



## CHURCH - A gift to the World

### FAVOUR, FELLOWSHIP & FRUITFULNESS

The Church that is a gift to the world has a DNA of *FAVOUR FELLOWSHIP FRUITFULNESS*. DNA reveals what you are.

DNA reveals - *Who is your father / status of health / reasons for deviation or illness / reproduction capability*

#### **FAVOUR** Living in the FOG – (*Favour of God*)

*Ps. 5:12 O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favour as with a shield.*

Paul prays that we would know God's LOVE that goes beyond our understanding. This LOVE is the basis of God's FAVOUR

*Eph 3:16-17 Phillips "And I pray that you, firmly fixed in love yourselves, may be able to grasp our how wide and deep and long and high is the love of Christ — and to know for yourselves that love so far beyond comprehension.*

*MAY YOU BE FILLED THROUGH ALL YOUR BEING WITH GOD HIMSELF!"*

We now declare the truth of God's persuasion concerning us demonstrated in his son's obedience in our favour.

What is the favour of God? Scripture doesn't offer a clear definition, but it does offer examples of people who found favour with God and walked in it, as was the case with Noah *GEN. 6:8 (NIV) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.*

We can't do what God has called us to without His favour!

What can we do to live in the FOG - favour of God?

#### 1. DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FAVOURS FROM GOD and THE FAVOUR OF GOD

There's a big difference. Favours from God means we anticipate being blessed with grace filled moments ... *a parking spot, a vacation at a great price, etc.*

Favour is that special grace from God that enables you to do what you do, that you couldn't do without it!

God doesn't give you His favour for convenience. He gives you His favour for His purpose!

God's favour is always for a function, there's something He wants accomplished!

God can do more through you in one moment of favour than you can do in a lifetime of labour!

#### 2. LIVE FROM FAVOUR, NOT FOR FAVOUR

Favour is not something we achieve; it's something we receive! The thing that makes favour - favour, is the fact that it invades our lives independent of our performance... we don't deserve it!

God at times places His favour on a company of people, like a ministry.

How do we keep the door open to the favour of God?

*1 PET 5:5-6 (NLT) "God opposes the proud but favours the humble."*



*So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour.*

### 3. FRAME YOUR WORLD WITH FAVOUR

*Zeph 3:17 (NLT) For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."*

Framing your world with awareness of favour, results in living with expectancy. The key is to become favour aware.

## FELLOWSHIP

The word koinonia is translated fellowship, sharing, association and participation. Koinonia is a significant concept found throughout the New Testament, which expresses shared participation in Christ and the bond that Christ knits between believers. This harmony is exhibited in an environment of grace breeding TRUST. The Holy Spirit draws teams of people together in joint ownership that moves them from an independent interest to join an interest that desires a greater cause. The New Testament uses a number of words to denote this partnership: "fellow worker", "fellow labourer", "kinsman", "workers", "companion", "helper", "beloved", "servant", "fellow workers in Christ".

*Philemon 1:1-2&24 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy [our] brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow labourer, And to [our] beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house; Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow labourers.*

We see Kingdom partnerships in the relationships of Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Silas, Paul and Priscilla and Aquilla, Paul and Timothy, Paul and Philemon. This is the networking the people of God into authentic, meaningful covenantal relationships on the basis of shared mission. This happens when God joins people together in a committed relationship that grows into deep, godly, intimate friendships that last for life, in spite of relational trials, hurts, misunderstandings and geographical distances. Covenant is about a divine connection forged between people sharing a missional purpose, which is based on Kingdom values. The enemy's schemes are neutralized in a ministry that will grow up and build unbreakable covenant relationships against which he has no power. The word "covenant" relates to two parties who are committed to guaranteeing that their relationship will be preserved based on the integrity of their word and their mutual commitment to shared outcomes. We grow old together.

*Some are called TO your ministry and some THROUGH your ministry*

*Eph 4: 16 (RSV) ..... from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.*

JOINED – Sunarmologe – Joined implies the thought of joining by fitting.

KNITTED – Sumbibazo – Knitted implies the thought of interweaving.



## FRUITFULNESS

*John 15:8 (NLT) When you produce **much fruit**, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.*

French Jesuit Jean Danielou, writing on the theology of mission in the 1950s, said that fruitful missionary efforts "stopped thinking of bringing Christ to India ... but rather started thinking about "finding Christ already there"

Jesus also came to show us how to join God's mission in the world. In his words, "I can do only what I see and hear the Father doing," and in joining his Father's mission in the world, Jesus showed us how to be an '*Instrumentum conjunctum cum Deo*, an "instrument shaped to the contours of the hand of God" to use the words that came to Saint Ignatius Loyola in a dream. Jesus's communication clearly shows a world view of abundance.

*John 15:5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce **much fruit**..."*

Much fruit for us in Doxa Deo, is seeing individual Lives being Changed and Communities being Transformed.

### 1. Lives being Changed – CITY CHANGERS

It all starts with the fruitfulness of transformed lives. Who then become Missional Individuals, CITY CHANGERS, being ready to give account of the hope that is within them. Meaningful and enduring change in our culture, is rooted in transformed identity rather than legislated law, starting in the lives of individuals desperate to be transformed into the image of the Son and in passionate pursuit of fellowship with the Father. No program can achieve that of a heart fully captured by the revelation of redemption and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Being a **Faithful** presence (representing character) and a **Fruitful** presence (affecting change). Making Jesus to be fully known through demonstrating character through the fruit of the Spirit, and engaging to believe for change bringing faith, hope and love to the community is the fruit we want to see.

### 2. Communities being Transformed – CITIES CHANGED

The second outcome of much fruit for us is seeing the inculcating of the character of Christ into our cities and communities through us as a MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES **Mobilizing, Engaging and Modeling**.

We accelerate the harvesting of much fruit when we play a role to empower the MISSIONAL ECO SYSTEM.

Recognizing the various Kingdom agencies in a geographical area, and together, in unity bringing FAITH, LOVE & HOPE to address the lostness, pain and brokenness, trusting to change the Spiritual, Social and Systemic (Culture) landscape in our Communities and Cities.

Through **FAVOUR** and **FELLOWSHIP** we anticipate '**MUCH FRUIT**' - always having abundance for every good work.

2 Cor 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound toward YOU, that YOU, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."