

its presence and impact. This reminds me of Paul's words in Acts 17 where he says: "in Him we live and move and have our being." This verse seems to be saying that we (believers and nonbelievers alike according to the context) literally cannot do anything apart from God's presence, that He is as essential to our living, doing and being as water is to our physical bodies. He's everywhere, a part of everything, and we can't live without Him. The beauty is that He transcends our awareness—He's alive and active whether we realize it or not. What a huge relief!

Here's a simple application: Ask God to remind you of His presence with you, in you and around you every time you come into contact with water (bathing, drinking, driving in rain, etc.).

# 2

Ask God for  
Favor.

## 2. Ask God for favor.

Noah and company must have had favor with all those animals in the ark or else the floating zoo would have gone berserk. Rachel found favor with Jacob's servant and ended up...married...fourteen years later. In his early life, Moses lived in Pharaoh's favor as a Prince of Egypt. Baby Jesus lived in Mary and Joseph's favor—they

accepted him as their own child even though he was the Son of God and put their reputations on the line. The biblical examples of God's favor resting on His people are endless.

Asking for favor and walking in it is like reading the instruction manual in order to assemble the new entertainment center. It's trusting that whoever designed this piece of furniture in the first place knows how it all fits together and is willing to let you in on the plan—you don't have to force anything. Favor takes the pressure off of you and your frantic human effort and puts the responsibility back on God, His benevolence and providence working in and around your life.

You should know that asking for favor ISN'T about you instantly having the million dollar life of your dreams—in fact, your life may still seem like it's going down the tubes. Check out Joseph's example—dysfunctional family, sold as a slave, reputation damaged irreparably, jail time. But in the midst of all those extremely difficult circumstances, Joseph enjoyed God's favor in many of his relationships with his superiors, from Potiphar to the jailers to Pharaoh. Tough times are simply a reality of life, perhaps even more so for us as believers. But as we choose to walk in God's favor, we'll be reminded that He really is in control, that we're not down on our own trying to force the pieces of our lives together. And that, my friend, is a huge relief!

## 3. Ask God to reorient your perspective.

One way God reorients our perspective is by revealing Himself through His Word. A couple weeks ago during my women's Bible study, we were discussing Mark 1 and how John the Baptizer was out in the desert prophesying Jesus' arrival. One lady pointed out that a desert