

Resting in the Favor of the Lord!

A Prayer and Fasting Plan for Spiritual Depth During Advent

You Better Recognize...!

"And the Angel came in unto her, and said,
 'Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee:
 Blessed art thou among women.
 Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God."

(Luke 1:28-30)

The words you select and the language you use say as much about you as any other feature of your being. Your words often speak of, and speak to, the state of your self-awareness, your self-image, your self-esteem, and your self-worth. Likewise, the words you use to address and describe others carry depth of meaning as well.

The text above reveals at least two things we should embrace about favor. Firstly, as mentioned yesterday, Gabriel knew her address. Secondly, Gabriel knew how to address her! He greets her in the language of royalty. He addresses her as a queen within her court. No longer is she just virgin Mary of Nazareth. She is now Mary mother of Jesus, home to majesty, royalty, and dignity!

No wonder Gabriel greets her in the salutation of celebration and rejoicing. He gave her something to shout about. Gabriel turned her on to some stuff she didn't know about herself. Mary had to recognize the truth about herself and begin to see herself in a new light. The song of praise she would sing later in the chapter called the Magnificat reveals that God's favor caused a transformation in her that transcended her Nazareth address and changed how in the future she was to be addressed:

Her self-awareness was heightened!

Her self-image was brightened!

Her self-esteem was raised!

Her self-worth was re-appraised!

Do you recognize the majesty, royalty, dignity, and honor of your own self? Do you realize that you, because of your association with Jesus, have something to shout about? Well, you better recognize!

Declaration for the Day:

"I recognize my royalty!"

Pray This:

"Lord today, and every day henceforth, cause me to carry myself, speak to myself, and treat myself with the honor and dignity your favor tells me I deserve."

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