamp shining in a dark place**, [slide 10] until the **day dawns** and the **morning star rises in your hearts**, **20 knowing this first of all**, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

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<sup>2</sup> or *to*

<sup>3</sup> Gk. areté - virtue, moral excellence, perfect balance

<sup>4</sup> Gk - remarkably out of the ordinary, extremely important

## II. The Living Word Creates Favor out of Chaos

### A. Transformation Through the Word

Ps 119:9 NKJ How can a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed according to Your word.

*Continual awareness and assessment of our WAY*

### B. Positive Feedback Loop

10 With my **whole heart** I have **sought You**;  
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

*When we find Him, we find He's the One seeking us*

11 Your **word** I have **hidden in my heart**, <memorize>  
That I might not sin against You. <meditate, ponder>

Luke 2:19 But Mary **treasured** up all these **things** (rhema), **pondering** them <putting together the puzzles> **in her heart.** v. 51

## III. Light in the Chaos of Relationships

Chaos in Culture, chaos is darkness -

Orwell - 1984, *pain, propaganda, brainwashing* (1949)

Huxley - BNW *pleasure, too much info. passive, trivial* (1932)

**A. Our light is LOVE - Love one another, our neighbor, our enemy. Our motive is to make bring joy to the nations.**

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, **that my joy may be in you**, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you **love one another** as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

**B. Favor Frees of from Complaining and Arguing**

## IV. Light in the Chaos Releases the Blessing

[slide 11]

Gal 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "**In you shall all the nations be blessed.**"

**"Peace to you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. Go disciple the nations. I am with you always!"**

**In all things we SERVE, and willingly give our lives as a ransom for many – Knowing the Lord is with US and plans for our success!**

Heb 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and **be content** with what you have, for **he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** 6 So we can confidently say,  
**“The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?”**

There are NO LIMITS on the effects of even a SMALL CHANGE in our thinking and behavior. What we contribute to life today can fill eternity.