

Dear and highly-valued Leaders

During the second term the Lord spoke a clear prophetic word to the elders about the favour of God (FOG). With this word came a clear directive that we were to make special space to wait on the Lord and seek His face. We consequently took some time to pray and wait on the Lord. The longer we did this, the more we became convinced that God has declared a peculiar favour upon us as His people for the season ahead.

In the coming weeks we are excited to journey with the Spirit of the Lord to discover more about the favour of God and the fullness of His purpose behind it.

You can either live in the favour of God (FOG) or in the smog of the enemy. Let us aim to be a people who are ***Living in the favour of God!***

How should we respond when God declares that He is releasing His favour on His children? I suggest that it should start with faith and thankfulness!

Faith and favour

Favour is an outflow of grace. It is God's unmerited goodwill extended to us because of Christ. By faith we lay hold of the salvation freely offered to us through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is not too difficult to receive His favour in the same way. Everything we need or receive from God comes by faith. People of faith lay hold of God's favour!

Let me draw your attention to the important partnership between faith and words – not just any words, but God's words. In Romans 10:8 the Apostle Paul refers to the 'word of faith' and in verse 17 explains that faith comes by hearing the word of God. In turn, His Word must find expression through our mouths for the power of faith to be released. The faith stirred in our hearts by God's Word is expressed through our mouths. So, when God speaks favour over our lives, we must believe it in our hearts and also confess it. You need to believe and say, 'I am favoured by God!'

I count myself privileged to be part of a faith community, defined by the fact that we put our faith in Jesus Christ and live by faith in Him! God's Word repeatedly says, '... the just shall live by faith ...' In this community we are serious about preaching the word of faith. It is our mission never to preach doubt or unbelief. We want people who come to our church gatherings to receive the truth of God's Word, so that their lives will be filled with faith and hope. More than ever before, we intend to preach the word of faith so that God's people may believe and live in His favour!

The difference between smog and fog

Smog is the result of pollution – dirty air caused by a mixture of smoke and fog. In the spiritual realm, the enemy of our souls will try to keep us under the smog of confusion, doubt, fear and unbelief in an attempt to 'suffocate' us. In contrast to this smog, I believe God wants us to live in His favour. Smog suffocates, while fog nourishes.

Thankfulness

It is no secret that God favours a thankful heart. In fact, He loves it! I am convinced that an attitude of gratitude increases the effect of the favour of God. Thankfulness towards God is a favour magnet!

The opposites of thankfulness – murmuring, complaining and dissatisfaction – bring us in direct conflict with God, as the Israelites learned on their journey through the desert. If you want to embrace God's favour, I encourage you to develop a culture of gratitude towards God. Make it part of your daily prayers to give thanks to Him for all things great and small – from your salvation to the smallest flower. You will find that it makes such a difference to the quality of your life, as it causes the FOG settle on you.

Do not allow 'smog' to divert you from daily giving thanks to God. Thankfulness, even in times of adversity, brings Him great joy and will cause His favour to break through for you! Thanksgiving in tough times is like a sweet smelling aroma to God.

The fog of His presence

Fog is usually found at high altitudes. I have often had the privilege of driving and hiking high into the beautiful mountains of South Africa. It always stirs in me a sense of God's presence and reminds me of the Psalmist's call to 'ascend to the hill of the Lord'. The thickest fog is found in His presence!

Let us make it our business to create more space for God's presence in our lives. There are a number of ways to do this. The first thing that comes to mind is becoming still so that He can hear when He speaks (Psalm 46:10). Obedience to His Word and His voice are further factors – every time we obey it creates space for Him to act!

We have access to His presence by the precious blood of Christ. Let's enjoy the great privilege of coming into His presence with liberty. Hold this as the most vital thing in life and you will certainly live in the FOG!

Favour and function

God's heart for His children is that we should live in His favour. The effect of this, however, stretches beyond our own lives. God's favour gives us a distinct testimony. It causes us to stand in contrast to the world and its ways and it points to the difference that His love and power make. It stirs the interest of people around us and gives us the opportunity for powerful witnessing.

I pray that all of us will increasingly live in the FOG. May His favour be so evident on you that it will grab the attention of those who cross your path!

I see the **FOG** rolling in – be ready for it ...



Francois van Niekerk



Dear Leader

Living in the favour of God is the theme for this term and we are looking forward, with expectation, to the Lord's guidance for our various journeys.

Yours in Christ,

The Pastoral Team

Important dates and events

Events

- Management day of planning – 20 July
- Strategic feedback session – 23 July
- Prayer meeting for business people – 25 July
- Prophetic development – 11 August
- Shepherds' breakfast – 14 August
- Young Adults camp – 20-22 August
- Lady Leaders' breakfast – 28 August
- Spring celebration – 3-5 September
- TCN Be my Guest programme – 6-9 September
- Coal Face awards evening – 10 September
- C4G camp – 11-12 September
- HCC staff meeting – 17 September
- Men's day out – 18 September

Special services

- Communion (morning services) – 18 July and 19 September
- Communion in life groups – 12 August
- Communion (evening service) – 15 August
- C4G Family Service – 22 August
- Baby dedication – 29 August

Training opportunities

- ALPHA Course – 21 July to 1 September
- ALPHA Holy Spirit day – 21 August
- Life group training – 24 and 31 July
- Life Training School (LTS) – 26 July to 20 August
- Prophetic Seminar – 14 August
- Life Changers Course/Discipleship Training – Information teas on Sunday 18 and 25 July.

The course runs from 27 July to 19 September.

