

“Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.” Proverbs 3:3-4 NLT

## lectio // Proverbs 3:1-10

Do most people want to do life “favoring God and people?” Is there some innate pull towards the concepts here in Proverbs. Things like loyalty, kindness and a good reputation? Does life and others harshly beat the bent towards “good” right out of us. I’ve seen the infant struggles of selfishness and self protection, but at a very early age there is also hugs and kisses, affection and tenderness. And, I know the strength of a toddler’s will and clear pronouncement of the word, “NO” and later, “MINE.” When shown love and kindness, many often respond accordingly. Even with the nature of sin beckoning all humans to err, I believe there is still desire to give and receive these qualities that wisdom promises. Maybe it is just my hardwired personality, but I like to receive FAVOR, both from God and people!

## oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,  
Even when I did not think of others as a child, I still craved their favor. Who wouldn’t? And, when I knew someone was watching over me and trying to help me, even in my family chaos, I so badly wanted that help and guidance from something greater than me to be true. When you introduced yourself to me at fifteen, and offered me a life, I was ready to say yes. Now, some 43 years later, I feel the favor of both you and people. It makes such a difference in my daily attitude and behaviors. Thank you!

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root