

When you know that you are greatly blessed, highly favoured, and deeply loved, you don't need to depend on your self-efforts. Look at the story of Esther, for example.

When King Ahasuerus was looking for a new queen, the most beautiful women in the land were all brought into the palace. All the women were given the opportunity to adorn themselves with whatever they desired from the women's quarters before they were brought for an audience with the king. But when it was Esther's turn, she "requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised." Look at the results: "Esther *obtained favour* in the sight of all who saw her", and the king "loved Esther more than all the other women, and she *obtained grace and favour in his sight* more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen." (Esther 2:17)

While the other women grabbed the best garments, perfumes, and accessories to beautify themselves, Esther did not rely on her own abilities but submitted herself to Hegai, the official who had been appointed by the king to oversee the women. There was so much wisdom and humility in her decision. Can you see the beauty of Esther? She did not trust in her own efforts. While the women tried to outdo one another by relying on their own efforts, Esther wisely submitted to the one person who would know the king's preferences best, and the results speak for themselves. This incident also demonstrates to us that Esther depended entirely upon the Lord's unmerited favour. When you depend entirely upon the Lord's unmerited favour, you are trusting Him and in a position of rest. Esther did not need to struggle. When she rested in the Lord and humbled herself, the Lord promoted her and exalted her above all the other beautiful women.

God resists the proud and gives unmerited favour to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5) When you humble yourself and cease in your efforts to promote yourself, and depend on Jesus alone, the Lord Himself will be your promotion and increase. Like Esther, you will stand out in a crowd and obtain grace and favour with God and Man. There are no coincidences, only God-incidents. The Lord will bless you to be a blessing!

Esther 2:15 "...Esther obtained favour in the sight of all who saw her."