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# CHAPTER 1

## THE PURPOSE OF HONOR

God has designed honor to keep us and our leaders in line with each other so that those who are doing the honoring might come to their full potential in Christ.

Jesus Christ of Nazareth lived an exemplary life of honor. He had enough wisdom at the age of 12 to astonish the teachers at the temple. Yet Jesus knew to honor His parents and be obedient to them.

*Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.*

*And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.*

*So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."*

*And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*

*But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.*

*Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.*

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*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

Luke 2:46–52

The benefits of honoring are written in Luke 2:52. Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor.

Jesus' first miracle was a result of His mother's request. In John 2:4, Jesus asked his mother, "What concern is this of me?" His mother simply told the servants, "Do whatever He says to do." Jesus responded by looking about the room to see what He had to work with and produced the needed result. This was the beginning of signs and wonders, a result of Jesus' honor and obedience to His mother. Jesus' honor for His mother caused Him to immediately move into action to fulfill the need.

*This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.*

John 2:11

One of the purposes of honor is to keep us in position to grow and receive as we honor those whom God has placed in our lives—to unfold the plan for our life. It puts us in a position to receive great benefits.

As we honor our authorities, their wisdom and instruction are used to mold us and guide us into our purpose and plan. Authorities have been placed in our lives for our benefit as part of God's divine plan for our lives.

As Jesus honored His parents, it put Him into position to grow and mature and to launch into ministry. Think of how much influence the people whom you have honored and looked up to over the years have had on your life. When you love, honor, and respect someone, who and what they are molds and shapes your life. When we look up to them, we want to be like them. We then become what we think on.

Another purpose of honor is that it may be well with you.

*“Honor your father and mother;” which is the first commandment with promise:  
that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*

Ephesians 6:2–3

All of us want to be content, fulfilled, and at peace. As we honor others, it will go well with us. As we use our talents and assets to benefit another, it causes us to focus on the purpose of others. This enforces a selfless life instead of a selfish life. It keeps us in an attitude of gratitude instead of a “you owe me” attitude, which makes us ungrateful and unfulfilled.

Part of the same scripture in Ephesians 6:2–3 is to live a long life. Honoring will not only cause life to be well but also to be long. I am a believer, and I am going to Heaven, BUT I am not in a hurry to get there. If the Lord tarries, I want to live a long life. I enjoy life. Honoring puts me in a position for a long and enjoyable life.

When things are going well, our head is clear, and we are able to make quality decisions that are beneficial to our future. We find ourselves enjoying each day, listening to advice, and not fighting against the system. Honoring causes us to be appreciative so that we pay attention to what is said by others. If you do not respect and honor others, you have a much harder time listening to what they have to say.

When we have the fear of the Lord, we honor God, and it goes well with us. We obey God’s commands and we are blessed. Deuteronomy 28:1–14 tells us how it will go well with us.

*“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.*

*And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey*

*the voice of the LORD your God:*

*Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.*

*Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.*

*Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.*

*Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.*

*The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*

*The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

*The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.*

*Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.*

*And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.*

*The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.*

*And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.*

*So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or left, to go after other gods to serve them.”*

Deuteronomy 28:1–14

When we do not honor, we do not obey, and it does not go well

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with us. Deuteronomy 28:15–68 gives a long list of “it is not going well”:

*“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:*

*Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.*

*Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.*

*Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.*

*The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.*

*The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess.*

*The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.*

*And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.*

*The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.*

*The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.*

*Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away.*

*The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.*

*The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart.*

*And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.*

*You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes.*

*Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them.*

*Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand.*

*A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually.*

*So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see.*

*The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.*

*The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods—wood and stone.*

*And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.*

*You shall carry much seed out to the field and gather but little in, for the locust shall consume it.*

*You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.*

*You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.*

*You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.*

*Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.*

*The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.*

*He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.*

*Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.*

*And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever. Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,*

*Therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.*

*The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand,*

*A nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young.*

*And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you.*

*They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.*

*You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you.*

*The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind,*

*So that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.*

*The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter,*

*Her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.*

*If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD,*

*Then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.*

*Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.*

*Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in the Book of this Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed.*

*You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.*

*And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.*

*Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.*

*And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.*

*Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.*

*In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.*

*And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, ‘You shall never see it again.’ And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.”*

Deuteronomy 28:15–68

A great reminder is that it only takes 14 verses to tell it is going well. However, it takes 54 verses to describe the misery of not doing well, which is a result of not obeying, which is a result of not honoring.

We all want to do well. Therefore, we all need to honor.

A great purpose of honor is bringing us into true prosperity. David honored Saul—it put him into position to be a powerful king of great wealth. Solomon, son of David, honored his father and his God. It won him the throne, wealth beyond compare and wisdom.

Peter honored Jesus with the use of his boat. It opened him up to great opportunities. He became saved, his mother-in-law was healed, he became a disciple of Christ, and a leader in the church.

*So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,*

*And saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.*

*Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.*

*When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."*

*But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."*

*And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.*

*So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.*

*When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"*

*For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken . . .*

Luke 5:1–9

He received such a large number of fish that it filled their boats to overflowing.

This points out another purpose of honor—it brings us to humility and causes us to remain humble. After Peter honors Jesus with the use of his boat, he is brought to his knees by the blessing that comes to him as a result of his honoring.

Think of the times that you or others have been truly honored. Did it puff you up or bring you to a new level of humility? When I have seen or heard of true honoring, the result was always humility in the recipient. Think of a mother receiving a gift from her young child. Did it puff her up or bring her to her knees over the importance of her position and influence?

Honor is part of God's plan—a way of bringing us to the fullness of our potential, whether we are the giver or the receiver.

As you continue to read and open yourself up, allow God to pour into you the spirit of honor so that you might come to the fullness of what God has for you. You will then be equipped to progress to a new level and to impart into others for their growth and success.