

You Who Are Highly Favored

*"The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are **highly favored!** The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus"" (Luke 1:28-31).*

Can you just imagine how Mary felt as she heard this? The angel tells her that she is highly favored! The Lord is with her and she is highly favored! And, as if that isn't enough, God has chosen to take up residence in her womb for the next nine months or so in the form of Jesus, Immanuel (God with us). Can you imagine how she must have felt in light of this news? She is troubled and bewildered at first, but as you read on in the text, the angel lets her in on a little secret. *"Nothing is impossible with God"* Luke 1:37. What does Mary say in response? *"Let it be to me as you say"* Luke 1:38.

Perhaps we can relate to Mary a bit more than we think. We have received the same message, or at least it's very similar. The term "highly favored" is derived from the Greek word *charitoo*, (khar-ee-to'-o), which means to grace, i.e. imbue with special honor, make accepted, be highly favored. Mary was graced by the presence of the Lord. She was imbued (or saturated) with special honor. She was made accepted or highly favored. How did all this come about? Who was behind all this? It was God's decision and God's doing, the God who makes all things possible.

Not only did He grace Mary with His presence, He has graced you and me in the same way. In Ephesians chapter one and verse six, the same Greek word that was used to describe Mary as highly favored is used to describe us! God has graced us with His presence and saturated us with special honor by making His home in us. He has made us accepted and highly favored through Jesus Christ and the cross of Calvary. You may not always feel that way, but it is true, nonetheless. You may not feel worthy and the idea that God accepts you just as you are may be troubling at times, but again, it is true. Whether or not you accept yourself the way you are does not change the fact that God does. The very fact that He loves us as we are, is the compelling reason to love Him in return and to want to become more like Him.

Do you have someone in your life that thinks more highly of you than you do at times? How good is it to be accepted? What does that do for your confidence? What does that do to your self-esteem? How does that make you feel? I have people in my life that think so highly of me—more highly than I deserve. They see more in me than I see in me. They look at me and seem to think that I can do anything I put my mind to, and amazingly enough, it rubs off. I feel more confident when I am with them and I do better at whatever I try to do. Something about their confidence in me—their acceptance of me motivates me and spurs me on to higher ground. It helps me to overcome my fear of failure or rejection and do what I've been called to do. How much more so the fact that my heavenly Father accepts me and loves me just as I am. Those are not just beautiful lyrics that we sing—they are the truth! You who are highly favored can say, "Amen!"

In His grace and mercy,
 Roger Wine

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist

Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist

Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Minister

Charlie Gomez

Youth Minister

Roger Wine

Marriage Counselors

Derek Peterson

Fred Brown

Women's Counselors

Cindy Camberis

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Carolyn Shlesinger

Jacqueline Green

Sue Wine

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“Let your Light so shine...”

Matthew 5:16

BE IMITATORS OF GOD

Before He ascended, Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Following baptism, the disciples were then instructed to teach the younger disciples to walk in a manner that is pleasing to God (Matthew 28:20). The goal of Matthew 28:20 is for all of Christ’s disciples to become imitators of God. Jesus said *“a disciple is not above his teacher...It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher...”* (Matthew 10:24-25 NKJV). Therefore, through the ministry of discipleship, we learn to become more like our Teacher, Jesus Christ. He is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). And by imitating Him, we become imitators of God, the Father. Many will ask: “How can I become an imitator of God? I am too weak!” Well, thank God for His Spirit and the assurance we get from His Word. Through Christ, we can do all things (Philippians 4:13)! And by the Spirit’s power, we can mortify the deeds of the flesh (Romans 8:13)! The Bible goes on to say that His Spirit helps us in our weaknesses (Romans 8:26a)! And the Word of God says that God will meet all of our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)! For it is God who is at work in us (Philippians 2:13)! Amen and Amen! Thank God – He provides all the power for us to become imitators of God! For this reason, we must trust in Him. We must allow the Spirit to do His work in us. We must submit ourselves to the goodness of God that is found in wise counsel and through the Holy Scriptures (Proverbs 12:15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Who is wise? He that hears the Word of God and applies it (Matthew 7:24-25). Who is the one who desires to imitate God? He who makes every effort to be where God’s Word is taught and where wise counsel is being given. Let us take advantage of what the Kingdom has to offer. Make every Wednesday Night Bible class. Come to each Friday Devotional. Make your mentorship meetings. Pray often to God. Read His Word daily as the Bereans did (Acts 17:11). Share your faith with others. Tell others how God has blessed you and how He continues to bless you. Practice hospitality. And show equal concern and love for all people. And you will be an imitator of God! Let His people say: AMEN!

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children” (Ephesians 5:1)

Your fellow Kingdom saint,

Bob Carr

“The Lord added to their number...”

Acts 2:47

Baptisms

DATE	NAME	TOWN
02/24/03	Kendra Ellis	Far Rockaway
03/04/03	Sigmund Burchette	Central Islip
03/13/03	Michelle Jackson	Mastic
03/16/03	Nadia Jenkins	Freeport

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...”

2 Corinthians 8:5

Weekly Budget: \$ 6,000		
DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
03/02/03	337	\$ 6,610
03/09/03	322	\$ 6,204
03/16/03	344	\$ 10,171
03/23/03	344	\$ 7,035
03/30/03	308	\$ 6,873

The Lord Will Be Your Confidence

By Tasha Jules

Our country is presently faced with many uncertainties. Our financial and physical security is constantly being threatened. It has been very difficult over the past couple of years. Praise God for the assurance of our salvation! But, do you still find yourself anxiously awaiting the next news report? Do you fret and worry about war or the next terror attack? Has it become difficult for you to continue with your daily routines and responsibilities? How can we stop living in fear?

As disciples, we must balance our emotions with wisdom that comes from the Lord. Of course, we are not called to be desensitized or unfeeling to the pain and fear found around us. How can we, when many of our own family members and friends are being called to war? We can, however, overcome doubts and fears by turning to God and to His Word for confidence.

“When I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God, whose Word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?” Psalm 56: 3-4.

The first step in overcoming fear? *We must trust in God’s sovereign power and the privilege we have in being His people.* When we esteem God as the supreme ruler of the universe that He is, how puny mortal man becomes.

Second, *we must believe what He says.* In Proverbs 3:25-26, our God reminds us to *“Have no fear of sudden disaster or the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.”* I am learning to battle my fear with the Truth of God’s Word. God has promised to keep my foot and your foot from being snared! A focus on God’s Word and the faithfulness of His promises will keep our light shining, no matter how difficult times get.

Throughout that chapter, God goes on to give us some practical applications of faithful living. I am learning to focus less on fear and more importantly on these things, putting the knowledge that I obtain from the Word of God into practice. In Proverbs 4:5-6, God shows us how easy it is to hold on to our confidence in Him. In simple terms, the Lord says, *“Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget My Words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her and she will watch over you.”* With wisdom, the application of knowledge, we have the third step in overcoming fear. *We must remember the Scriptures and put the knowledge we obtain from the Word of God into practice.*

The Scriptures encourage us through the words of the apostle Paul to *“not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* Philippians 4: 6-7. This is step four in the battle against fear, anxiety, and doubt. *We must be people of prayer!* Give those anxious thoughts to God and cast all your cares on Him.

Therefore, brethren, let us not look to the military or to our government for protection and comfort. Instead, let us look to God. Only through Him and the wisdom found in His divine Word, can we find true security and confidence. *“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God”* Psalm 20:7. May God bless you!!!

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night class on April 9th (Long Island) and April 23rd (City) 2003.
- 📖 **Reminder to all Ladies:** The 13th annual Women’s Day will be held on Saturday, April 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at The Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant, located at 1132 Hempstead Turnpike in Franklin Square. This year’s topic is “...train the younger women...” (Titus 2:3-5).
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 If you would like to send a Church bulletin or a Bible study to an interested relative/friend on a regular basis, please contact our brother Jack Peisel.
- 📖 All announcements and address/telephone changes should be submitted to Derek Peterson.

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✚ Good News Stand.....Sayville, New York
- ✚ Paolo Di Luca.....Italy
- ✚ Apologetics PressInternational
- ✚ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✚ Ron Clayton.....India

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, NY

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(646) 226-2361
Plattdeutsche Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Bob Danklefsen, and Joe Barker. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

2003	Location
April 4 - 6	Natchez, MS (Seminar only)
April 24 - May 4	Mt. Vernon, MO
May 16 - 18	Holland, MI (Seminar only)
May 23 - 25	Palmdale, CA (Seminar only)
June 19 - 29	Laurel, MD
July 24 - Aug 3	Houston, TX