

GOD'S PLAN FOR BLESSINGS
"The Essential Ingredient-God Honored Giving"
Luke 6:38, 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Would you like to be in a position to receive all that the Father has in store for your life? There is no denying the fact that we love to receive the blessings of God. After all He is the God of the universe, and He has the power to bless our lives in ways we cannot imagine or even think.

It was Jabez who prayed to God and asked for "God's blessings out of a spirit of obedience" and God granted him, what he requested. It was Abraham in Genesis, that obeyed God through offering his son as a sacrifice before God, and because of his obedience, God blessed Abraham with more than he could imagine or think. God's power is not shortened. His ability to bless remains constant to a thousand generations. Then why do so many miss out on the blessings of God. One sobering answer is found in 1 Corinthians 16, that of "God Honored Giving".

1. GOD HONORED GIVING...COMES WHEN WE UNDERSTAND GOD'S GIVING THROUGH CHRIST. Before Paul spoke to the saints regarding giving in 1 Corinthian 16, he spoke to them about the "sacrifice" of God's son, Jesus Christ for their sins. Because of the Lord's love for us, He died for us, was buried for us, and was resurrected.

Paul didn't speak to these saints of God apart from the background of the "blood stained cross" where Christ had taken their sins, and nailed them forever. Because of the "giving" of Christ on the cross, all who are redeemed by God through Christ, can live with the joy that we have passed from death to life. We have eternal life, because of God's "giving". We have complete cancellation of our sins, because of Jesus "giving". We have an eternity of paradise and joy because of the overwhelming "giving nature" of God. Since God has given to us spiritually, He gives us this divine truth, the life that is pleasing to the Father is a life of "giving". It was no problem for Paul to move from the spiritual to the physical and financial. Because, our finances in truth really reveal where we have come spiritually.

Find a person that is experiencing the blessings of God, and behind that life you will find a person who is appreciative to God for Jesus, thankful to God for His eternal life, and you will find a person that is also honoring the Father with his finances in tithes and offerings. "God honored giving" is crucial and vital to receiving the blessings of God. It was through "God honored giving" in the life of Abraham, and the giving of Isaac that God declared to Abraham blessing upon blessing. Blessings of children, property and much more.

2. GOD HONORED GIVING...IS BOTH PURPOSEFUL AND REGULAR. *"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside..." (1 Cor. 16:2)* If there is one sobering divine truth of our Heavenly Father, it is this...He is a God of both order and regularity. Nature reveals that there will be four seasons, year after year. Each day reveals that the sun will rise in the east and set in the west on both an orderly and regular basis. God has established His plan for our lives in relationship to Him, when it comes to our financial lives and it includes:

First, we are called by God to the holy habit of giving. It is no less than “God” that gives us the directive to “give”. The One who “gave” His Son to die for our sins, is the one that reminds us, that our “giving” is a wonderful act of worship and praise to the Living God. Sometimes someone will ask, “Why do I need to give to God, does He own everything?” “My giving won’t affect God!” While all of that is true, giving keeps us from becoming like a “dried up receptacle”. When a person refuses to “give” through tithes and offerings, they are first disobeying the Living God. Second, they living the Christian life “selfishly”, and the result is a life barren of the blessings of God. God has established the means of giving whereby He can bless us. When we honor the Father through faithful giving, He honors our lives with His blessings. ***Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*** The promise of God is that He will MEASURE to you, the way you MEASURE out through giving. The promise of Holy God is this...however a person gives, the proportion in which he gives, will ALWAYS be measured back to that person...that simply is the law of God.

Second, we are called by God to give out of liberality. 2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. God’s plan for holy giving, that brings about blessings to our lives is done out of the overflow of a “thankful and grateful heart”. When a child of God realizes the blessings he or she has all because of the “giving” of God and the “giving” of Christ, the heart cannot help but overflow with thanks.

3. GOD HONORED GIVING...IS A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. One of the reasons that countless thousands find themselves in “a far land” financially is found in the very directive that the Father gives through this one phrase, “LET EACH ONE OF YOU LAY ASIDE”. While the Father will not “force” us to give, the truth is “giving” is a personal responsibility if we are to receive the blessings of the Father. How can a person claim to be a follower of a loving, kind, giving Holy Father, and not express a heart of giving? It is the nature of our Father that He always links the gift with the giver. Since it is the heart’s desire of the Father to bless, the reality is, a person must be in a “God honoring attitude” financially to receive the financial blessings of the Father upon His life.

4. GOD HONORED GIVING...IS A DELIBERATE RESPONSIBILITY. You find a person that is living under the blessings of God, and you will find a person that is “deliberate” about “obedience” and “faithfulness to God’s Word”. There is no such think in the economy of God as accidental blessings. When God spoke through Paul to these saints, He reminded them to deliberately and intentionally “lay something aside”.

There is a type of hoarding that is honoring to the Father...hoarding back what is rightfully and purposefully His. To receive the deliberate blessings from a Holy God, there must be deliberate responsibility in honoring Him through tithes and offerings. Sadly, so many come in, without thought, give without thought, and wonder why God doesn’t pour out His blessings. Only the Lord God knows how many have taken from Him, what is due His holy name, and utilized it for “stuff”, “things”, and the reality is this...He cannot bless. Since God operates by His holy laws, He blesses the life that follows Him, and obeys His laws and principles. When the Father finds a

person that gives “responsibly” and “deliberately”, then He can rain His blessings, just as He declared to the prophet Malachi.

5. GOD HONORED GIVING...IS GIVING IN PROPORTION TO HIS BLESSINGS.

Is it possible for two people to give the exact same amount unto the Lord, and one experience the blessings of God, and another suffer indictment from the Lord? Absolutely. Consider this example: One lady works faithfully at her job...making only 200.00 a week...yet she desires to “honor” the Lord above the tithe and she gives personally, and deliberately 30.00 a week, out of her love for the Lord. She gives out of love, and yearns to give more. While another woman that makes 450.00 a week...begrudges giving...and gives the same amount...30.00 a week. The amount is the same yet, one has responded in obedience and another responded in disobedience. God is not honored when we give begrudgingly... and the result is a failure to receive His blessings. God watches carefully and closely our lives. Not to blight, but rather He watches to bless...and when we give “begrudgingly” , “faithlessly”, then He cannot send His blessings into our lives.

Would the Father be pleased with the proportion of giving that you are giving? Is your giving God honored giving in that you are “giving” Him rightfully what is His. When we do so, he will honor that giving, personally, and powerfully.

6. GOD HONORED GIVING...ALWAYS RESULTS IN GOD’S BLESSINGS. When we choose to honor the Father with our lives, our finances, He cannot withhold His blessings, for He is obligated by His nature to bless. To Moses and all who would follow Him, in complete obedience, He says, ***“And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou wilt hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God”.*** (Deut. 28:2) This is a sobering picture...for it is a picture of God Almighty tracking down that “obedient person” and at a time he or she least expects it...He blesses them. Why? Because that is the very nature of Holy God. He blesses, and loves to bless all who honor Him, through God honored giving. The question now is this...is what you are giving to the Father “honorable” or “dishonorable”. Have you positioned your life for blessings, or for pain, and curses.