

P R E F A C E :  
L I V I N G I N T H E F . O . G .

*Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable,  
and receives the impossible.<sup>1</sup>*

I am going to share with you the greatest revelation of my life. I've been asked repeatedly if there was one thing that has impacted me more than anything else. People have said to me, "There are few Christian ministers in the United States who have written as many bestselling books as you have. How do you do it?" Others have said, "You have preached in more war zones and held some of the largest crusades in the world. How do you do it?" Still others have said, "I've seen you speak at the forty-third General Assembly in Geneva, at the Madrid Peace Conference in Spain. How do you do it?" People continue to inquire, "You have been a confidant to more than fifty world leaders. How do you do it?"

I can say most assuredly that it's not because of me. It's because of an amazing occurrence in my life. All the credit and glory belong to God. I can say with great certainty that it is about the revelation I'm going to share with you. This revelation has impacted every aspect of my life—as a father of four, a husband of forty-three years, and a grandfather of nine. It has impacted me physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially. What I am about to share with you

is, in my opinion, perhaps the greatest gift God has ever given me.

My Bible is alive and active because of this revelation. Without it, my Bible would be a wonderful blessing, a source of inspiration, comfort, and strength, but it would not have radically changed the destiny of my life. Now it does. I understand fully what the purpose of my Bible is because of this revelation. I also understand why I was created in the image of God and how to magnify the image of God. Even more, I can see how magnifying the image of God activates the Word of God.

Most Christians, like me, have circled scriptures in their Bibles. I have done that and noted a date beside them for more than fifty years. This revelation that I am about to share with you is life transforming. It has caused the scriptures marked in my Bible to become activated. Until God gave me this revelation, I had no idea those scriptures had assignments. As an eleven-year-old child who was strangled by an anti-Semitic father, I was in a dark pit. Yet, in my darkest hour, I heard a Word from God. One Word from God changed my life forever.

The great challenge of my life after seeing Jesus face-to-face as a child was that I wanted to hear His voice again. That is what sparked this amazing search. I learned through this revelation how to hear the voice of God again and again. The prophet Daniel describes it this way: “Yet heard I the voice of his words.”<sup>2</sup>

I am frequently asked, “How have you become so well-known? You are recognized by millions of people.” I look at them, chuckle, and say, “No, I’m not famous. I’m infamous. It means that millions hate me, not love me. Certainly there are those who do love me, but many more who don’t.”

As a little boy who desperately wanted approval, and was accustomed to nothing but rejection, I could very easily have lived my life compromising to gain acceptance. But this revelation has kept me from doing that. Instead, I have sought Divine affirmation—to turn my equity into currency, my influence into favor. The thing that frightened me most was not that I was inadequate, but that I felt with my whole heart that I was born to manifest the light of God as His child. I realized that staying small would not serve my world. Shrinking to accommodate my critics would not transform the world around me. The words of the prophet Jeremiah cried out to me: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”<sup>3</sup>

May the Spirit of God open your eyes to this revelation. Once you get it, you will refuse to be obsessed with what you’re going *through*; you will be obsessed with what you are going *to*.

Hebrews 4:12 declares, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Another great challenge is how the Word of God can be activated in your own life. To understand the revelation, you must understand that God created you in His image for a purpose. Jehovah God wanted to have an intimate relationship—friendship—with you. There is a DNA component of God that is within us. When He is magnified this mysterious “X” factor activates His Word. The Bible says in Luke 2:52: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

Are you increasing in favor, or are you decreasing? The revelation of Living in the F.O.G. will help you to focus on His image and not yours. Once you know how to activate God's Words, you will find yourself starving your fear and feeding your faith. You will see the Enemy's attacks from a king's perspective—as an opportunity for a heavenly promotion.

Fasten your seat belt. You are about to begin a wild heavenly ride that will change your life forever, as it did mine.

I wear a bracelet inscribed with the words *Living in the F.O.G.* I've been asked repeatedly what that means. F.O.G. is an acronym for Favor of God.

What is God's favor and how can you live in it? Favor is “unmerited grace; regard shown by another, especially a superior; an act of kindness; a token of love; effort on one's behalf.” Because you are His child, God, in an act of kindness and as a token of His love, extends unmerited grace, and works tirelessly on your behalf. Not only does He bestow favor on you, He blesses you with favor and affirmation from those around you.

God acknowledged His Son when He said: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”<sup>4</sup>

Living in the F.O.G. will help you reach the place in life where you can turn the head of God, touch the heart of God, and move the hand of God, a place where you can gain affirmation from the Father and His Word rather than from those around you—at home, at work, wherever you may be. You can learn to refuse to allow people and problems to define you. The one thing that has the power to release emotional, physical, spiritual, and financial success in your life is “F.O.G.”

To have the Favor of God in your life, you must focus on the image of God and not your own. Any image that comes before His is a graven image. When Moses delivered the Ten Commandments to the Children of Israel, the second one was: “Thou shalt not make thyself any graven image, or any form of what is in the heavens above, or what is in the earth beneath, or what is in the waters under the earth.”<sup>5</sup>

The Bible says we were created in God’s image. What does that mean? God emotes; He hears; He sees; He feels; He has personality. He created you for friendship, relationship. Knowing that, how can you live in His image? First, surrender your life to Him. Then, you magnify His image in four ways that represent His DNA.

The Favor of God means that He will give you the resources you need to develop His image in your life, to do what He has called you to do—whether it is to be a missionary or an evangelist, a pastor or teacher, a salesman or chief executive officer, a doctor or a stay-at-home parent ministering to your family. Whatever you need, He will supply, and all because of the Favor of God.

In Matthew 6:33 (NKJV), Jesus said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

There is a wonderful Greek word, *sphragizō*, which means “sealed, hidden, or kept in secret.” God has placed within you hidden treasures, and has sealed you “for the day of redemption.”<sup>6</sup>

These “hidden treasures” are four absolute principles that have been the cornerstone of my ministry for decades, and I want to share with you the revelation that radically changed my life and uncovered these treasures. I want to help you find the same Favor of

God in your life that I have found in mine. When put into practice, you will experience living in the F.O.G. as never before. What are those principles? They are: Radical Obedience, Radical Humility, Radical Forgiveness, and Radical Generosity.

What you are about to read in this book is a revelation that God gave me—a Word from God that changed my life forever. You will read how Jesus appeared to me at the age of eleven and radically changed me. I was a child consumed by fear, with a speech impediment and physical ailments. You will read of what happened to me after my encounter with the Son of God.

Perhaps you are thinking, *It's wonderful that Jesus appeared and spoke to you, but I haven't had that experience.*

I understand, and in fact, He has not appeared to me or spoken to me again in person in the fifty-four years that have followed. But in my spirit I have heard His voice numerous times since then, and the results have been just as radical as that first encounter.

Wait for Him to speak His Word into your life, and don't allow anyone to talk you out of your blessing, your favor.

Do you want to attract God's favor in your life? Do you want to be like a magnet that draws good things from the Father? Do you want to be equipped to perform His work on earth? Do you want to activate the tools that will enable you to bless others? If you do, then you need to begin Living in the F.O.G.

In the following chapters I am going to share with you how you can hear God's voice, how you can activate His voice, and how you can live in the Favor of God. Today you can begin to practice those four components of living in the Favor of God: Radical Obedience, Radical Forgiveness, Radical Humility, and Radical Generosity.