

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
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THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
 Financial Summary
 Chapter One

Signs of Weakness	Cause	Solution	Signs of Strength	Scripture references
Stealing	Poverty thinking	Trust in the Lord. (Matthew 6, Proverbs 3:5-6)	Steward of God's abundance	Genesis 26:9-16 Deuteronomy 8 Psalm 32:1
Lack of giving or sharing	Fear of lack (for life)	Gives tithes and offerings; honor the Lord first. (Malachi 3, Proverbs 3:9-10)	Honors God with everything	Proverbs 3:9-10 Ecclesiastes 10:19 Malachi 3:8-10 Matthew 6 Mark 10:28-31
Spendthrift	Deceitfulness of riches (uncertainty)	Work hard. (Joshua 1:6-10)	God is source who supplies all needs.	Mark 13:32-37 Luke 12:15-34 Luke 16:9-13
Wasteful	Greed (love of money)	Inquire of Lord for wisdom. (James 1, Proverbs 3:5-6)	Seeks godly wisdom and seeks God's Direction	Luke 16:21-48 Luke 18:18-30 Luke 20:25
Hoarding	Wrong values and priorities	Avoid "get rich quick" schemes.	Has the Lord's kingdom as spending priority	Luke 21:1-38 Acts 5 2 nd Corinthians 9
Impulsive spending	Unbelief	Avoid hasty decisions. Get all the facts!	Does not look to man for supply	Philippians 4:10-13 2 nd Thessalonians 3 1 st Timothy 6:3-10
Dishonesty	Laziness		Gives freely as Lord directs	1 st Timothy 6:17-19 2 nd Timothy 2:5-7
Personal gain / no work	Selfishness		Does not lack (no poverty)	Read all of Proverbs
Helpless and hopeless	Demonic attacks		Whatever is needed will be there when needed. (John 6:33)	Read all of Ecclesiastes
Love of money			Believes God for self and other's supply. (Philippians 4:19)	
Easily swindled			Lives within what the Lord has supplied (avoids credit deficit spending)	

Signs of Weakness	Cause	Solution	Signs of Strength	Scripture references
Poor investments (“get rich quick” schemes)				
Fearful of investing				

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
(Introduction)
Chapter Two

Making Godly Decisions

One of the major areas where people have problems is in money matters. Another problem area is in our attitude towards God, self and other people; preferring yourselves over others. The Lord wants us to be shaped into His image.

We can be blinded and deceived by our own desires. We need to ask the Lord about them.

When you make a decision, only the Lord knows what tomorrow holds and where the consequence of your decision is going to lead. Going to the devil to have someone read tea leaves, to flip cards or to look at crystal balls does not work. Deuteronomy 18:12 says *“Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD.”* A horoscope cannot tell you your future, but it can project things into your head and influence you in that direction. You can set things up and make them happen. Trust God about giving you a future and a hope; anything else is a lesson in futility.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge the Lord in all your ways and He will direct the path.”*

You cannot make blind decisions, for you do not know how something will affect you down the road. There are principles that God has set down that can set things in motion, but you need to get that specific direction. Do you turn left or right? You need to know that from the Lord.

In Jeremiah 32:39, God says, *“I will give them singleness of heart and action,”* (**team** - God thinks in **team** terms whether it is family, business, church, or government.) *“...so that they will always fear Me for their own good and the good of their children after them.”* What you do affects your children and their children’s children. The blessing or the curse can go down generation to generation.

You can be affected by your parents' mistakes, but somewhere the mess has got to stop. You cannot blame your parents or your grandparents. *You* must stop it with *you*. Make a quality decision that says you are going to walk with God and not let your grandparents or your parents mess up what *you* are going to decide. Learn from what has gone on. Learn what to do and what not to do. Eat the wheat and spit out the chaff. You do not have to have what is unprofitable. The curse that was on your family does not have to go down to you. When you walk with God, God will do what He says He will do.

Committed with All Your Heart

Again, God says, *"I will give them singleness of heart and action,"* working, praying together, and believing. Let this fill your thoughts, and get about God's business to His glory. He will take care of whatever you need.

"I will give them singleness of heart and actions so they will always fear Me for their own good and the good of their children after them, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them:" (Jeremiah 32:38-40) (This is a covenant forever that He has promised when He is yoking together with us.) *"And I will never stop doing good to them. And I will inspire them to fear Me."*

This is something God inspired in me: reverence, worship, respect, honor, and awe of God. I never wanted to do something that was out of His will. I did not want to break His commandments. I wanted to do what He said because He inspires with His love. I have known that God loves me ever since I was a little fellow.

The Lord says, "I will inspire them to reverence Me, and worship Me, so that they will never turn away from Me. They will never go after other gods." That was their problem; they were going after everything but God in their life.

You can always tell what an idol in your life is because it is what you are thinking, fearing, worrying, or stressing out about. When you worry about your life, you lose your life. When you fear about your life, you will lose your life. *"When you lose your life for My sake,"* the

Lord says, *“you will gain your life.”* If you have an idol in your life, you need to give it over to the Lord. The Lord does not have any of that in His relationship with us.

“I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.” (Jeremiah 32:41) In other words, the Lord is going to bring them out of captivity, and He is going to plant them in the land with all His heart and with all His soul. Whatever you do you do to the glory of God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all that is within you.

One of the things people do not like is commitment. It is a nasty word in our society. Love is commitment, accountability to that commitment, and responsibility to fulfill that commitment. When people talk about love, it is not goosebumps or a fancy feeling. It is solid responsibility. It says that I am committed to that person, or that business, or to that church till natural death do us part. I am committed to my nation. I am a part of it. I like the benefits of it, and then I need to put something back in.

When the Lord gives a call to obedience, the Lord has a desired result that will come out of doing what He says to do. He will accomplish His purpose. Sure, slow, steady steps equal God's success, His will and purpose accomplished. But we must be committed to it. If you are not committed to that marriage, it is not going to last. It involves two people, a husband and a wife. Then you make a commitment to the children that come out of that marriage. Above all you are making a commitment to the Lord of heaven who instituted that marriage.

Man can do whatever he wants with marriage but God instituted what marriage is – between a man and a woman. It was instituted at the creation. He blessed it. What God has joined together let no one put asunder. Whether you like it or not, that is the way it is; therefore, you should like it if you are in it, and if you do not like it, better not get married.

It is the same thing with business transactions. You cannot go in with half a heart. You have got to be committed to things. A lot of people

give up before they have come to a point of fruition and benefit. It is like getting a Certificate of Deposit and pulling it out two weeks later saying you changed your mind. You are already locked in. There is a penalty for early withdrawal. The banks know the heart of people. People want the return but they are not willing to make the commitment.

The Lord is saying, "I am in this with all My heart and soul." God is into prospering you with all His heart and with all His soul. The Lord does not look at things individually. People look at things individually because they are concerned about themselves. God looks at things corporately. He looks at the whole body of Christ. He is not looking at individual parts. Sentimentally, it sounds good when The Lord says He knows how many hairs are on your head; He loves you with an everlasting love; you can come and sit on His lap anytime and talk to Him, and He will hold you and love you, but it is for *His* namesake. He knows something very important, if one part of the body is sick it affects the whole body. If one part is upside down, He knows they need to get right side up. When a shepherd must leave the whole body to go after that one sheep, it affects the whole body.

When you start moving from the spirit to the mind to the body (and it is all in God), the next area of blessing is finance. That is not dealing with somebody else yet, it is dealing with you. If you are faithful with a little, God will give more. The Lord is always about increase.

Attached to the Head

The Lord is committed to us. He has a covenant to prosper His people. Greed is as of the sin of idolatry. If that is loosed and everybody starts becoming selfish about their own purpose, the community is destroyed. When the Lord is not the focus, suddenly, it is every man for himself. That is not the heart of Christ. That is not the servanthood of Christ, or to the glory of God. That is survival of the fittest, and everybody is on their own. The Lord says that is not the way it is going to be. He says, "I am the head and this is My body." We are a part of that body.

Have you ever seen a chicken with its head cut off? Its body is still running around without a head; it is commotion. That is how many

people live their lives. They are not attached to the head. They are not getting any direction from God.

In marriages you see this in power plays where the wife is trying to be the head, the man is trying to be the head, and the Lord says, "I am the head." When you have three heads it is a freak, a monster. The Lord says, "I am the only Head. There is no head apart from Me."

Just see how far you can go when your hand or your foot thinks it can run your life. You have a whole world of headless people out there, and they think they are so smart. Without the Lord, Jesus says we can do nothing. He is the head. His thoughts are to prosper us, to give us hope, to give us a future, to do good to us. He says that He is in it with His whole heart and soul.

Continuing in Jeremiah 32: 42, "*As I have brought all this great calamity on these people...*" What we are actually dealing with is that the Lord permitted all that to happen to them because they had gone against Him, opposing Him. If you oppose the Lord, you oppose yourself; you will go down. You cannot expect to be happy and blessed apart from the Lord. It is not going to happen.

If you have been married more than once, twice is grace, but three, four, five times? I mean, if it did not work the first couple times, what makes you think it is going to work now? There is a problem. Do not mess up somebody else's life. I am not talking about if your spouse dies naturally. It is permitted to receive another spouse then.

The Lord Can Bring Life

"So I will give them all the prosperity that I have promised them."

(Jeremiah 32:42) There is teaching in the body of Christ that pounds against prosperity, but they do not understand that it is God talking here, not the people. The people have already messed up and lost everything they had. Maybe that is the finest thing that can happen to a person. Then you will start to think about who is the head and who is going to run things.

When it comes to the physical area, one of the finest things that can be told you by the physician is that you are going to die and there is no hope for your life. Only then will you put all your eggs in God's

basket and start to believe Him to be your healer. Better yet, if you have finished what God has given you, why not go in peace. Do not be afraid of dying. You are going to die, but be finished with everything you have been given to do. Do not go without finishing everything the Lord has given you to do.

I believe we have many problems out there because people's lives are being prolonged by medical assistance, and they have no life. When I am finished with what God has given me to do, then I am out of here. I do not want to be put on life support, prolonging my life. The Lord is my healer, He is my physician.

"I will lift up mine eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2 KJV) The Lord is the one I am drawing near to. It is not just for my personal gain and benefit; although that is the finest thing that I could ever do. What the Lord said is, "If you do what I say and follow My ways, it is all for your good." Everything the Lord does is for our good. Everything He has done, is doing, and will do is for our good because He loves His people. He cares about all of us.

"Once more fields will be bought in this land of which you say, 'It is a desolate waste, without people or animals, for it has been given into the hands of the Babylonians'." (Jeremiah 32:43) That can be said about a marriage, a relationship, finances, health, anything. What has become desolate, the Lord can make it a fruitful field again. He can give life back to it.

Many of the wealthiest people in the earth went bankrupt 5, 6, 7 or 8 times. But the difference is that they kept going and eventually many of them found the Lord. One of them is man I use as an example. This man lives on 10 percent of his income (approximately 15 million a year), and gives the other 90 percent to God. You would be amazed at the number of people with means that God has put on their heart to be generous. They are just waiting for an invitation. Thankful hearts give to the work of the Lord because they know they have been blessed and are honoring God.

In Jeremiah 32:44 God says, *"Fields will be bought for silver, deeds signed"* (Business as usual) *"sealed, witnessed in the territory of*

Benjamin.” There had been no business transactions going on. Nothing was happening, but the Lord said that life was going to come back, and business would resume as usual. When people are not doing transactions and things are not happening, there is no life going on. That is what goes on in this earth. These are the normal things.

The bottom line here in verse 44 is “...’*because I will restore their fortunes, declares the Lord.*” If you have been on the reverse side of things, the Lord says when you seek Him, get His understanding, and do what He says, He will restore the fortune. That is prosperity.

In Proverbs, chapter 3, you will see that everything the world desires such as long life, health, fame, and fortune, the Lord says will be yours if you first gain His wisdom. Then He will give to you on the one hand long life and health, and on the other provision and fame and fortune.

The teaching to have and to pursue things is godly is not true prosperity. It is not godly. If we are godly, we pursue love, joy, peace and unity; we seek to be about God’s purpose. The love of money is the root of all evil, and some have left the faith because of it. It is greed; the sin of idolatry. If you are seeking to hold on to it or living to acquire it, that is not godly. The *love* of money, not money, is the root of all evil.

Money is a tool and a vehicle for God’s goodness, love, and provision in the earth. It is all based around seed time and harvest; sowing and reaping. “*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*” (Luke 6:38) That is why you do not look to certain people as your source. God may use different people as the source in different situations, but He is working through them.

God Is a Giver!

I had a revelation the other day: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16) Usually when people use that scripture, “*Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over...*” (Luke 6:38), it is about

them. What the Lord showed me was that it was His principle, and that is how the Lord lives. He is always giving to His people, and it is the Lord talking in Jeremiah, Chapter 32. It is a “thus saith the Lord,” and if you have any misconceptions about who God is, grab hold of this chapter. What He is saying with His anger and His fury is not towards His people. He hates evil. He hates wickedness. He hates rebellion, independence, and unbelief.

Unbelief is basically saying God cannot do it, and He hates that because He cannot help or love people, and give to them if they do not want to receive from Him. You cannot have a relationship if you are wanting to give love, care, and do things the other person does not want anything to do with it. God is love, and for love to be love, it has to be given. God has no problem giving. He gives and gives and gives, but it needs to be received. He is looking to and fro; back and forth across the earth looking for somebody in whose behalf He can show Himself mighty. (1st Chronicles 16:9) He wants to love them, prosper them, and bless them, but they must have a heart towards Him.

You Can Be a Giver Too

He understands that man does not have a heart towards Him. After the fall, man’s heart was to himself and whatever benefited him; and therein marriage died as well. God’s whole plan of godly offspring basically died right there because everybody was selfish. Then there was Cain and Abel, and Cain had the devil’s heart. Abel had the heart after God, a heart of obedience. You can always tell a heart after God because it is an obedient heart. They were both giving offerings, but Abel did it the way God said, with the heart that God said to do it, and the Cain did it his own way, doing his own thing.

Jealousy, envy, and greed will kill you. Selfishness will kill everything in your life. It will make your life desolate. What the Lord was saying in the book of Jeremiah to His people is that He did not want them to have a desolate life, and though their lives had become desolate, He could bring back life: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationships. But it all comes around giving. Luke 6:38 is not just talking about money. You can give peace, and peace will come back to you pressed down and shaken together. You

refresh others, and you will be refreshed. Those are God-things. God made us in His image to give God-things into the earth.

We bring heaven to people. Sometimes we give hell to people too, and we have to quit doing that. That is not giving God glory nor is it doing good to ourselves. What you give is what you will receive. What you reap is what you have sown, and if you are sowing discord, you are going to get back discord. If you are sowing selfishness, that is how you will be treated. You will have the fruit of that.

I have seen people just come to church to further their businesses, which is all about self, not about God. God is not pleased with that. How can you get a business blessed if God is not the source, if He does not own the business and is not the head? The whole purpose is not for your supply; the whole purpose is for the supply of God's kingdom. Read in Haggai, chapter 1 where they were building the temple. The Lord said they had holes in their pockets because they were concerned about their own stuff, and His house remained in shambles and disrepair. The people were not about God's business and taking care of His things. They were busy trying to take care of their own.

When you start teaching on finance and financial blessing, everybody's ears perk up, but they should have perked up a lot sooner than that because God's order of blessing is 1) spiritually 2) mentally 3) physically and then 4) financially. Finances are a tool, but if your spirit, mind, and body are not in agreement, working together about God's purpose, you will never receive the financial blessing that God has. You will not use what you have the way God would have it to be used because you are all about yourself. It is like coming in the last ten minutes of the show and wanting the blessing. You miss out on the whole thing.

Finances are all about being to the glory of God, and furthering the kingdom of God in the earth. Give and you shall receive. The Lord is giving and He is expecting that He is going to receive. When Jesus gave His life for us on the cross, He poured out His life with the faith that we were all going to be saved. *"...For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (Hebrews 12:2) He knew that He was

giving us salvation, and all we have to do is accept it and receive what God has done. It is the gift of God. You cannot earn it; you cannot buy it; you cannot work for it; you cannot try to get it trying to be a Christian. You will fail because God made you a Christian when you received Jesus into your heart as your Lord and savior. Your life became God's. You gave up your life and took on His life. You now have a life and are living it to the Lord, living His way. It is not religion; it is relationship. It is not trying to be pleasing; it is God has made me pleasing and now, out of that, the fruit of good works comes. Many people live their life trying to be pleasing to people, doing works that will make them look and feel good, and that is not what it is about. It is all to the glory of God.

God is doing the good that is coming out of us. If you want to take credit, take credit for the hateful moments, the unbelief, the bitterness, and the resentment.

If you have any greed, idolatry, or selfishness in you, you cannot tithe and you cannot give offerings with a good heart. It becomes an obligation, and there is no blessing on obligation or compulsion. Have you ever said, "All the pastor wants is my money?" You have not learned that it is God's money. The Lord says, "All the silver and gold is Mine." If you are smart, you will not oppose God, and realize that all the money is His.

A Manager of What is God's

The Lord says, "This is how I want you to manage what is Mine: I want you to give me the first 10 percent of the gross before everything else. Secondly there are offerings to give". If you realize that it is all His, and He is telling you what to do with what is His already, you will understand that you are a caretaker, a steward, a manager of what is His. How can you have an attitude about what is His? *"My people perish for lack of knowledge."* (Hosea 4:6)

The God-man and God-woman say, "I am just a manager of what is God's. What do you want me to do with this, Lord? How do you want me to do it?" It will keep coming in, provided you are giving it out where God wants it given. He will show you how to do that. I just had a wonderful example of that recently. The Lord told me to do a

couple of things and I did what He said, and He supplied everything for it. It is amazing how that works over and over again.

It is not *just* about giving. If you have strife in your life, bitterness in your heart, or if you are not forgiving somebody, God will not prosper your finances. If you forgive somebody you are setting them free, freeing them from the curse of whatever was done. You are giving for them. Jesus gave His life for us. You need to give love. You need to be about God's purpose and ministry - the ministry of reconciliation. You need to draw people to God, not push them away. If you cannot forgive everybody except one person, how would it be if Jesus said, "I died for everybody except you?"

We need to always be giving love, peace, joy, and goodness. Do not get stirred up about things or you may get sharp with somebody or get agitated. That happens when there is something in your life that is not at peace with God. You must be right towards Him and be at peace with Him. Stop and ask God's forgiveness, receive His forgiveness, and move ahead. The Lord will start to make things happen.

People who have no thanksgiving, no appreciation, no joy, no peace, and no contentment in their life have made themselves monsters. That is cursed, it is not blessed. They blame others, believing the others are the problem when in fact, it is them. They need to ask the Lord's forgiveness, and ask Him to cleanse.

When we get up each day, we need to be thankful for another day. There are a lot of people who have been in a near death experience and they appreciate every day they have life. They appreciate everything and everybody around them. They are so thankful to God that their whole life changes. My prayer is not that people come to that place because I would rather see people turn to God and come into what He has now before that kind of stuff happens. I know the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, and if we do not appreciate and are not thankful for what we have, it will be taken away from us. This is not saying that God takes it away, it is saying that God cannot give you prosperity and blessing when you are out of His will. When you are disobedient and trying to be the head, He will just step aside.

God is the giver and that is the whole point of what He was sharing with me when He opened my eyes wider about this. God is going to receive off of His giving *to* me *from* me. Do not cut off God's blessing. In Malachi 3:8, God says, "*Will a man rob Me,*" and the people asked, "*In what way have we robbed you?*" The reason they quit giving was they felt they were not benefiting on what they were giving to the temple to God. God says, "You are robbing Me" because God was giving to them every day. Everything they had came from the Lord and His hand: the crops, the weather, their health. If you do not have health, you cannot work. You can take away from your health, but you cannot add to it. You cannot add anything to your life. They were robbing God of the blessing. They were robbing His ministry.

When you give, you give to God. He is furthering His ministry in the earth doing what He wants done. This whole concept that a person might think they can take what they have and give it where they want is wrong. There is no blessing from God on it. The only blessing is where God wants it given. Then He will multiply it to His ministry, back to you, and from there wherever God wants to take it.

"Give and you will receive." God gave that principle. It is His principle. He said, "Thankful people give to the work of the Lord," people who are thankful for what God has done in their lives.

God gives back to us financially, in health, in relationships, in peace and joy. Generous people are thankful, happy, loving, and caring people. They are people who you want to be around.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
Faith
Chapter Three

Faith Starts with Believing

The problem with many people is they do not know how to receive from the Lord. They do not understand how faith works. The Lord already has something for you; He has already given it.

When some people pray, they approach the Lord thinking, *Maybe He will do it, maybe He will not*; like the curtain or the box. But in Jesus it was all finished: spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, and relationships. It was all done. I am not coming to the heavenly accounts, pressing the button to see whether I will go into salvation or not. God wants all that uncertainty out of your life. He wants you without question to come boldly before the throne of grace because of the blood of Jesus with full confident assurance of faith. (Hebrews 10)

Sometimes you need to ask the Lord, "Why is this financial problem happening?" The first thing I always ask is, "Father, am I out of Your will somewhere?" We must get over this nonsense called pride. You cannot receive condemnation without pride. You cannot have fighting without pride of self.

How many times did Jesus ask the disciples where their faith was? He was not condemning them; He was just asking. *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Romans 10:17) What are you doing with the word of God? *We walk by faith and not by sight.* (2 Corinthians 5:7) "...According to your faith let it be done to you." (Matthew 9:29)

If you become aware that you do not have faith, then you need to get it. I find that many people only believe what they want to believe. Denial is faith against faith. When you pray, believe you have received and you will see it. You have to start with believing. It says in Mark 11:22 *"Have the godlike kind of faith"* which comes through hearing the word, and keeping it in front of you. Proverbs 4:22 says the word will be health and life to your bones.

There are different areas of faith: Spiritual faith for salvation, then mental, emotional, physical, financial, or relationship faith. You may have faith in one area and not as much in another. It is the same faith for all the areas. People say they are saved, but they do not know about this healing, and I say, "How do you know you are saved? Can you see it, feel it, taste it, or touch it?"

You have a quiet confidence as you read in the Word (Romans 10:9) that if you say with your mouth, "Jesus is my Lord" and believe in your heart He is risen from the dead, you will be saved. If you repent, turn away from your flesh and your old life, and you believe God; you will be saved. Change will be evident. If you do not see changes in your life, a love of God more than self, then maybe you need to look at your salvation as to whether you are in the faith. *"Examine yourself whether you be in the faith or not."* (2nd Corinthians 13:5) Granted you will not be perfect overnight, but *in Christ* you are perfect. Jesus made you perfect and holy, and now you need to live holy. You do that by the grace of God.

You need to exercise your faith. In Luke 5:23, when Jesus was asking, *"Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk;'"* He was referring to the same faith. In quiet confidence, we know the Lord loves us and He has healed us. We receive the healing and act on it. Some things manifest sooner than others.

Believe What You Pray

A lady in her 70's came to me with glaucoma. She was beyond anything they could do for her. I told her, "Let's pray and believe the Lord." We prayed and periodically she would check with her doctors and every now and then she would come up in the prayer line. I told the people, we pray one time for something, after that we are thanking God. About a year later, the lady came up to me and told me that the doctor said her glaucoma was gone and she could see perfectly. I said, "Oh, that is wonderful." She said, "Is that all you have to say?" I said, "Yeah, praise the Lord." She said, "Well, are not you more excited about that?" And I responded, "No more excited than the first day we prayed. I believe what I pray; I receive what I ask in Jesus' name."

“ ‘Have faith in God,’ Jesus answered. ‘ I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, go throw yourself into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.’” (Mark 11:22-25)

As far as I was concerned, that blindness was gone. It had no power. Even though she still had symptoms and things were still there, the power was gone. When Jesus cursed the fig tree in Mark, chapter 11, the disciples did not make a big deal about it that day except they were probably thinking, *What kind of weird thing is He doing now?* Because Jesus did all kinds of things that people did not understand.

I spent over four years in the early 1970's learning that when I prayed, God was going to do something. I had to know it without question or a doubt. It is life and I am a teacher and a man of faith. I believe in God. If you are going to see mountains move, you have got to know that when you speak according to what God says, it is done. It is done in heaven and it is done in the earth. What you speak here, God is honoring in heaven (Matthew 18:18-20), and you will see it here on earth.

I was trying to communicate to that little lady that when we prayed, as far as I was concerned, it was done, and we would see it. You will see it the moment you believe it, not when you pray. A lot of people pray. I am not impressed by thousands of people praying over something. Give me one person that believes God and we will change things. There are many people who pray with a double-mind. They pray, “Lord, if it is your will, then great; if it is not, okay.” I say, “Man, do not pray for me, or if you do, pray in tongues, pray in the spirit. Get your head out of the way. Your understanding is in the way and you are not believing with me.”

When you pray, believe you have received and you will see it. That is the God-man. You overcome the world by your faith in God. Your morals will get better when you come to Jesus. You will watch what

you say and get your tongue under control. We need to be speaking the confession of faith in God. We need to be speaking what the Lord says.

Faith must be stirred up just like the Spirit of God must be stirred up in us. We cannot allow doubt and unbelief to come because it just settles on you. The next thing you know, you think you are powerless and hopeless; you are speaking the same negativity that goes on around you.

You can have ninety-nine percent faith but live in the one percent of unbelief. There are many good things going on in your life, but you tend to dwell on the stuff that is not going well. That is where you are living. You have a beautiful mansion, but you are living in the outhouse in the back. Get delivered of that and get back into the mansion.

Many people's relationships are harmed because they are afraid to love after being hurt and abused. Welcome to the world. That is what goes on. But we are spiritual in Christ Jesus and our life is about love. Because we are loved, we love no matter what anybody says or does to us. We are to love people and do good. We are not to be looking for recognition or acceptance, or compromising God's principles to please somebody else.

Honor God First

Many times, I get invitations to do things on the Sabbath, but I do not accept them because they are on the Sabbath. It is God's day, it is His time. People may think I am strange or that I do not like them, but it is the day where I do not do my own pleasure and do not do my work. I do the Father's work on the Sabbath as it is acceptable and pleasing to Him to do good. But I am not running around doing all the things that people do, because it is God's time.

You do not want to compromise God's life that He has given you. Put the Lord first. That is what a spiritual man of God will do no matter what people think.

I tell people that if they want to schedule things on God's day I cannot come. If they are scheduling something on His day, then they are not

honoring God, and I do not want to go. People may say that is legalistic, but I think it is spiritual. The Book of Revelations talks about that. Let the righteous remain righteous, and let the defiled remain defiled. You must take a stand and do what is right before the Lord. There is no compromise. It is why people's faith does not work; because faith without works is dead. *"You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?"* (James 2:20) There needs to be fruit that goes with it.

I look at it this way: if they want me to come, then they will do it when they know it is not my time to honor God. In Daniel, chapter 6, remember how he prayed at certain times during the day? People knew that was his time to pray, and he was so consistent at doing it that they actually used it to try to trap him and have his life taken away. They convinced the king to make an edict, which even the king knew was against Daniel, but they puffed him up so big with it that he was not thinking straight. However, Daniel did not compromise what he was doing before the Father. He never allowed that to happen in his life. Even as a young man when he was first brought over there into exile, he appealed to the authorities not to let him eat food that would defile him. He said, "Just give us to a certain amount of time and then check us out. If we are different from the other people that you are feeding, then we will abide by what is going on."

That was a God-test. The Lord will never violate His principles where the world comes out better than He will on the deal. After the time, sure enough, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego all looked better than all the guys who were being fed the other food. The Lord will always make the difference.

When you honor God and do what He says, He will honor you. That is what the Word says. Many parents sacrifice their children to the car-god, and the children go to work. I told my children if it is a God-job, it will not be on His Sabbath. Tell the employer you will work any other time, you will be faithful and a blessing, but on God's day, you honor God. That is it. That is how it works. Some employers did not want that, so then that was not the right job.

Parents want their kids to go to work and then the kid needs a car so they work for the car. By the time the insurance, the car, the upkeep on the car, and everything gets paid, there is no money for anything else. And in many cases the child is not responsible with the car.

What are the gods in our lives? That remains to be seen.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
Stewards of God's Abundance
Chapter Four

Practical Tips

I have been through sickness, car crashes, trauma of life, been disinherited, been spoken about all over town in negative ways, and I have been there and done all the finance stuff.

Part of managing your house is to get a will. You do not know how long you will be on this earth, only the Father knows. You may be finished before you thought you were. If you do not have anything to will, you had better get something. People do not really realize what happens when you do not have a will. Do not think that just because you will be gone, you should not care. You would be creating grief and problems for everybody that you leave behind. If you love and care about others, you will get things in order and delineate it down the line. Save your loved ones grief; honor the Lord even in your going.

Do not let yourself be condemned by things in life either. It will quench your faith. How very simple to say, "Lord, forgive me."
"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) You may ask the question, "Why are these things happening to me?" It is for a purpose. It is about ministering for the kingdom. We should be equipping the people for the work of the ministry, and if we are doing that, we *"seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you."* (Matthew 6:33) So people will see all the things they are looking for, if they are about *His* business.

If God's people are about the work of the ministry, then the Lord will bless them spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationship. Paul says, *"I have nobody else like Timothy who has a genuine care for the people."* (Phil 2:20) There is a whole world out there dying and needs a touch from God; you have been given a

gift from God to pray for whosoever the Lord wants you to pray for, and that gift needs to be used.

Jesus is not coming back for a selfish, weak, self-indulgent Church. He is coming back for a perfect bride; one that loves the Lord with all their heart, mind, and soul; one who lives for the Lord and is not concerned about their own life. They are concerned about what is going to be best and blessed for everybody.

This Is a Test

God says you will be blessed financially when you give, and the natural thought when you are short is not to give, but to hold back. God's way is just the opposite. When you are sick, the natural tendency is to withdraw and pull in, but God says, "Go out."

What people do not realize many times is that I minister the Word of God whether I am feeling well or not well. I need to practice what I preach. We are holy so we need to be holy. We do not want to go and live like sinners because we are not sinners anymore.

There are times when we are put into situations in life so that we have an opportunity to get smarter and begin to see what is really important and what is really a priority.

Have you found in your life that when you are learning about finances suddenly you get a financial hit? It is a test. Are you going to do the faith breakthrough or are you going to lie down and just take care of yourself?

Remember the widow with her last mite? She knew that God was her husband, and He was going to look out for her. She was going to give no matter what she had or did not have. Since she gave all that she had, it was more than all the other people who put in their big bags of money because those bags of money were not a large portion of what they had. It does not say what happened, but I know from the word of God that something good happened to her because the Lord was watching that.

The Lord always watches what you give.

Your Life Belongs to the Lord

The God-man and woman live first and foremost for the Lord. They are stewards of God's abundance. They are caretakers. The God-man or woman does not have a life anymore. Your life belongs to the Lord. God is in the house whether you are sick, poor, have friends or not, or whether things are going good or bad.

There is a misconception that many people have that if they are Christians, only good will happen to them. Then they are devastated when something goes wrong. *"Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. Cast all your care upon Him. For the devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour who resists steadfast in the faith."* (1 Peter 5:6-7-8) The thief wants to destroy the faithful ones who are full of faith, hope, and love; ones who are committed to God and serving God.

People have actually told me, "Pastor; I would rather not be a Christian if all these things are going to come against me," and I say, "You are missing something." The Word says that when all hell breaks loose and the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord will raise a standard against him and turn the tide. *"When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him."* (Isaiah 59:19) Romans 8:31 says, *"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."* (Psalm 34:19)

People who think they would rather not be Christians because of the hardships have not grown enough in the Lord to realize His power. 1st Peter refers to people who have undergone physical persecution for the word of God's sake and resultantly, these people do not sin as much as the people who have seen only blessings.

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy

inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:6-9)

When sickness comes, it is an opportunity for you to exercise your faith in God, and the more the better. You get stronger. Not because of the sickness, but because you are applying faith application. There are different areas of faith application.

Everything You Have Belongs to the Lord

We are stewards of God’s abundance. *“The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty.” (Haggai 2:8)*

God says, *“The cattle on a thousand hills are Mine.” (Psalm 50:10)*

Your life is not yours; it belongs to Him. You need to understand that in order to operate in the ‘God’ dimension. To be the God-man and God-woman, you need to realize you are possessed by the Spirit of the Living God and that everything you have belongs to Him. It is not yours. Most people have been taught to live, work, make money, and take care of themselves and their family. “Us four and no more” kind of thing and maybe if we have an extra surplus then we can give it someplace else. But God says it is all His.

Everything you are and everything you have that is good came from the Lord. You need to start to realize this and understand this if you are going to work in the ‘God’ dimension.

You are God’s temple (The law of life and health is working in you.), and He has ways He wants it to be taken care of. If you are violating his health principles, you are going to break down, get sick, or become weak so that sickness can have power over you.

God made your body to fight off all sickness and disease. If you look at the root causes of many of the sicknesses, diseases, and infirmities in life, you will see that they are actually caused by a breakdown in the system because of misuse and abuse. Just because you walk into a room of sickness and disease does not mean you are going to catch it. Jesus touched the leper. It was supernatural because what was in Him took the leprosy off that man and got rid of it, yet He never caught it.

In Christ Jesus, we are supernatural beings. God is developing us so that we can take heaven into the earth and bring heaven to people. Right now, the whole world is feeling the economic crunch. It is all a sign of the times because when the anti-Christ comes, he is going to be the savior and the bailout for everybody and everything. We have not seen him yet. He has not appeared. Many people over the centuries have had their ideas about who it is.

Financial Realm Concepts

1. We are stewards of God's abundance, caretakers of His provision.
2. We honor God with everything that we have. This is referring to money and things.
3. God is the source who supplies all our needs.
4. We seek godly wisdom and God's direction on how we are to manage what He has given to us.

"The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." (2 Thessalonians 3:10) The Lord gave man dominion over everything in the earth. As such, the Lord has called different people to do different things in life, and whatever is providing a service to people, God will bless. Money and things should not own us, we should own them; meaning we are the caretakers of it. God gave dominion over everything, and He gave it to the God-man and God-woman. Start to think the way God has made us to be and manage things properly. We need to ask Him, "What do you want to do with this money? What do you want to do with my life?"

Credit is not in God's vocabulary, unless it is 30-days-cash where you pay for it within that time frame. You are not going out extending on something that you do not have. All Americans are in trouble with that somewhere. In fact, the whole nation is in trouble on that.

I was reading reports that said the national debt has quadrupled in the last six months. When you are talking about trillions of dollars, people cannot even figure it.

5. We have the Lord's kingdom as a spending priority.

The God-man and God-woman have God's kingdom as *the* spending priority. They are asking the Lord what He wants done with His provision. When we do that, He will tell us how He wants us to manage it; what He wants us to do; where He wants to give; and how He wants to give it. We must get rid of the thinking that we do what we want to do with God's money.

I got an inheritance from my dad, but it is not my money. He honored God in his will for the ministry, and I must honor God with what He gives to me. We need to ask Him. *"Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways; and He will direct the path."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

When we are obedient to do as the Lord directs, then the Lord will bless it. When Isaac sowed the seed and got rid of the fear for his life, then God blessed it one hundred-fold.

"Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy." (Genesis 26:12-13) It was not just multiplied blessing on what was sown, God blessed it with such notoriety that Isaac became powerful in the eyes of the rulers of the city and the region. Then rulers wanted him to leave. They were threatened and intimidated because God was blessing the man, and they knew that something supernatural was happening. The rulers perceived that it was taking away from their positions; not realizing that the positions they had, whether believer or unbeliever, came from God. All authority comes from God. But many times people think they are the authority. As Jesus told Pilate, he would not have authority except His Father in heaven gave it to him. *Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."* (John 19:11)

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." (1 Peter 5:6) If we are faithful with a little, it will cause increase to come. We have moved as a society from vegetables, fruit, and nuts into a money system. There used to be a barter system. I would give you vegetables and you would give me something else. We have evolved into a system now where it is

not even real because they are just printing money. If there is nothing to back that paper money, then you have nothing. I do not care if you buy gold bars. You cannot eat gold bars. The day will come when you cannot buy or sell except you have the mark of the beast. People say they do not have to worry about that because they will already be raptured out of here, but let me tell you, it may be sooner than you think.

"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

People say that maybe they will not have to have tribulation. What are people going to do when something real happens?

They are falling apart over the little things now. You need to have your faith up and ready. I tell people, "You need to start believing God for a hangnail because if something else comes along, you will have a problem."

The word says to be sober, be vigilant, be alert, be ready. *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."* (1 Peter 5:8) You do not want to be like one of those gals left without any oil in her lamp when the Lord comes back. The virgins referred to in Matthew 25 were all believers, but some did not stay faithful to the end, and when they went to get it, it was too late and the door was shut.

The God-man and God-woman do not look to man for supply. God is your source. If God is using someone for His purpose to supply, He always talks to the one who has the supply first.

In the past, someone said to me, "The Lord told me that you were to give me your car." If the Lord wanted people to give their cars away, He would tell *them* first. If perhaps, they are being hesitant about giving their car away and God has been telling them for a while that they are supposed to be the recipient, you still had better keep your

mouth shut. Just believe God as the source and get your eyes off that person.

Often people look to man. A classic example is the man who goes to his friend looking for help, and the friend with a kind and generous heart helps him out. Then one day the friend with a generous heart learns what we teach about God-finance and how God does things. The next time the man comes to him for something he asks him if he had asked God about it, and the guy, right out of his mouth (the lariat of God, Holy Ghost truth), comes “No, it is easier to ask you then to go to God.” (A quick fix.)

God will always tell the giver what to give and where to give it because He is the Lord who supplies seed for the sower so they can sow it and give it out. Get rid of the attitude that it is your money.

Have you enjoyed counting your money? It is a good thing to have some money, but it is not a good thing to hoard it, fear about it, or think about who wants to dip into it. There are always people out there trying to dip into it, that is why we need to be responsible and accountable about what we have. It is all about commitment, accountability, and responsibility. That applies spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationship. It is all about love.

6. We do not look to man for supply; we give freely as the Lord directs.

Just because there is a need out there does not mean the Lord is directing you to supply that need. The Lord is never directing a greedy person to give because they want to hold on to it. Greed is idolatry and you will actually lose everything you have if you are a greedy person. *“Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it.”* (Proverbs 1:19) (Read Haggai, chapter 1)

7. We do not lack; no poverty belongs to the God-man or the God-woman.

Whatever is needed will be there when you need it. *“All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”* (John 6:37) You need money for the kingdom to use as God directs to you and through you *“...but those who seek the Lord **lack** no good thing.”* (Psalm 34:19)

The flesh, the devil, and all greedy spirits will start to kick up. The thief absolutely does not want you honoring God. When you recognize that what you have belongs to God, and you are asking the Lord to direct where you are going to give it and what you are going to do as a faithful steward, God will bless and bless and bless, and you will become a witness to the world, to the nations, because you have become a faithful caretaker of what belongs to God. *“And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.*” (Malachi 3:12)

Deuteronomy, chapter 8, says the Lord gives people the ability to acquire wealth to finance His kingdom in the earth. When that happens, the blessing of God continues and everybody gets blessed. He will save the whole world of his day.

God’s priorities are on the God-man or God-woman, and that is why we honor the Sabbath. The Lord says that He will bless us on His holy day. On His Sabbath, you do not do your own pleasure; you do not do your own work.

*“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath
and from doing as you please on my holy day,
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the LORD’s holy day honorable,
and if you honor it by not going your own way
and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,
¹⁴ then you will find your joy in the LORD,
and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land
and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.”
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isiah 58:13-14)*

God will bless us with everything that we need and more because we are witnesses for Him.

God gave two days of manna to the Israelites on the day before the Sabbath so the people did not have to go out and work. Then God can bless Sunday through Friday when you are honoring Him.

When the priorities line up with God's priorities, He gives the ability to acquire wealth. *"But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."* (Deuteronomy 8:18) That is why when I was 16 years old, working part time in a toy shop and major appliances, I was making more than the guys who were working 40 hours a week. I paid for all my education and got things done that God wanted done. The whole store was talking about it. They came to me and asked why this was happening, and I told them that I honor God with my tithe and I was there doing what I did to the glory of God. They do not teach you that in the sales pep talks. I learned that from the Lord, and I was taught to be faithful, and be faithful on the job. I arrived early, stayed late, and did everything that was needed to be done. I served the people. When you serve the people, blessings can come.

Whenever I have bought a car, nobody called me up the next day to check on me. That is why I thought it was so unusual when my daughter's husband-to-be called her and asked how she was doing with the car she bought. I was thinking, *"I have bought a lot of cars over the years and nobody ever called me up."* Of course, I knew that the moment I saw him. He was inside the dealership, and we were talking about peace and joy, a godly home and family, and my daughter was out bopping around the lot finding her little dream car. We were talking about the Lord inside, and I went home that night and I said to my wife, "Love, I believe I saw the guy that God sent to marry our daughter." I did not tell them because you do not want to get into that mix. But the priority was the Lord.

8. We believe God for our supply and others' supply. (Philippians 4:19)
9. We live within what the Lord has supplied, and we avoid credit deficit spending.

Give God opportunity to make it come to pass. If He has it for you, you do not have to rush out and purchase something. I tell young couples when they first get married not to take the credit card to buy themselves a bunch of stuff. They should buy what they need.

I remember when my wife and I first got married. We had early hand-me-down everything, but we were very happy with it, thanking God for it all. We put a lamp on cardboard boxes covered with fabric. Some rooms were lit more than others. But we did not owe anything. *“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.”* (Romans 13:8)

One of the fastest ways to break up a relationship is to make a financial transaction where everybody is not clear on expectations. The next thing you know, you have problems. People get bitter, upset, and do not want to come around the one they owe money to. Never co-sign unless you intend to pay for it. The book of Proverbs is very clear (in wisdom) about dealing with life and finance. Do not violate God’s principles and you will not have any problem.

People appreciate things more when they have to work for it. Do not pay for college educations. If children want to do it, start with junior college unless they have scholarships and work. Most of the time, they do not know where they are heading until the third year of college, if then. There are people who have gone through all the cost of college and still do not have a job. If you really want education, you will make a way to get it.

When my daughter was a little girl, she wanted some special black tennis shoes. We told her that we would give her \$30 for tennis shoes. The tennis shoes she wanted were \$75. She was a hard worker and was working two jobs. She earned the difference and went down and bought those shoes; she was very happy. But that was the last time she did that because it was not worth it to her to pay the difference for them.

It is easy when something is given to you immediately, but you have no values or priorities as far as spending and thinking. When the children were little, and I told them that we were going to have to

save for something to do this or that, my son told me, “Oh, no, Dad, all you have to do is go down to the bank and they will give you the money.” All he saw in his way of thinking was that dad would go down to the bank and come out with a bunch of money. He did not understand that the bank did not just give you the money. So, what can happen? A welfare mentality is developed.

“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
No Lack
Chapter Five

Why People Have Problems

The Lord says this word through the prophet Haggai to Jerubbaal, *“This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘These people say the time has not yet come for the Lord’s house to be built.’”* (Haggai 1:2)

There is always someone who will rain on your parade, but they are just spitting in the wind because whatever the Lord has will come to pass with or without us. The key is participating in what the Lord is doing. *“Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai saying, ‘Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses while this house remains in ruins?’”* (Haggai 1:3-4)

He was speaking about the temple of God that had been ruined, and it was a call to arise and build, and do what the Lord wanted. *“This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘Give careful thought to your ways, you have planted much but have harvested little. You eat but never have enough. You drink but never have your fill. You put on clothes but are not warm. You earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes in it.’”* (Haggai 1:5-6)

Many times, people wonder why things in their lives are happening the way they are. Right now, as you look around the world and see the economy and different situations with people, you should know that the Lord has a solution. Many people go to God with their problems. We get all kinds of emails and correspondence relaying that people are having hard times.

The Lord has answers to why people are having problems in their lives.

- Jesus says *“Therefore do not worry, saying ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’* (Matthew 6:31) *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His*

righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you.”
(Matthew 6:33)

- *“The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.”* (Psalm 23:1) We shall not lack. He is our caregiver. He is the one who is looking out for us. He knows how many hairs are on our heads. He knows everything about us.
- *“His plans are for good not for evil. Plans to prosper you, to give you hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11-12)

Today there are many people who do not see much hope or a future. The Lord in His Word has insight and wisdom as to why things are happening out there.

God Is a Giver

As you honor God with your tithes and offerings, the Lord will make a way. He does things that seem to come at just the right time. *“My God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:19) Whatever you need will be there when you need it. God determines what you need. If people would get rid of the greed, they would see the blessing of God coming far more exceedingly, abundantly, more than whatever they got when they were trying to preserve themselves. God has more for us than we can imagine or think. He is far more generous than the old self could ever be greedy.

He is just waiting for us to quit being the monkey who sticks his hand in the peanut jar, grabs as many peanuts as he can, and then cannot pull it out of the jar because he has too many. You must open your fist and let go.

One year the Lord told me to tell some of the farmers in our church to bring some corn to the service. We had bushels of it. The next thing you know, people were helping themselves to it. They took big bags of corn but had not been told they could have any of it. In the service, the Lord said, “Let everyone who got the corn, go get it and bring it back in.” Then He said, “Those who have the corn, distribute it among everyone so that everyone can have some.” They became the distributors of the corn. It was a lesson on giving, sharing, greed, and the joy of giving.

God is a giver. He is generous with His people. He does not hold things back. If you need wisdom, ask the Lord. *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach and it will be given to him."* (James 1:5) He will not hold anything back. He will not find fault with you for not having what you need. He will give you more than enough. One of His names is the Lord who is more than enough, Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who supplies an offering. But a greedy, stingy person does not want to give an offering. The Lord says, "I am the Lord who will give you seed to be a sower so that you can give an offering" because the Lord knows that when you give an offering to Him, you are honoring and obeying Him. What is involved in this is faith, hope, and love. The Lord wants to cause blessing to come because He knows that when we get rid of that fear for our lives and self-preservation, then the Lord becomes our source, and He is able to make us into a channel of His blessing into the earth.

Balance in Your Life

Deuteronomy, chapter 8, says that God gives people the ability to acquire wealth. *"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."*

(Deuteronomy 8:18) It is not you trying to make it happen. You can work night and day trying to finagle and work things out. In the world, it is, *How can I get your stuff without me working hard for it?* People want something for nothing and what is mine is mine and what is yours is mine. The Lord says, *"All the silver and gold is Mine."* It cannot be His and yours at the same time.

"God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)

Grace is God's favor and ability. When you read "Blessed are the poor" in Matthew 5:3 it is not talking about the poor people that do not have anything. He is talking about the people who are poor in spirit. The Scripture reads, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* Somehow, people do not read this accurately. Maybe we only read what we want to read.

In Deuteronomy, chapter 28, it says that the poor are cursed, and poverty is a curse of not obeying God, not seeking Him, and not doing what He says. Greed is equated in the Bible with idolatry. It is

putting another god before the Lord. You cannot serve two masters. You either love God or you love money.

The God-man and the God-woman have acquired that balance. If people are lacking, something is going on in their lives. I gave a formula to balance the economy:

1) Do away with the welfare system; it is bankrupt and corrupt. People are getting something for nothing. The Bible says if you do not work you do not eat.

2) Get rid of the space programs. What good are they doing us? The Lord likes His heavens. Remember when the people were building the tower, reaching up into the heavens? – Babel. Has it yielded anything to benefit mankind?

There are two businesses that will always be in business: a restaurant and a funeral home.

3) Let's quit being the savior of the world. We need to tend to our own house.

4) Do not fight wars that are not your wars.

5) Everybody needs to be a citizen that wants to be a citizen, but no benefits to people who are not citizens.

This will balance the budget. How many bombs do we need? We have enough bombs to destroy the whole world a thousand times over. There was a time when our Founding Fathers left their jobs, stopped to help run the nation and then returned to their jobs. If bureaucracy gets too big, then it becomes self-serving.

God Is Our Source

These are finance lessons. Have you ever thought that you would like furniture for your house or a new car? As a manager of God's finance, we have a commitment to the One who gives us all that we have. All that we have came from the Lord. Many people have not come to that realization yet, or a lot of them wish they had not come to that realization because they would rather keep the tithe and

offering for themselves and do something else with it. But it belongs to God. It all belongs to Him. He tells you how to operate and how to manage what He has supplied and what He has given.

The reason many people lack is as God says in Malachi 3:8-12 that you are robbing Him in tithes and offerings. The children of Israel received offerings to the Lord four major times a year in addition to the tithes, and ultimately 10 occasions where they honored God with their giving. God is the source of all they had. When He took them out into the wilderness to lead them to the Promised Land, it says He caused them to hunger so that He could feed them. He was teaching His people that He was their source; not themselves, their storehouses, or the labor of their hand.

God is the source of health. You can do all these health things and die early if God is not your health source. The Lord must be your first source, your first love. People who are faithful to God and love Him love to do what He says. Then the Lord will be committed to His commitment, His covenant; accountable to His commitment and responsible. *God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?* (Numbers 23:19) You have to start to put some faith and trust out there.

God was teaching the children of Israel that He was going to supply all their needs. Manna showed up from heaven daily. They went out and gathered it up, and if they hoarded it, it would spoil. A savings account should be used however God wants. Remember the rich man in the Bible who stored up all the grain in his barns, and kicked back and said, *"Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink and be merry."* (Luke 12:19) But the Lord says, *"Fool, This night your soul will be required of you..."* (Luke 12:20) Woe to the man who is rich in this world but is not rich towards God; he just leaves it to the next guy, whether a wise man or a fool.

"A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."
(Proverbs 16:9 NKJV) I believe in giving ten percent to God, and ten percent to savings, plus offerings to the Lord, and however He wants to do it.

In Malachi, chapter 3, the people had stopped giving to the Lord because they were not seeing any return on what they were doing. They started wondering why they should give this to God, when they needed it for themselves. *“You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God; what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners Before the Lord of hosts?’”* (Malachi 3:14) On the other hand, the faithful say, “We are going to continue to honor God,” and the Lord says, “I am going to make them My chosen people.” *“Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord and Who meditate on His name. ‘They shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, On the day that I make them My special treasure. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.’”* (Malachi 3:16-17)

Learning that God is or source is a process. Sometimes when people are giving their tithes and offerings, they suddenly get hit with a financial crisis. It happens because the devil knows if you learn how to give, you have just tapped into God as your source. You are believing God, giving under His direction, not as you wish. Have you ever used your tithe for something else? The Lord says to give Him the tithe and watch how He will take care of you.

There Is a Reason

“Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”

(Haggai 1:5-6)

In this example, it goes out as quickly as it comes in, and you have nothing to show for it. There is a reason why people lack. Many people do not want to ask the hard questions. They do not want to look at things. There is a reason why their health broke down. There is a reason why the family broke down. There is a reason why the money dried up, and there is a money pit where it is all going down the hole.

I always encourage young couples when they get married not to go out there with a credit card and buy everything that they always wanted. It is going to cost them more than they can ever imagine or think. Compounding interest is great for you, but horrible against you. Have you ever noticed how much interest is being given to you? One percent, maybe two, and they are getting 20 or 21 percent interest.

With a nice furniture set, it is only going to cost you 20 thousand dollars on a \$1,500.00 set. You are just paying the minimum payment, meeting the payment every month, but it is eating you alive. That is why companies like to put "minimum payment" in big letters. They want you to pay the minimum payment because they are compounding the rest of it. You will be paying for it the rest of your life because the borrower is a servant to the lender. A house is a little different because it appreciates. But then again, recently your house may have depreciated. Where your money is, is where your heart is. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Matt 6:21) God is not going to help the flesh. The arm of the flesh is cursed.

"This is what the Lord Almighty says, 'Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains, bring down timber, build the house so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored.'" (Haggai 1:7-8) The Lord is talking about His temple. "You expected much, but see it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away." (Haggai 1:1:9) The Lord is saying that when people are not trusting Him and looking to Him as a source, He actually blows it away.

The Lord wants all of you. Many years ago, I would not even talk about money with God's people because I did not want them to think all I wanted was their money. I refused to go there, and the Lord rebuked me about it. He told me that I was not teaching His people the full prosperity of God and they needed to know. *"Give, and it will be given to you."* (Luke 6:38) Now, I talk about money anytime the Holy Spirit gives it to me to talk about so God's people can be blessed and cared for. Some would come to me and say, "All those preachers want is my money," and I would look at them and say, "No. All those preachers want is your heart." God wants all of you, and if He has your wallet, He has your heart. If you are saving up for the rainy day, it will surely come. But those who put their trust in the Lord, somehow He makes that flour bin and that oil cruse fill up.

All those examples throughout the Bible are during famine times when God shows Himself mighty. There was a transition period with the people of Israel driving which they had absolutely nothing. They were totally selfish and greedy, thinking only of themselves. Every day they grumbled and complained. But God continued to love them despite themselves because He was trying to get them out of that greedy, selfish, rebellious, independent mentality to shape them into His people called by His name whom He could set His love upon and cause His blessing of His love and generosity to flow.

Busy about God's Business

Who would not want to be a child of God and be a part of His family? All the time I hear, "Well, I was not born into a wealthy family." This is America; there is no cast society here. We are dealing with principles. We must believe God and look to Him. The Lord continued to supply for the children of Israel. The stingy, greedy ones hoarded up the manna and it stunk because it was only good for one day. That is why Jesus taught, "Give us this day our daily bread." Every day, the Lord had the manna there except on the Sabbath where he had given a double dose the day before, the day of preparation. When the Israelites took a double dose, the manna did not stink because God was confirming His Sabbath. He wanted His people to know that they would be taken care of on that day when they were honoring Him and blessing Him. If you work on God's Sabbath, that is working against you because God tells us to honor Him on that day.

God wants the things He wants done. Do not get busy about your own business. The devil will try to get people so busy about their own life, they forget about advancing the kingdom of God. They are worrying about their lives and being distracted.

Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.

Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. (Haggai 1:9-10) In other words, it is all drying up around you. "I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil, and everything else the

ground produces, on people and livestock, and on the labor of your hands.” (Haggai 1:11)

In the different regions of the earth where there are famines, the people are serving a different god. They are believing in other gods. If I were those people, I would say that my god is not working. He is not supplying or providing. You do not ever see the children of Israel lacking. Even when they were not believing God, He was still helping them. But understand that everybody has their day. Later they were carried off into captivity because they were not believing God. Afterward Haggai came back to rebuild because the temple was ruined, and God was saying, “I want to take care of My house now.” Their walls were built through Cyrus who could have cared less about their God and them, yet he was used of God to build what He wanted built and to do what He wanted.

Stay True to Your Word

Ecclesiastes 10:19 states that if you have money, you can do anything, for better or worse, but the Lord ultimately is going to call for an accounting and a reckoning. He wants commitment, accountability, and responsibility in all areas of your life. That is what the Lord was saying to the people, “Consider your life here. What is going on? Why do you want what you want?”

Have you ever wanted something but never even asked the Lord about it? Often people do not ask Him because they do not think He is going to do it. People want to marry, and I ask them if they have asked the Lord about it, and they often say, “No.” Somebody needs to ask the Lord about it. The Lord may say okay, but still, people can change. They do not always honor their word. It is important to talk about things before you get married.

I believe in care and preferring people more important than myself. I want the best for everybody. The best is having the Lord in the equation and everybody doing what the Lord says, but people do not always do that. This is why people are lacking and they are bringing a curse upon themselves and the whole nation.

Remember the guy who took a few garments out of Jericho for himself when God had said to destroy everything? The man brought

a curse on the whole nation, and the whole nation came out before the Lord. The Lord said that they had better find him, and they found him because there is nothing hidden that will not be exposed. Then they killed the man.

It only takes one selfish person in a family to cause hell. Look at Ananias and Sapphira in Acts, chapter 5, where they sold their property and said they were going to give it all to the church. It is one thing to have an idea, and it is another thing when you are able to do it. They sold the land, but plotted together that they would give the church just a part of the money. When they went in, Peter said, *“Did not it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, was not the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”* (Acts 5:4)

I have seen people do this many times; when it came time to deliver on their word, they changed. I saw one guy give a thousand-dollar check which he made a big show of it in front of the entire church. Then he cancelled it the next day. Everybody was thinking what a generous guy. God knows.

Another person came up who was going to give his estate to the ministry, the land and everything, and all the people were thrilled because somebody was being so generous to the work of God. After the service, somebody came up to me and said, “Well, Pastor, you did not seem very excited about that,” to which I responded, “When I have the deed in my hand and it is all signed, sealed, and delivered with no strings attached, then I will be excited.” People change, and this person never did do it. Then he turned around and said the ministry just wants his money.

We do not deal fraudulently with the Word of God, and we do not use our position for anything. If somebody is going to give something, we will gladly, willingly, thankfully receive it, provided there are no strings attached.

If you are giving something, you must give it with your heart. When you go into a marriage, you are giving that other person your heart. That is a trust. Do not dare mess somebody around. You are messing with their heart and their life. You do not want to cause

somebody pain. How can you say you are a child of God and cause pain?

However, I cause a lot of people pain because I tell them the truth in love. This is a different kind of pain. When I was disciplining my children, I would never tell them, "This is going to hurt me more than it is going to hurt you" because that was a lie. It was going to hurt them more than me. I am going to drive out rebellion and independence. I am going to break the will but not the spirit because I want to see them blessed exceedingly, abundantly more than I am blessed. I expect my children and God's people blessed more than myself. I love and care about God's people because I love and care about the Lord.

Speaking the word of faith is going to change lives. When you believe it, receive it, and act on it, you will see God change your life. When it comes to finance, Jesus talks more about finances than He talks about love.

One of the first words that children seem to learn is "mine." Everything we have has been given to us as a trust from God. We are managers of God's abundance, and if we are faithful with a little, then He will give us increase.

"...the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent Him." (Haggai 1:12)

They realized God had loved them enough to send them a man of God that was going to help them and tell them the truth to get them out of their dilemma. We need the Word and the man and woman of God. Sometimes you must tell yourself, "Man of God, rise up, and believe that Word of God."

Get Everything Back

The Lord says, *"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."* (John 15:7)

"And the people feared the Lord [reverenced, respected, and honored]. Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of

the Lord to the people: 'I am with you,' declares the Lord." (Haggai 1:12-13)

The Lord was saying, "I am going to help you to return to Me and get everything back that needs to be in place."

"So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people;" (Haggai 1:14)

God was stirring up all the people's hearts. And then they came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty their God. That became their priority.

"You have planted much but have harvested little." (Haggai 1:6)

After they built God's house (they put it first and did it first), they were not harvesting little, and they were receiving pressed down, shaken together and running over.

"You eat, but never have enough." (Haggai 1:6)

After they honored God, they had plenty to eat and plenty left over.

"You drink and never had your fill." (Haggai 1:6)

They were filled and overflowing.

"You put on clothes and are not warm." (Haggai 1:6)

God warmed them up.

"You earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes in it." (Haggai 1:6)

There were no holes in the pockets, no holes in the purse. The Lord filled them and changed the curse to blessing.

Believe for Finances

These are principles that the Lord has given. *“...and money is the answer for everything.”* (Ecclesiastes 10:19). If you want to help people, you need something to do it with. What is so hard about believing Jehovah Jireh for an offering when He says He wants to give an offering? Jehovah Jireh, “I am the Lord who supplies an offering.” People have a hard time with that because they are not releasing faith to believe God for it.

When I was 16, I bought my first car from my dad. I did not drive it until I was 18. (I paid \$600 for it, and years later I thought he ripped me off.) I loaned my dad \$1,000 when I was 10 or 11. My dad was nothing but a blessing to me, for I saw what God was doing. People were asking me why would he sell a car to his son. I started listening to that garbage; then I figured they were toxic friends because they were trying to create disunity between my dad and me and break trust.

That Slant Six oxidized-red Plymouth station wagon took me all over the country through all my years of college and seminary. I pulled up at Diana’s door sliding down the bank to get there. Her momma would say, “There he comes.” Nobody goes out in that kind of snow. But when you are in love, you do not let rain, snow, sleet, or anything else get in the way of where you are going. That little station wagon had holes in the floorboards from the salt. It was a male chauvinist car — it allowed me to open the door for Diana because she could not open it on her side. Let’s call this a ‘male gentleman’s car’ which forced her to realize that I was a gentleman, and I would open that door for her whether it was stuck or not; that is what a gentleman does.

We were raised as godly men who were gentlemen, not wimps and selfish hogs, but a generation of God-men who care for the people in their lives.

Who Is in Charge?

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge...” (Mark 13:32-37)

We are in charge of God's house; we are the temple of God. All that we have and all that He has entrusted to us are part of His charge to us. Someday we must give an account to God on what we do with our family and ourselves. Hebrews, chapter 13, talks about that. God has given us an assigned task for this life. There is something that He wants us to accomplish.

"It is like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch."

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"
(Mark 13:34-37)

We are preparing the way for the Lord's return. We must be found ready.

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property (speaking about it belonging to God), who will give you property of your own?" (Luke 16:10-12)

We have property in heaven. The Lord has gone ahead to prepare mansions for us. I tell my Jewish friends that I am grafted in through faith in God, and we inherit all of Abraham's promises.

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Luke 16:13)

I always taught the children when they were working that they were not working for money. They were to do whatever they did with all their hearts in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. Ask the Lord,

“Where do you want me to go to work?” He will direct you and show you, and then He will put together His plan. He will direct the path.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
What Are You Thinking?
Chapter Six

The Importance of Faithfulness

We need to be flexible, allowing God and others to change our plans. We make plans, but the Lord orders the steps. When our plans do not work, many times we get discouraged, bitter, and resentful. If we were doing God's plans, we would not get bitter, discouraged or resentful because in time His plan always comes to pass the way He wants it.

Time is God's friend. It is our friend. It allows the Lord to shape things the way He wants them shaped and developed. Sometimes we thank the Lord that something we were believing for did not happen because somethings actually came to pass over time better than the way we had been thinking.

The Lord works through faith and patience to bring about what He has. Sometimes people will be glad they did not get what they wanted because later they found they did not want it. At the time, they thought it was just perfect for their life, but it really was not. Delays are not a bad thing. Actually, they are not delays; they are things in process. I find that very encouraging because there is no stress or mess with that kind of lifestyle.

I know someone who was working with a lady who said that her husband and her lifestyle had changed. The husband had lost a lot of finances and the wife said that she did not want to be a part of the marriage anymore. She said she did not buy into the marriage not to have money. The other person asked, "What did you buy into the marriage for?"

Some people marry for security. That is one of the 21 reasons not to get married because you are coming in needy, looking for the husband to have the money and take care of you. That is one of the top three reasons why people get married. The person that was sharing with the lady said that was no reason to get married, and asked, "What would you do if the roles were reversed and you were

the one going through hard times? Would your husband stick with you?" "Oh yeah," she said; "he would stay." Then the person proceeded to ask, "Why should he stay with you, if you are not going to stay with him?" Faithfulness is very important.

What Is Your Priority?

Everything is about money. The old detective slogan was "follow the money." The sports star in one film said to his agent, "Show me the money." People fear and worry about money. That is what the whole world is thinking about.

Do you look to money as being your source? I told my children early on, "You do not work for money. You work for fulfilling what God has given you to do to the glory of God. You work to provide a service to somebody else. You give what you receive back to God in tithes and offerings. Honor God first because everything He has is yours."

A God-man and God-woman are stewards of God's abundance. They are caregivers of God's money. They honor God with everything. God is the source who supplies all needs. They seek godly wisdom and direction about what to do with money and how to manage it. The Lord says, "All the silver and gold are Mine," and He entrusts us with it. *The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty.* (Haggai 2:8) The God-man and God-woman have the Lord's kingdom as their spending priority.

"Do not worry about what you will eat, drink, or wear, and everything else will be added to you." (Matthew 6:25) The world is always thinking about that. God is thinking about His kingdom and advancing His kingdom in the earth.

The God-man and God-woman do not look to man for their supply. They give freely as the Lord directs. They do not lack and have no poverty in their life. This applies not only to finances, it applies to everything spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships.

That lady went into her marriage with poverty thinking. She was looking for her husband to take care of her. She was looking at his money; not at him. A lot of people approach the Lord looking at what

He will do for them rather than loving Him. They have given up the Lord because of relationships, finances, health, and mental conditions where they did not think they were getting what they signed up for.

Many are “out” when they are persecuted for what they believe. It becomes “every man for himself.” *“He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”* (Matthew 10:25)

If you are thinking about money, you are not thinking about God. If you expect to use God to get money, you are thinking from hell, you are thinking devil stuff because that is not what God is all about. If you are trying to save your life, you will lose it. When you get rid of the fear for your life, you will save it.

God will not honor the flesh. The arm of the flesh is cursed, the Word of God says, and it will come to destruction and a soon end. But the arm of the spirit is blessed of God. The Lord is not thinking about money, He is thinking about His glory.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Matthew 6:24) You either love God, or you love money. And if you love money, you cannot have God in your life. The love of money is the root of all evil.

The godly man or woman knows that whatever God wants for their life will be there when they need it. *“For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”* (John 6:33) Such people’s thoughts are on the Lord. They are not looking for the provision; they are not running here, there, everywhere trying to find money. They are sitting at Jesus’ feet, about God’s business, following and listening to His direction, doing what He wants to do.

Think on the Lord, He Will Supply

Jesus never took a thought about His life or money. He never thought about those things, yet He always had everything He needed, wherever He went to do whatever God wanted Him to do. He even

told Peter, "Go fish," and sure enough there was the tax money in the fish's mouth.

The God-man and the God-woman believe God for self and others' supply. *"My God shall supply all your needs according to His power and glory in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19) They live within what the Lord has supplied and avoid credit/deficit spending. The Lord is our source. We should not go out and charge things when we do not have the money in our account to pay for it. A credit card should only be used 30 days like cash; otherwise, we will be consumed. Compounding interest against you will bury you. Compounding interest for us will help us.

Have you ever noticed what they are giving you in interest at the bank nowadays? One or two percent, but they are charging 18 to 25 percent. This is a discrepancy. We need to believe the Lord to supply and not put ourselves in the hole. Do not expect God to bail you out if you are violating His principles.

The book of 2nd Chronicles scriptures will apply to these principles. The God-man and God-woman operate in finance by not living, breathing, and thinking money. They are living, breathing, and thinking the Lord, and the Lord will make a way for what is necessary for life and to be about God's purpose. As you are about God's business, He is about yours. A God-man, or a God-woman, a spiritual man or woman, are hilarious, cheerful givers and managers of God's abundance because it is His money and they have the privilege to be about His business.

God will entrust you with what is His. Many people in the world do not get it because they are all about living to make money, and they will never have enough of it. That is one of the things that Proverbs and Ecclesiastes talks about: never being fulfilled, never being content, never having enough. What those people have, they try to keep and make sure nobody else is going to get it. "What is mine is mine, and what is yours is mine."

People spend their whole lives trying to acquire, gather, and accumulate, only to leave it to the next person, whether a wise man or a fool. What unspiritual living! You always have the rich and you

always have the poor, but woe to the man who is rich in this world but not rich towards God.

Solomon's Prayer

In 2nd Chronicles chapter 1:7, Solomon was to be the next king: *"That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, ask for whatever you want me to give to you."* Solomon answered God.

He did not even have to think about the answer. He knew exactly what he wanted. He was a God-man. You can always tell a God-man from a selfish man. A selfish man will always ask for himself. It is not selfish to pray for yourself, but what are you praying for and why are you praying for it?

Solomon's response was, *"You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place."* (2 Chronicles 1:8) Note, the Lord made him king and showed great favor to his dad. *Now, Lord God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed.* (2 Chronicles 1:9) He is speaking faith, he is relying on the promise given to David that from his family lineage would come the Messiah, and his kingdom would last forever.

"For you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give me wisdom and knowledge that I may lead these people for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" (2 Chronicles 1:9-10) In other words, this is not my kingdom. This is not my kingship. These are your people. The God-man and the God-woman always see things as belonging to the Lord. The earth is the Lord's. Everything is the Lord's. All the silver and gold is the Lord's. Your life is the Lord's, it is not your own. Your children and your wife belong to the Lord.

Solomon's heart was to serve the King of kings. This was God's kingdom and Solomon needed wisdom and knowledge. He needed understanding and insight into how to lead the Lord's people the way He wanted them to go. That was Solomon's prayer.

"Lord, give me wisdom and understanding in how to use what you have given me." This is the spirit-man and woman's prayer to live this life and carry out God's purpose to His glory. That is the only

place where there is fulfillment. There can be no fulfillment in life apart from God's plan and purpose for which you were created. You were created to be to the praise of God's glory. Anything else that you yourself have concocted or planned is going to fail. *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* (James 4:6) The humble are the ones who submit themselves under the mighty hand of God and yield to the Lord.

In the 1960's, it was "Who am I?" — the big question of identity. I know who I am. I do not need to ask that question. I am a child of God. What is my purpose? To glorify Him and live to the glory of God. My purpose is to be faithful to my wife to the glory of God, to raise up godly children to the glory of God, to be about God's purpose in the earth, to bring heaven to people. It is not about me, it is not about acquiring things. Therefore, it was such an abomination when Jesus went into the temple and found them marketing and doing their business. You do not come to church to drum up business. You should not do business within 100 yards of the church. God is not going to prosper it if you are trying to use God's time for your business.

"And God said to Solomon, since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches, honor, nor for the death of your enemies, long life, health, but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have." (2 Chronicles 1:11-12)

In Proverbs chapter 3, Solomon puts it another way. Solomon says, "If you seek first God's wisdom, then all other things you desire will be yours." In 2 Chronicles, The Lord told Solomon since he had not sought what the world seeks after (such as fame, wealth, long life, and health, and vengeance) therefore, all things would be given to him. Then Solomon went on his way.

The Worth of Knowing the Lord

Solomon wanted to know the Lord. Paul puts it another way *"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I*

consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3:8)
Understand, Paul came from a very wealthy family. He was very well educated by the finest educator of his day, Gamaliel. He was a Pharisee of Pharisees. (A big shot in the church). He had everything going for him, but he said, “I have put this all away – my reputation, my attributes, my wealth, my everything for the sake of knowing Christ Jesus as my Lord, and being a part of His suffering.” He said, “I forsook it all to follow Christ.”

He said he died to himself, and he chose to follow the Lord Jesus and to trust Him with his life. You can see in the Word how greatly the Lord took care of him during all the things he went through. He was persecuted, and it just made him stronger in God. He drew closer and closer to Him. He was a God-man walking the earth.

When you read Deuteronomy 8, you will see that God gives people the ability to acquire wealth for the furtherance of His kingdom. *“But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”* (Deuteronomy. 8:18) God does not just want you to make money to take care of yourself and your family. It is all about His kingdom. The Lord does not heal you just to make you feel good. He heals you for His glory and for His name’s sake.

People approach God from a selfish perspective. He does not save you because He loves you. He saves you for His name’s sake. He forgives you for His name’s sake for His glory. You receive the benefit of it.

There is always a selfish element in people. *Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?”* (Luke 17:17) Have you been healed or delivered and then you went about your own business and forgot about God?

In Deuteronomy 8:18 it says that God gives people the ability to acquire wealth, and it then says, *“If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.”* (Deuteronomy 8:19) What God is talking about is that you are bought

with a price, you serve God with your spirit and your body which belong to God.

Be Not Covetous

“Someone in the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’ Jesus replied, ‘Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbitrator between you?’ Then He said to them, watch out, be on your guard against all kinds of greed.” (Luke 12:13)

There are different kinds of greed and they show up at different times in your life. If you consider your body your own, that is greed. Greed is the same as idolatry and selfishness. You may be generous about one thing but not about another.

“...Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

Have you ever looked at what you had and did not think it was much? Jesus says, *“Be not covetous.”* (Covetousness is wanting something you do not have, or not being thankful for what you have.) *“For I will never leave you, nor forsake you.”* (Hebrews 13:5-6) The Lord is saying, “What am I? Why are you looking for another, why are you going to another as a source?” If He is asking the fools the why question, maybe they will come to their senses and start to look at their life and realize what is going on. He is saying, “Do not go to other sources. I am here, I will not leave you; you do not need to look anywhere else.”

This is the spiritual man, the God-woman. If you are not doing this, then you are not acting like the God-man or woman. We must start to recognize this. Who are we serving? We cannot serve God and money. It is one or the other. Money should serve us. As a God-man and a God-woman, all that the Father has for you will come to you. You will not lack for anything in whatever He wants you to do.

A Higher Purpose

“And he told them this parable:” “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store any crops.’ Then he said, ‘This is what I will

do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I will say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and be merry." (Luke 12:16-19)

Have you been saving up for retirement? You retire when you die. When you lose your purpose for life and living, you die. That is why many people die a short time after they retire because they have no purpose anymore. Yet some people are outliving their money. We need to understand that God has given us a higher purpose. The Lord has something for us to do.

I remember a fellow who saved up and bought a big beautiful motor home, and when he retired he and his wife were going to travel. It ended up she died and a fear came on him that he could not leave the driveway with that motor home. He never did drive it. It never left his driveway.

"I will say to my self you have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said to him, 'You fool, tonight your soul is required of you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself!'" (Luke 12:19-20)

This man was ignorant. Read Proverbs. Wisdom calls people fools who do not pursue God's wisdom. The end is death. They cause death to everybody around them. Ecclesiastes says you will just leave it to the next guy, whether a wise man or a fool when you die. Everything you worked for, you spent your whole life working, and never enjoyed time with your family and your children. All you are doing is out there making money. There are things in life more important than money.

Ecclesiastes 10:19 says with money you can do anything. Have you ever thought you got a raw deal because you were not raised in a rich family? Or you are going to go look for some rich man or woman to marry so you can live happily ever after? This is wrong. How do you know something is not going to happen to that person and things are going to change? It is all about love, faithfulness, and contentment.

Have you seen your lifestyle change money wise? Are you the same person? Your life does not consist in the things you possess. That is what Jesus said. He is trying to get us to be spiritually-minded. He is trying to get us to think like God-men and God-women and quit thinking like the world. *“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”* (James 4:4) God is trying to get us out of this world. We are in it, but we are not of it. He is trying to lift us up to be God-men and God-women solely blessed as God’s children about God’s business.

We work on God’s farm. He calls it His field. Some sow seed, some reap, some do different things, but we are all workers on God’s farm in His kingdom.

“This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself, but is not rich towards God.” (Luke 12:21)

The King James rendering says, *“Woe to the man who is rich in this world, but is not rich towards God.”*

Matthew 6:25

The world is made up of users and abusers. The rich use the poor, the poor are seeking to use the rich. But the poor are poor for a reason and they are not very smart. The Bible in Deuteronomy 28 says they are under a curse. They are under a curse because they are looking to man to do something for them. The whole welfare system is under a curse, and it is broke. Before long, what will all the people who are going to a broken source do when they cannot get anything more from it? They will turn on it and rebel because it is a “care-for-me mentality” that is out there. *“For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’”* (2nd Thessalonians 3:10)

Then there are others who believe that God helps those who help themselves. That is not in the Bible. That is the other side of the coin. The Lord helps those who trust in Him, who lean not to their own understanding, who acknowledge Him in all their ways, and allow Him to direct the path. Those are the ones that God helps. The ones who are seeking first God’s kingdom to advance God’s

kingdom. Those are the people that God will make a channel of His abundance into the earth. If you are faithful with a little, the Lord will give much. He will give increase. Why? You are going to be faithful with much.

It goes on to say, *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? (Matthew 6:25)*

Have you worried about your life? Think about this, a God-man and a God-woman do not worry about their life. Therefore, you say, “I will quit worrying about my life;” then you walk out and start thinking about it. It is not your life, it is God’s life. You think, *you say it is God’s life, but it is my life*. Which is it? The Lord says that is confusion, and in confusion there is every evil work.

Whose life is it? That is what Jesus is trying to get through to us. Who am I going to marry, what am I going to do, what does my future hold, am I going to have enough in my future to hold me? What about today, what about tomorrow? What if?

Well, what if you had total peace, never lacked for any good thing, and your health never broke down. If you are saving up for a rainy day, then you are believing it is coming, and it will come. It will take everything that you saved and everything that you had.

Have you ever received something and you were happy with what you received, but then you thought, *I hope it stays*. Well, it will stay as long as God wants it to stay. I look at it this way: I meet you one time, it is for the moment and that moment may never happen again. I do not take my bride for granted. I do not take my life for granted. I am here right now, and I am going to enjoy this moment with God and everybody else I come into contact with. I am living in the moment in the spirit. I may not have another moment, and I want to make the most of it.

Get rid of the bitterness, the fighting, the bickering, and all the nonsense. What are you going to do if that person is gone? Are you going to have a big celebration and celebrate their life? Well, you did

not celebrate their life while they were with you. Quit being a hypocrite. It is so ridiculous, so much goes on. We are in this world, but we are not of this world.

I came out of this world, translated out of darkness into the light of God's dear Son. I do not want to go back and I do not want to listen to teaching that is going to pull me back into that, saying that I just go to God so I can get what I want. That is devil teaching; not God teaching. He heals me so I can be about His business. He saves me so I can be about His business. He loves me so I can be about His business. He gives me money so I can be about His business. Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who gives an offering.

We give our offerings to the Lord. Some people say, "Thank you very much, God, I appreciate that." There is an old saying, "This is how I determine things: whatever money I have, I throw it up to God. Whatever God wants He keeps, and whatever He does not want, it comes back down to me."

Someone with greedy thinking came up with that idea. All kinds of people come up with belief systems that fit what they want to do and who they want to be. They make belief systems that contain false delusions and lies, but they think they are okay. God said to the rich man, "*You fool, tonight your soul is required of you.*" There will come a time of responsibility and accountability; then what are you going to do? It will be too late.

The Lord tells us not to worry about our life. "*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*" (Matthew 6:26-27) The ravens fed Elijah, the prophet of God, in the Old Testament. They took care of him until the creek dried up and the Lord said to the man of God, "I want you to go to Zarephath; there is a widow over there that is going to take care of you." Why? God wanted to take care of that man and that woman. Are you no different than Elijah, a like man as he? God will take care of us if we are about His purpose.

A Test of Love

The God-man and God-woman are about God. If you are selfish, you are on your own. Every man for himself. Survival of the fittest. You have heard that, it evolved in the world. Is not it what evolution is all about? God did not evolve us, He transformed us.

Caterpillars are the most ferocious creatures on the earth. They are total consumers. If you look at them through a microscope, you will see they look like a monster. Then that caterpillar will go into a cocoon state, and it comes out a totally transformed and different creature. You would never know it was the same creature because it is not. It has changed.

Many Christians take their old ways into their new life. It is like the circus coming to town; they simply add Jesus to the one hundred thousand other gods they have. There is no change. In Christ, we count the other person more important than ourselves. Just think what that would do with relationships.

If you cannot take care of money, you cannot take care of spiritual things either. Spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and financial relate to me. Relationships relate to somebody else; how you relate to them, and how they relate to you. You need to have all the other realms in order before you ever step into the relationship realm. That is why I tell everybody, if you do not have your finances in order, do not take a wife or you will not have a life. She looks for security, her needs being met: carnal, fleshly, and the true test comes when your money goes down the tube.

If you want a true test of love, watch what happens when you have nothing. Then you know who your friends are. Then you know who is faithful to you. I have been on both sides of this one. Proverbs and Ecclesiastes talks about it. When you do not appear to have anything to offer, friends are few and far between, but when you have something, everybody comes.

When people perceive that you are somebody, they want to be around you. When they perceive that you are nobody, they do not want to be around you. They are always looking for somebody that is special. Have you ever noticed that in the world? That is why people

idolize people. Soap operas and scandal sheets are so huge because people want to live through others' lives. They are not happy with their own life. Your life does not consist of the things you possess. That is why Jesus said *"I am come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10)

Paul says, *"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."* (Philippians 4:12-13) He has substance, rather than "he is rich" or "he is poor." He is content. He is not covetous; not wishing for another life.

Living God's Way

I was talking to somebody about Shangri-La, and how whenever things got rough in their life they would always go to Shangri-La, a fantasy land, an escape. It is not real. You have heard the expression, "The grass is greener on the other side." It really is not; it just looks that way because you are not looking at what you have and appreciating what you have. Appreciating has the word precious in it, and you are adding to preciousness. If you are not doing that with what you have in your life whether it is people or things, what do you have? But understand, where did all the people and things come from? They came from God. If you are not appreciating God, that is where ungratefulness, complaining, murmuring, etc. come in.

How does God feel about complainers? They are an abomination to Him. We are supposed to be shining lights to the Lord's glory and he says you are a bunch of complainers. *"Do everything without grumbling or arguing,"* (Philippians 2:14)

The Lord says, *"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* (Matthew 6:31-34).

God wants to give us the kingdom of God, and with the kingdom of God goes everything that is of Him.

“Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out. A treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted where no thief comes near, no moth destroys for where your treasure is there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:33)

If you profess Jesus as your Lord, then you will live God’s way. If you are not living His way, then one cannot assume that Jesus is your Lord. You are not born again and are not a child of God; bottom line. Because a child of God, a God-man or God-woman is going to set their heart to live by God’s principles and His ways.

I do not have an option; I do not have a choice on this unless I am a rebellious child. However, a rebellious child is not a son or daughter. “Who is my mother, my brother, my sister, my sons, my daughters? They are the ones who do the will of Him who sent Me,” Jesus said.

If you are a child of God, you are going to love Him and do what He says. The Lord will help you to do that because He wants you to be His son or daughter. He is not going to leave you out there, but you have got to make some choices. You have two choices: God’s way or God’s way. You do not have a choice to be rebellious or independent if you are a child of God.

What Are You Thinking About?

You need to get rid of any thinking that is not of God. If you are thinking about money and dwelling on money, you are not dwelling on the Lord. Why are you thinking about money? The problem with many people is that they do not spend time with God (and themselves, and ask themselves the real questions), and then they get offended when the Holy Spirit is asking those questions through somebody like a pastor. If you would listen to God yourself, then He would not have to bring it up again.

If you would do like David did in Psalm 42, you will not be cast down or allow yourself to stay in that place. You will stop yourself from even thinking negatively.

The world puts depressed people on drugs, and then the people get more depressed because their head gets fuzzy and they cannot think. If they become easier to live with, that is only for your benefit and not theirs; they are going to get worse and worse. They will not get better. Only the Good Shepherd can right the sheep and put them upright.

If people would just take the time to ask why they are thinking and doing things. We need to be in the spirit as a God-man or God-woman. We do not need to think that way; we need to start praising and thanking God.

We have become so used to creature comforts. Every household has servants. You have a refrigerator, a washing machine, a clothes dryer, a hair dryer, an oven, a microwave, a toaster, air conditioning. God came up with all these ideas to make people's lives easier and blessed. However, you can live without all those things.

It is funny; the people out in the west think it is so hot. I have been in places on the east coast where you would think 115 degrees was cool. I was in Delaware one day when it was 102 degrees with 100% humidity and it did not rain. You want to crawl under a rock and die because you cannot breathe.

We must stop thinking about the elements. If you do not like it, believe God to change the weather. How many times have we seen God change the weather? We have seen Him do it and we need to use the same faith for finances and marriage, relationships, healing, and salvation. It is amazing to me to see how many people who say they are saved and yet they have no faith for healing, finances, or anything else. It makes me wonder if they really believe they are saved. If you are saved, there should be some fruit, some changes. There should be some heart desire for God.

I sometimes question people's marriages. I say, "You say you are married but you have no heart for your husband, you have no heart for your wife. If you are married, you should have a heart for your spouse."

I do not just think about things. When I see that condition in somebody's relationship, I pray for the marriage. I pray that God put the spouse back in the spouse's heart because we are not powerless. We have an economy situation going on in the world that is not going to get better. Man's systems are going down, but God's economy works at a different level. You need to step out of man's economy to operate in God's economy because God's economy is totally different. Man's economy is about me, and God's economy is about Him.

Man's economy is broke. Why continue to operate in an economy that is broke. I have a solution to balance the budget, but nobody will listen because the world has built things to secure that if we solve the problem of the poor then all these agencies that service the poor will be out of business. Then all the jobs that have been created to do the other things will disappear and we will have another jobless problem.

The whole system will go down together. The unsinkable Titanic sank, and they did not even have proper lifeboats on the ship because they did not believe that the thing was ever going to sink.

What is of the Lord will never sink. If your life is founded on Him as a God-man or God-woman, then you do not need to think about money. I have been there and I do not like thinking about money. When it comes to balancing the books, and doing all the proper responsibility things, yes. Thinking about what I am going to give in tithes and offerings and what the Lord wants me to do, yes. How I manage His money. But I do not like worrying about it because I know God is not there. He does not worry or think about money, and He is not up there in the heavens printing more of it.

The Lord loves us all so much. He is just saying, "Come on, get it. Get it and I will keep you in perfect peace no matter what is going on around you." Do not be the fool. God will help you to be a wise man or woman of God. We need to get ready for the Lord's return.

"For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it." (1st Timothy 6:7) In God's society there is no waste. That is why Jesus picked up the twelve baskets after the feeding of the 5,000.

This was also so that each of the twelve disciples would have one basket. This was a faith lesson for them. He wanted to teach them to become believers. Then the next time when the people came, the first thing Jesus says is, "You are only following me because I fed you the last time," and when He got spiritual with them, they could not handle it and were out of there. He was not fostering bread and soup lines. He was trying to impart to the people spiritual things that would reap spiritual blessings that are going to allow them to be able to draw from the heavenly account. Everything of God comes out of the spirit realm into the physical realm before we will see it. He was not saying that He wanted the people depending on Him, He wanted them depending on God. He did that a couple of times, but that was not all there was.

Giving food as a handout does not help the poor. Jesus was teaching, "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" (Matthew 6:11) It is the Lord who supplies things. You need to be about the Father's business.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
For the Kingdom of God
Chapter Seven

As the Master Directs

You cannot serve God and money. *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* (Matthew 6:24) Money should serve the kingdom of God.

We are caretakers and managers of what belongs to the Lord. We are stewards of God’s abundance. A steward is somebody who has been entrusted with somebody else’s things. Stewards are entrusted to care for it and to use it as the Master/owner directs. In giving direction, he also gives liberty in the sense of responsibility to the commitment. Then there is an accountability to the commitment, which is love. The steward is entrusted with something and is going to use it as the Master would desire it to be used. For that to happen the steward must know who the Master is, how He operates, and what he would have to be done. Sometimes, there are specific instruction as to what to do and how to do it. Other times you must think about what the Master would like you to do. What would He want done in this situation? What would Jesus do, how would He want me to handle this?

Constantly, the steward or servant has his eyes on the Master, and is not distracted with doing his own thing. He is not about his own purpose. He is constantly there to wait upon the Lord. He is there to serve the Lord. The Lord always says to be attentive to His word.

To be attentive to His word you have to hear His word and be in a position where you are listening to Him, not to other things. An unfaithful servant is thinking about his own interest and not about the master’s or the employer’s, or what is best for the overall picture.

The servant and the steward only know the part they are given. They do not look at the whole picture because that has not been given to them to do. They are only entrusted with what they are given to do

and how they are given to do it. They will have whatever they need to do whatever the Lord wants them to do. They cannot look at somebody else and compare themselves or compete with anybody else because that is out of the thinking of the kingdom of God. A spiritual man and woman does not think like that, for it is not what they are about. To compare or compete is all about self and the resulting benefits.

If someone comes in looking for a job, and the first question out of their mouth is to ask what the benefits are, they just dropped down to 186 on the list. No employer is looking for that kind of person because they are unfaithful. They are not concerned about the employer or the business prospering, they are concerned about their own interests. They are like rats who will jump ship when things do not go the way they want them to go, or they are not getting the benefits they think they ought to get. This works for marriage and relationships too.

The steward is accountable to the Master for what he has been entrusted with, and there is a day of reckoning (a day of accounting) for what has been given. As a steward, you are responsible to the master for everything involved. The Lord owns your life, and you owe Him your life.

Your New Master

You are not being the steward or servant out of obligation, compulsion, guilt, or fear. You are doing it out of faithfulness to the love the Lord has demonstrated to you. That is why you do what you do. You are now walking into the twilight zone of God. You have been translated out of the darkness into the light of God's dear Son, the Lord Jesus. You do not serve the old master who was the devil. He was your master and you were his slave. You were not his servant, you were his slave. The devil steals, kills, and destroys, and he would just do whatever he wanted to do with what you had. He used you, abused you, and when he was done, he threw you away and trashed you.

Not so with your new Master. God first loved you and gave Himself for you. You have been freed. He comes to you and says, "I have purchased you from your old master." The blood of Jesus was the

price, and now you are free to serve whoever or whatever you want to serve. The bondservant says, "I choose to follow you. I choose to be your servant because you have loved me and given me a new life." You respond in love to the Lord.

You have no right now to do your own thing. The lie about freedom of the will (of choice) to a Christian is just that, a lie. Jesus is your Lord. You no longer have a right to do anything else with your life. Your life does not belong to you and everything you have belongs to the Lord. Your time, talents, and treasures all belong to Him. You are fully possessed with the Spirit of the Living God.

The faithful heart is, *I come, O Lord, to do your will*. The word of God has often been presented to people like we are trying to persuade them. We do not want to talk about the tithe or the offering because we do not want to offend somebody. I am of the thought from the Scripture, from the Word of God, from the Lord Almighty, that people who do not want to give to the Lord are absolutely not Christians. They are unfaithful, and the Lord says they are God-robbers. How can a God-robber be a Christian? They are unfaithful employees. What happens to unfaithful employees? They get fired.

Behaviors for Blessing or For Cursing

Jesus taught about the kingdom and how the kingdom of God operates. We need to begin to understand that a Christian has no right or option to be bitter, unforgiving, angry, arrogant, greedy, gossiping, rebellious, independent, or self-willed.

God's wisdom laughs at the fools when the calamity comes. *"I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you."* (Proverbs 1:26) Calamity will come because they are not doing God's ways and they think they are okay. How can people think they are Christians and have unforgiveness in their heart? The Lord says to forgive as you are forgiven, and if you do not forgive, He cannot forgive you. *"But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* (Matthew 6:15)

When God says you are a God-robber, you will have holes in your pockets. Everything that comes to you is going to leave you (Haggai 1) because you are not using what He has the way He wants it used.

You are building your own houses, doing your own thing, caring about your own lives, and leaving His temple in shambles. The work of God suffers because people are first about their own stuff. When you are first about that, the Lord says you are cursed.

How can you be a child of God and have those kinds of priorities? If Jesus is your Lord, then you need to sit down and have a reckoning about what you are doing and how you are doing it. If God says, "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" (Matthew 6:33); then the Lord is giving you direction. If you seek first his kingdom, then you are a faithful child of God, a faithful servant, and you will be blessed because the Lord will honor His Word. If you do not seek his kingdom first, then you will be one of those grumbling, complaining, murmuring, griping people that God despises.

People do not understand that God despises those kinds of actions. They show there is unbelief. They are saying the Lord is not my supplier or provider.

When we honor the Lord first with the tithes and the offerings, He will open up the windows of heaven. "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,*" says the LORD Almighty, "*and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*" (Malachi 3:10) The Lord only does what He delights in doing and takes pleasure in doing. He only does what He wants to do.

I always told my children as they were growing up, "Get smart. If you do what you are told, and you do what is right and blessed, you will be blessed. If you do not, I am going to encourage you to do it, and it is not going to hurt me more than it is hurting you." That is what we did, and that is why they are blessed today. What they do with it is up to them, but they are going to teach their children either the ways of God, or the selfish ways of the world. They will choose whether to be blessed or cursed, but when Jesus is Lord, you will be blessed.

In the days of old, the Lord told the people to work the farms and bring in the tithes, and He would take care of them. He would protect

them, defend them and look out for them. No enemy would cross their door that He would not take care of. The lands that the people were working on belonged to Him. They worked for the Lord, and He was called their Lord.

People have no concept of that especially in America because this is the land of the free. But it seems to be the land of rebellion and independence, self-will, self-seeking, and self-promotion. Freedom has responsibility. It has accountability and there needs to be a commitment to that freedom and the principles on which they stand; “one nation under God, indivisible,” with life and liberty for all. It is a whole different world out there today. We are so many generations down from the time those principles were fought for and people stood up. Something happened in America after 1952.

We live in the world but we are not of it. But we bring life, light, and liberty to this earth. We bring heaven. That is what we as God’s people are to be about.

A Servant Advances The Kingdom

We are part of the kingdom of God. The world out there is not part of the kingdom of God. Our goal and mission as workers in the kingdom of God is to advance the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ in the earth, to bring heaven to people, to bring them to know the Lord. Once they get to know Him, enlist them into God’s working to spread His love to the earth.

We are born again into the family of God through Jesus and now we are growing up and going to work about the Lord’s principles and purposes. He says,

- *“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. (Luke 12:35-36)*

The Lord is not waiting for anybody. When the time is here, it is out the door. We live in a society where people are always having to wait on somebody. That is not love. You know the time, you know what is

supposed to be, you need to be ready, and you need to go. The train is moving, get on board. It is not waiting for anybody.

In all of the kingdom parables, you will see the master has gone away and he has left people with responsibility and accountability for what he has left with them. *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.*" (Luke 2:49-50) The reason we are here on this earth is to be to the praise of God's glory.

- *"It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes."* (Luke 12:37)

Whatever we are doing, we are doing with all our heart to the glory of God. We need to be diligent. We need to purpose that we will never do or say anything that will cause devastation to somebody's life.

- *"I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve..."* (Luke 12:37) This is speaking about us. We are getting ready to serve. He who would be great in the kingdom of heaven must become the servant of all, but it is not trying to please other people. We are God's servant.
- *"...will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."* (Luke 12:37-40)
- *"Peter asked, 'Lord, are you telling this parable to us or to everyone?'"* (Luke 12:41) What is the difference? The disciples always behaved like they were a select group and different from everybody else. We need to get rid of that. That cannot be found in a servant of the kingdom of God's heart, mind or thinking.

Have you ever thought that you wanted to be special, or to be right all the time? Did you think you were right all the time and you were really wrong? Many people do that.

- *“The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?” (Luke 12:42)*

This was put in my heart since I was a little boy. All I ever wanted to do was serve the Lord. I did not know how or what I was going to do. It all starts with loving God, loving people, and caring more about people than you do about yourself. When you care about God more than you care about yourself, then the Lord’s love will flow to you and through you.

- *“It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.” (Luke 12:43)*

That is what we want. We want to see all of us, and all God’s people around the world, about the Father’s business when He comes. It will be good for us. Be thinking, wherever you are, whatever you are doing, the Lord has you on call. We are His children, dearly loved, dearly beloved. He is lavishing His love upon us every day. He is thinking about us and wants good things for us. He wants to give it to us and through us to others.

- *“I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.” (Luke 12:44)*

When the Lord comes back, this working will still be working. But this time there will be no more pain, sorrow, sickness, suffering, death, confusion, fear, terror, or anxiety in the earth. No more broken families, homes, and lives. No more emptiness or chaos. The Lord’s goodness will prevail.

- *“But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk.” (Luke 12:45)*

When the time comes for the Lord to return, that is it. It will be just like when Noah built the ark and the people were laughing at him. He was in a desert area with no water and he was building that big boat. Everybody thought he was crazy. He was telling them, "Hey, the Lord is sending a flood. You need to believe and get on board." They just laughed and mocked him. Then the time came, 40 years later, and the heavens opened up the water and it poured out on the earth; it was too late, the ark was sealed, and all those people perished because they did not believe God's provision for life and love.

They could have been in there too, but nobody believed except Noah and his family. That is just awful when you think about it. Yet, that is where we are today. The Lord is coming back and people need to be ready. They need to be found in Jesus: acknowledging Him as Lord and Savior. They need to have their lives right with God and be about God's business because he is coming. You do not want to be foolish.

Jesus told His mother at the age of 12 that He must be about His Father's business. He had that in His heart. His mother was looking all over for Him and found Him in the temple asking questions of the teachers of the day, and she was upset.

People have not even come to grasp what kind of love God can give us unconditionally and forever because they have not seen it demonstrated very often.

Have you seen any flashes of God come on you every now and then when you loved somebody, not for your own gain or purpose? You really just loved them and cared about them. There are so many people whacked out in their minds coming from a dysfunctional background. They are so dysfunctional that they think dysfunction is normal. That is all they know, that is all they have experienced.

We have to be about our Father's business. Time is too short. I do not believe in living in regrets. We must move ahead. You cannot move ahead if you are still thinking about behind.

Paul says in Philippians 3:14 *“This one thing I do, I forget the things behind, I press ahead to the mark of the high calling of God that is mine in Christ Jesus.”*

- *“The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.”* (Luke 12:46)

Such people are already divided. They have already set their own fate. They chose to leave the master (to leave the Lord), and go do their own thing. *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; but to save the world through Him.”* But unfortunately, people love the darkness more than they love the light and so they condemn themselves. It is God’s desire that nobody perish. He wants everybody saved. He wants everybody to come into all the good things. But people do this to themselves.

- *“That servant who knows his master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.”* (Luke 12:47-48)

People say, “Well then, I do not want to know anything.” I have had people say they did not want any responsibility because if they have responsibility then they have to tend to it. I say, you are not going to have a car, wife, children, or job? What are you going to have? Nothing. Then they will have no responsibility. Except even nothing has responsibility. People living under a bridge have a responsibility. Just because you shirk responsibility and give it up does not mean that you will not be accountable for your life. You are going to have to give an accounting to God someday for your life whatever you have done; whether for better or for worse. You can say, “You did it my way,” and the Lord will say, “That is the problem. You did it your way and I am sorry that you did not do it My way; depart into everlasting torment separated from God.” The only provision for life is through Jesus Christ, and if you do not receive the love of God and His provision for life, then you are going to have death forever.

What Kind of Master Is the Lord?

Someday the Lord is coming back and He does not care if you are an agnostic who tries to deny Him and hides from Him. It is not going to matter. You are going to stand before Him someday and He is going to have a reckoning. It does not have to be a fearful thing if you have received God's provision for life in Jesus. That means as Lord, not just as savior for "fire insurance." Where you leave your life and ways, and you receive God's life and ways. Then the Lord will be working. He becomes your Master and you serve Him, and He will call you "friend."

Have you ever been around people who thought nothing was ever good enough? You tried to do your best, but it was never good enough. One day they liked something this way and the next day they did not. You did things because you thought they liked it but the next day they changed their mind.

The Lord says, "I am not that kind of Master." You have to get to know who the Lord is. He says in Numbers 23:19 – *"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent [change His mind]. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make good?"* (NKJV)

That is the Master I love and serve. He is a good God. He loves and cares about us, He does what He says, and He has given us direction so that our lives can be blessed all the way out, and others can be blessed as a result.

Luke 16:8 – *"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly."* The accounting time had come. (There is always an accounting time.) In verse one it talks about a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. He went out and short sold everything. You will make a lot of friends that way because they got such a deal.

"For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light." (Luke 16:8)

People of the light have big hearts, giving, caring, and sharing hearts. The people of the world do not care one bit about you. They are just

in it for their own interest. They make deals that they believe will profit themselves whether or not the other person in the deal comes out with the short end of the stick. In God's way, everybody comes out blessed and good.

Jesus is saying that the people in the world are shrewd. Like the banks that gave loans and got people into trouble and into debt (the housing crisis). They were the same banks that received the bailout. They were the ones who caused the problems by giving loans to people who could not pay. Some people who were getting these loans thought they were a gift from God, but I was telling some, "Do not do it. In three years, you are going to be in hock and lose the place." Sure enough, that is the way it worked.

When it came to bailout time, the banks got the money. They got it at zero percent interest and they held it because they were making a lot of money on it. Did you try to redo a loan and found that you could not do it, or that it was very hard to get a loan? Why is it so hard to get a loan? They do not want to give you the money because they are making more by keeping it. They have invested elsewhere.

Go figure. What are you making on your money? One or two percent max. What are they making on theirs? 18, 21, 25% interest. I am just praising God that the Lord stepped in and the banks are starting to figure they have made enough money so they are giving it back. It needs to be given back.

Handling Worldly Wealth

Jesus said, *"I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."* (Luke 16:9)

How does your giving to somebody else get you eternal dwellings? The only way that I know to get eternal dwellings is through being a friend of God. If God directs you to give to somebody else, that is blessed. If God gives it to you to give to the ministry of God, that is blessed (Matthew 6). You are storing up treasures in heaven.

We are managers of God's abundance. It should not even cross your mind that all the preacher wants is your money or that all those

people want is your money. It is not your money, it is God's money, and you need to get to know what He wants because you are a manager of what is His.

This principle has not been taught to people over the years, and this is why things are so messed up. But God is coming back and He wants His kingdom in order with the people. Many people still think it is their life, their money, their wife, their kids, their car(s), all theirs and they will do what they want with it.

Then it has been taught that God wants 10% of it. Okay, so you give God a token in good times. It is easier to give when you have a lot. However, the widow in the Bible gave everything she had. It may have been only about two cents, but it was everything she had. All the others who had big bags of money gave out of their abundance. Ten thousand dollars is not much to a millionaire. God said she gave more than all the rest.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? (Luke 16:10-11) This is speaking about spiritual things, the things of God. Note, the Lord is correlating money with spiritual wealth and He is saying that you need to be a wise manager of your money, which is God's money that He has given to you and entrusted to you, to manage as He directs. That is why you must get His direction. You cannot do things without it.

“Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct the path.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You are not doing God a service by giving ten percent and being generous with some offerings. You are just being obedient and carrying out what He wants you to do. This should not be a hard or difficult thing. It is blessed because when you are doing what the Lord is directing you to do, there is a natural flow. If the Lord wants you to give something to somebody, then give it, but you are only to give it if He is directing it. It does not matter if they have their hand out.

Never make jest of people in poor situations. However, there is a reason why people are in those hard times. It is not for us to judge them, but it is for us to be wise and do what the Lord directs us to do.

If you hold back when the Lord is telling you to give something, then you are being disobedient to what the Lord is saying and doing. There are all kinds of people out there in the world today with their empty hands. This is why it is so important that we learn God's ways.

He says if you are faithful in managing a little, then He will entrust you with more. A rule we have with children is that we do not entrust a child with more responsibility than they are able to manage. That takes wisdom on the part of the manager because it can break their spirit. They can get discouraged. Even though they may say, "I know how to do that, I can do that," they are still children. *"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child."* (Proverbs 22:15) They need encouragement, supervision, and support. They need you to help them and work with them. To yell at them and beat them down is demeaning. You break their spirit. If you break their spirit, they become worthless.

If you break the spirit of a horse, it is no good. You only break the will. You get that horse to serve you. You do not break it and beat it. It is of no value then. It will think it is of no value, and whoever thinks it is of no value will do things of no value.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
Management for God
Chapter Eight

Let God Lead

You do not know what is ahead, but as you trust the Lord, take Him by the hand and let Him lead. He is the leader. You will stumble if you try to be the leader.

It says, *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he may stumble, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand. (Psalm 37:23-24)*

There is not any stumbling with God. *“And though you may stumble you will not be utterly cast down.”* In other words, the Lord is going to pick us back up and get us back on the track.

There are no disappointments in your life when you let God lead you. There are no expectations that are out of line. Have you ever picked out a house but the Lord had a different one for you? Was your heart set on it? Was your heart set on a particular person but you got somebody else? That was probably something really good. The Lord sees things all the way down the road.

We are eliminating hopelessness and helplessness, offense, failure, and blame. People will blame themselves or somebody else when something does not happen the way they want. It can create a quagmire of issues and problems. When you learn to trust the Lord, you do not have to react when somebody is telling you that you should have done something.

The Proverbs says we make plans, but God orders the steps. It is what I call “the Holy Spirit override.” You want to give the Holy Spirit the override on your life. If you are off the track a little bit, just ask the Lord to override you. Ask the Lord to go ahead and do what He wants.

I want to stay close to the Lord. I do not want Him to get too far ahead of me, and I certainly do not want to get ahead of Him. When you are led by the Spirit, you will not make many mistakes. *“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”* (Romans 8:14)

The fear of the future, making mistakes, or being overwhelmed by the unknown gets a lot of people, but God’s way is: *“He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:20)

In life, there is one transition after another. There is one change after another. Things happen. One day you are healthy and the next day sickness tries to come. But we can stay stable because the Lord is with us. He is for us and not against us. We are God’s managers.

God’s Way of Thinking

As a God-man or God-woman in Christ Jesus, we have been given a way of life. Jesus says we are in the world but not of the world. So we need to get rid of the world’s way of thinking and start to operate by God’s way of thinking and doing.

The world is all about money and self. Many people have allowed osmosis of the world’s thinking into their thinking. They were not taught properly and trained up in the Lord to really understand that God has a way of managing money, God has a way of managing life. The Lord actually tells us how to dress, what to do and what not to do to our bodies. He is very specific.

The world has a way of doing things that is not God’s way. Unfortunately, the church has attempted to conform to the world in order to reach the world, but that is not how you reach it. *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* (Romans 12:2) We want to raise people out of this world into the kingdom of God.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” (Luke 16:10) Note, you came into the world with nothing

and you are going to leave with nothing (1st Timothy 6). We are entrusted in this life with a little or a little more. It all starts with a little. Actually it starts with nothing, and then we go from there.

“Whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth who will trust you with true riches?” (Luke 16:10-11) True riches are the spiritual things. The man or woman of God is not to pursue wealth, but to pursue godly pursuits: love, joy, peace, etc. *“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”* (1 Timothy 6:11)

It is imperative that we pay our bills. It is a witness to the world. It is important to have good credit. When people say that they cannot pay their bills, maybe they are using something excessively. Maybe you need to make some adjustments to what you are doing. If you were not receiving services, you would not have any bills. Do not grumble about paying the bills. We need to manage and determine priorities.

When the Lord is managing things, the first priority is His kingdom. *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* (Matthew 6:33)

Whose Property Is It?

“If you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?” (Luke 16:12)

These are all kingdom parables and principles from the Lord Jesus. This is how we are to be living. We are of the kingdom of God. *“Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”* (John 18:36) But our kingdom is not of this world so we are to live God’s principles and be willing to lay down our life for the Lord and His kingdom. This kingdom will pass away, but the Lord’s kingdom will never pass away.

We have to really grasp this. We own nothing. We are nothing apart from the Lord. *“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”* (John 15:4) The entire world is trying

to make me somebody. I spend my whole life trying to be somebody and do something that is significant. But you just die and leave it to the next guy, whether a wise man or a fool, and the world will forget you. There may be a statue in the yard with your likeness, but people will just walk by and the pigeons will sit on it and drop on it, and after a while it becomes part of the scenery. Nobody will even remember it or you.

We want the Lord to know us and remember us. I have seen how that works. *“Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” (Luke 17:17)* Sometimes, when God changes an entire life for people, they get a bee in their bonnet about something and suddenly, they treat you as if you are the antichrist, you are the bad guy. They forget everything that the Lord did for them, and they go their own way.

The Lord always remembers those who are His, and He will never forget us. We are in the heart of His will, and we do not ever want to forget the Lord. He needs to be in the heart and center of our will and life.

He is saying that I need to be trustworthy with somebody else’s property. I used to tell people to treat other’s stuff like they would their own until the Lord had me take a look at how people treated their own property. Then I understood why there are so many problems out there. People do not take care of their own things.

We need to take care of God’s things. It is all His. Everything we have, everything we are, everything we possess. Our body belongs to the Lord. Our spirit, our mind, the people that are in our lives are the Lord’s.

Jesus and John say that if you do not love people, how can you say that you love God? They are all His. So this concept becomes a lifestyle. We are about our Father’s business. This ministry is part of the Father’s business, but it is run God’s way, not by the world’s standards and way of doing things. It is run supernaturally. Our life is supernatural.

The things we have are not just “stuff.” They are God’s, and if you have read closely in the Word, you will see that everything that is God’s is holy.

The Love of Money vs. The Love of God

Many Christians have thought that money is evil. They have a poverty mentality. But it is not the money that is the problem; it is the love of money. (1st Timothy 6) The world loves money. God’s children love God who owns all the money. When we love God, then the Father distributes as He will, and if we are faithful with a little, He gives increase. The Lord is faithful in all He does, and He wants us to be faithful in all that we do.

I look at relationships as a faithful trust. That is why we do not want to ever do wrong to somebody. We always want to do what the Lord would have done to others because we are being faithful to the Lord and faithful to the people. You never want to violate that trust. Owning your car and your house is a trust. Whatever you have is a trust from God. How does He want to manage it? How does He want to use it? *“Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He shall direct your paths.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

In all your dealings, whether with people, your health, or your thinking, you have to bring every thought captive to the mind of Christ. Everything needs to be ordered of the Lord.

We always seem to want something for ourselves, but what you start to understand is that all the Father has for us is ours in Christ Jesus. So, if that is the case, why do you want to pursue something for yourself? All that the Father has for His kingdom is already ours in Christ Jesus. Whether or not you have as much as someone else should not be your concern. It is not for you to compare or compete. That is the world’s ways. Our part is to be faithful with what we have and be content. When we use what we have as the Lord directs, then the Lord may choose to give increase.

Promotion is from the Lord. It is not for us to determine whether or not we deserve better. What you reap is what you sow. What are you sowing? What are you doing with your life? Have you wanted

more, but you have been tight on the giving? God will bless what you are sowing, but if you have been on the selfish side and the stingy side of things, how can you expect to reap blessing? But then again, it is not about you sowing or reaping. Are you sowing and reaping so that you can have things for yourself, or is it about the kingdom?

“No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Luke 16:13)

You absolutely cannot serve both God and money as they are opposed to one another. Either God is your god, or money is your god. The Lord will use money for the furtherance of His kingdom, but the money and the “stuff” is not what we pursue.

Solomon did not ask for the money, fame, health, or long life when the Lord asked him what he wanted. That is the first thing that the world would be asking for. Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God’s people, to manage things God’s way. He was a true servant. “He who would be great in the kingdom of heaven must become the servant of all.” First and foremost, be a servant to God, and then we serve as God directs because He is the Master.

This is a whole different way of thinking. Once we grasp it, everything in God’s life starts to fall into perspective and balance. People who have pursued money have come to the ruin of their faith. They have lost the faith. *“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness in God and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”* (1Timothy 6:9-10) And yet, people in the earth, all they do is pursue money for themselves.

The Lord Jesus says, *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Mark 8:36-37)

It says, *“The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, ‘You are the ones who justify*

yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight.” (Luke 16:14-16)

Wanting Recognition

What the world considers very valuable is detestable, an abomination in the Lord's sight. That is why He says, *“Thou shall have no other gods before me.”* (Exodus 20:3)

A certain ruler asked him, *“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? ‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus answered. ‘No one is good—except God alone.’”* (Luke 18:18-19)

The whole world wants to be known and recognized as good. Jesus was not looking for recognition. The Lord's man or woman is not looking for credit. People transfer wanting credit over into the Christian community and now they want to be a famous Christian. The Lord Jesus says that He never entrusted Himself to people because He knew their hearts. One day they are for you, the next day they are against you. He entrusted Himself to the Father who judges justly.

In the church, nowadays, it is all about fame, fortune, health and long life. Where is faithfulness, holiness, peace, obedience and joy in the Holy Ghost? Where are your priorities? 2nd Peter, chapter 2 talks about the teachers that have led people astray leading them right back into the world after God has saved them and brought them out. Led them back into the world's values and as a result they will be deceived. When the end comes and Jesus returns, they will say, “I did this in your name and that in your name.” *“But He will reply, ‘I do not know you or where you come from. Away from Me, all you evildoers.’”* (Luke 13:27)

They were managing for themselves, not managing for the kingdom. Managing for their recognition so that people would say, “Oh, look at what a wonderful Christian you are.” I call them do-gooders. They are not listening to the Holy Ghost for direction, they are just doing what they think is a good thing to do. They never consulted the Holy Spirit as to whether God wanted that done or not.

I do not care how long a person has sat in church. It does not mean anything. You can know your Bible cover to cover, but if you are not doing it led by the Holy Ghost, it is not acceptable to God. *“We know that ‘We all possess knowledge.’ But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.”* (1 Corinthians 8:1) Love builds up the kingdom of God.

One time I looked at a guy’s Bible and it was kind of worn out. He had it underlined, highlighted, and marked, so I said, “Bro, I think you need a new Bible.” He looked at me and said, “Pastor. How could you say such a thing?” He thought his marked-up bible made him appear to be such a student of the Bible. I told him that he should be going through a Bible every couple of years. But the Bible had become a holy, sacred thing to him that showed that he was holy (because he was such a student of the Bible).

That does not impress me. God is not impressed by it because you need to have it in your heart and in your head, and then you need to be doing it. That is what is a blessing.

People will come in this church, and they are going to get the truth, but they often go out. Only a true seeker is going to stay around here. We require commitment.

I asked the Lord one day, “Father, you do all of these wonderful things for all the people, why is this church not overflowing with people?” He said, “Because you demand a commitment.” He did not say “ask for” or “require.” He said **demand** a commitment. Why? If you want to be free and stay free, you need to hold the line. There is no room for wavering. People who do not have any discipline in their lives waver.

There are two ways with God. God’s way and God’s way. There is no freedom of choice or will once you have made a commitment to Jesus as Lord. If He is just a Savior, that is questionable too because you still do not have a choice. *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”* (Romans 12:1) *“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received*

from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

You need to learn to manage things God’s way. *“Many are called but few are chosen.”* (Matthew 22:14) God calls everybody. But the chosen are the ones who not only receive the call but stay with the call, and they fulfill the call as God’s own. Abundant life and living will come out of that.

“Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Mark 10:17) This is a witness’s dream question. *“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.* (Mark 10:18) In other words, Jesus does not even respond to the issue of eternal life with the guy; instead Jesus told him that he has his priorities wrong. Jesus showed him that he was looking to people and calling them good. He was valuing what man thinks. Jesus was getting spiritual with him right away. This would offend a lot of people. They would not even pursue the rest of what He has to say because what He is saying is that you are not good and I am not good, only God is good.

Understand, this young man was a rich young ruler. He had everything the world had to offer, and he thought it was good. He had a good life. The only thing he was lacking in his appraisal was what he heard Jesus talking about: this eternal life thing, and he said, “I want that.” The only thing that stands in the way of rich people is death, and they are going to have to leave what they have to the next guy whether a wise man or a fool. *“I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.”* (Ecclesiastes 2:18)

Who You Are in Christ Jesus

People have always been looking for the fountain of youth. You can only nip and tuck things so much. Eventually you are going to die.

The people of the world are smarter, shrewder and wiser than the people of the kingdom as far as money and management are concerned. There are a lot of Christians who are running around groveling at the feet of people that have money rather than groveling at the throne of God. Of course, I tell them to get up and quit acting

like that. You do not have to beg God for anything if you are a child of God. It is all yours. All you have to do is put your request in, in the name of Jesus. All that the Father has for you will come to you, enabling you to do everything the Lord wants you to do to finish out this life, and then to go on to be with Him forever. But a lot of Christians act like paupers.

The problem with these Christians is that they are ignorant of the Word and the power of God. They are ignorant of who they are in Christ Jesus. They have been taught a form of godliness that denies the power of godliness. They think, "I may not have much, but I am saved." I am thinking that is not what God promises. He promises that you will have more to do everything that God wants you to do. *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10) You have this storehouse, the treasure house of heaven, at your disposal. We just need to do what God wants in the way He wants it done.

This is too big for many people to understand. Until they start to understand that if they are faithful with a little, God will do whatever He wants to do through them. They should not be perceiving that they need to get more. People say that they want more of Jesus, and I tell them that they cannot get more of Jesus than they already have. The problem is that they do not know what they have. You either have Jesus or you do not have Jesus. The question is, what are you going to do with it?

I get around some religious circles and I am about ready to vomit. These are like the Pharisees in the Bible. They are the worldly, carnal Christians, and it is questionable whether they are saved.

To the rich young ruler Jesus continued, *"You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' And he said, 'All these things I have kept from my youth.' So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, 'You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.'" (Luke 18-22)*

Jesus never lacked for any good thing when He was about His Father's business all His life. It was always there whenever He needed it because the Father was His source. When He sent out the disciples the first time around, He sent them out without a wallet, with only one pair of shoes on them, and no food. He was trying to teach them that the Father would take care of them as they were seeking first the kingdom of God and about the Father's business. He caused people to hunger (Deuteronomy 8) so that He could feed them. As long as people are trying to survive, and keep their life, they will lose their life. *"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."* (Matthew 16:25) It is then people will start to come into all that the Father has.

Jesus went right at the young ruler's values. First, nobody is good except God. Secondly, take all that he had trusted in (it is all uncertain) and trust God. *"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."* (1st Timothy 6:17-18) They can be a great blessing to the kingdom of God because they have something to give.

A Channel of God's Abundance

If I were to ask somebody that did not have two nickels to rub together, "Would you like to give a million dollars to the work of God?" They would say, "Yeah, of course I would." And I say, "Well, you do not have it yet."

Someday, God willing, while you are on the course that God has, maybe you will be a channel of God's abundance into the earth, but you must be faithful with the two shekels you have right now. Yet somebody with millions can do it right now, and that would advance the gospel and bless the kingdom. In turn, God shows no partiality as James, chapter 2 talks about, and so, you will not see us giving extra attention to the rich over the poor. *"My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to*

him, 'You sit here in a good place,' and say to the poor man, 'You stand there,' or, 'Sit here at my footstool,' have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?" (James 2:1-4) There is no partiality in God. God's way is to deal with everybody in His love the way the Holy Spirit would have and direct. But man shows partiality.

The problem in the world is the poor are always groveling at the feet of the rich hoping they are going to get a bone, and the rich use the poor and never intend to give them a bone. That is the way it works out there in the world. But the Father knows that you have need of all these things. Whatever we need will be there when we need it because God will send it.

Cyrus, a wicked king, financed Jerusalem's rebuilding because God put it on his heart. Personally, he did not have any interest in Jerusalem. *"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!"* (2 Chronicles 36:22-23) The people in Jerusalem were not even interested in rebuilding things; they were just looking out for themselves.

"...and when he [the rich young ruler] heard this he became very sad because he was a man of great wealth. And Jesus looked at him and said, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter into the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 18:23-24) Another version of the gospel also says, *"Jesus loved him."* Jesus knew how hard it was for the guy. But the love of God could have enabled him to make that turn.

"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:25) The eye of the needle is a small gate in Jerusalem. The rich people had to get

off their camels and horses to go through it. The chariots could not go through there and they would have to dump all their luggage. Therefore, the rich men would not go through. Jesus was using an example that they all could relate to.

A lot of people think they have to sell everything they have and give up everything they have. That is exactly what the twelve disciples did. They left their boats. They left their occupation. Matthew was a tax collector and he left all his money on the table and got up and followed Jesus. That was unheard of. Those were the guys that people hated because they were collecting the tax, and then they were adding to the tax: *this is for Caesar and this is for me*. The tax collectors were considered legalized thieves.

Servanthood Explained

“Those who heard this asked Jesus, ‘Who then can be saved?’” (Luke 18:26) They were still thinking that the rich ruler was good. He was the best of their society, the cream of the crop. He had everything; He was a VIP.

What happened was the disciples were thinking that if this guy could not inherit eternal life, who could? The disciples were respecters of people. Another time, they come to Jesus and said that all the teachers of the law and all the Pharisees were saying that what Jesus said was wrong. They said that Jesus was off the wall and that He had offended all of them. The disciples wanted everybody to like them. They wanted favor, they wanted accolades.

Jesus told them when they were talking about Him offending these fellows, *“Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”* (Matthew 15:14) They were going to fill the disciples’ heads with things from the devil, a religious spirit that would permeate their thoughts. The disciples were already fighting among themselves, who is the greatest amongst them? They were telling another guy that he could not work the works of Jesus because he was not part of the group. They were upset about James, Peter, and John getting to go up on the mountain of Transfiguration, while the others were left down below. Then James and John tried to get their mother involved, wanting one to sit

on the left hand and one on the right hand of Jesus when they enter into His kingdom.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." (Mark 9:35) Jesus started washing the disciples' feet, and Peter said "...you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' 'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'" (John 13:6-9) He missed it. He missed what was being said. Servanthood, managing things the way God would have it to be managed, and the way God does things is completely opposite to the way the world does things. That is why even God's people do not understand what is going on many times when the Lord is doing things.

"And Peter said to Him, 'We have left all we had to follow you.'" (Luke 18:28) They left all the physical things, but they were still carrying attitudes of what was great and what was small. The Lord does not look at that. He looks at what is of Him and what is not of Him.

"I tell you the truth,' Jesus said to him, 'no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and in the age to come eternal life.'" (Luke 18:29-30) In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus told Peter, ^{And} *everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."* (Matthew 19:29)

Give As Directed

People still do not get it because they are thinking, *I need to go take everything I have and give it away.* You read in 1st Corinthians, chapter 13 that you can leave all that you have and give it all away to the poor, but if you have not love, you have nothing. Then it goes on to say that you can give your life to be martyred but have not love, it will profit you nothing.

People think when they have given everything away that they become spiritual. But that is “works” and has nothing to do with the salvation of God (which is the gift of God). *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ^{not} of works, lest anyone should boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9) It is not based on anything you do, say, or think. It is based on God’s faithfulness to me.

In some churches, people are trying to work their way to salvation. They do not know that they are saved. They do not know that God loves them. They think that maybe if they do a little bit more, God will love them. Have you done that with your families or friends? Or maybe with yourself trying to do a little bit more to be loved?

The Lord flat-out says, *“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness;”* (Jeremiah 31:3) you cannot do anything more to earn that love or to receive that love. It is a gift, and as a result of that gift your life is changed, and now you want to give your whole life to God. I am not going to go out and sell everything if God does not ask me to do it.

It is not a difficult thing to manage God’s things because He gave it to you. We are to give it out as He directs. If somebody comes to you and says, “God told me that you were going to give me your car,” you are the one that has the car and you are the one entrusted to manage it. It is not theirs. The Lord will talk to you about it *first*.

I remember back around 1980 when the Lord spoke to my wife Diana and me. First, He told me that for our offering we were to give it all. I was prepared to give everything in our account that we had, and I said, “Lord, you are going to have to talk to Diana about this.” A few days later I come into the kitchen and she was sitting at the table, and she looked up at me with a big smile on her face. I asked her what she was smiling about, and she said, “I know.” And I asked, “You know what?” And she answered, “I know what the Lord told you.” I asked, “What did He tell me?” She said, “He told you to give it all.” And she was still smiling. The Lord told me to give it all after the whole offering had been received.

There was a time when we needed 75 thousand dollars to enter an escrow account. Although five thousand had come in, I was still short after three months and there were no more services until the deadline. So I asked the Lord, "How are we going to do this?"

You know what the Lord has; He will make a way for it, right? I had no service; I could not give a call or anything. The Lord told me, "Son, go visit the fellow that owns the property and take the plans." I had some plans so I set up an appointment and went over to his house the day the money was due. He invited me in. He was very nice and gracious. He asked me to sit down at the table, so I sat down and set the plans on the table. He looked at that and said, "What are those?" And I said, "They are plans." So he asked to look at them. For an hour he was telling me about how we could do this, and how we could do that, etc. After the hour was over I said, "Sir, the money is due today," but he said "Oh, do not worry about it. I will give you 90 days." He extended it and in the 90 days, the Lord brought it in.

One fellow could have written the whole amount for the offering in one check. He told me that if we needed anything at the end he would put it in to close it out. Now I was supposed to give mine at the end too, right? Another fellow wrote a check for five thousand; closed it out, and we had the funds all in. The one who said he would write a check if we needed it, did not give anything. Many times, the Lord will show you people's hearts. Now it was my turn. What was I going to do? It was all in. But the Lord had told me to give it all at the end of the offering. So I told Diana, "Okay, it is all done," and she was out there writing the check happy as a little bee. When anybody writes a hilarious, happy check, that is a work of God. She did that, and the offering was over and above. We gave everything. We did not have a nickel in our check book. About three weeks later a fellow came to me and said, "The Lord has put it upon (a bunch of) our hearts to do something for you all."

You Will Receive More

Ever since I had known Diana she had wanted to go to Hawaii. She was from the east coast and had only seen it in pictures. These people gave us a full trip to Hawaii. All expenses, air fare, a place to

stay, and money for the trip. The Lord did that through the people. This was a gift from God.

What we gave to the Lord could have paid for 5, 6 or 7 trips. Savings accounts are for whatever God wants them used for. If you are saving for a rainy day, the devil will steal from you. God should possess you completely. Diana and I have never, ever lacked for anything that the Lord has wanted for us for all these years. The ministry of God has never lacked for anything that God has wanted for us. It may come right at the last second, and you might like to see it a little bit ahead of time, but when you trust and believe in the Lord you will see it.

“So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,³⁰ who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.” (Luke 18:29-30)

“The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.” (1 Kings 17:16) It was always there when it was needed.

You cannot serve the money god and the Lord at the same time. You have to decide which one you are going to serve.

For me it is not a choice. The money god never saved me. The money god will own you. It will drive you. It will worry, fear, and stress your life out, and when the dust settles, as the Lord says in Haggai, you will only have holes in your pockets. What you have will come to you and it will leave you, and you will not have anything to show for it. *“You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” (Haggai 1:6)*

Families have been harmed, for the children never get to see their parents because they are always out trying to make a living. The children are not taught God's values but man's and the world's values. The first god they face out there when they get a job is the

car god who receives all the income they make and more, and it buries them. They have to pay for insurance. They have to pay for the car. They have got to pay for gas and upkeep. The next thing you know they cannot go to church because they have to work, and work becomes more important than church.

The Lord wants you in church, so He will make a way that your work will revolve around church and not church around your work.

“Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct the path.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

He will give favor and promotion to you at work because you have honored the Lord and sought to obey Him.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
The Faithful Servant
Chapter Nine

Types of Demands

To serve the Lord we have to believe the Lord. We want to live our lives on principle and promise. You should not wonder why you have lack if you are not doing what the Lord says.

In the book of Haggai, chapters 1 and 2, people were lacking because they were looking out for their own things and leaving the Lord's house, forgetting it and not doing anything with it. The Lord said, "You have holes in your pockets; what you make comes in, goes out and you have nothing to show for it." It was because they had not honored Him and followed His ways.

The Lord wants to bless us, but in order to bless us we have to believe what He says. He has already done everything to bless us. He already has the heavenly account established. It is accessed through the name of Jesus and everything that we need for life, health, and blessing has been supplied.

He says to come to Him and put a demand on that. "Demand" is a money term.

We are servants of the Lord Most High, and as such we are not accessible to another Master. You cannot serve two masters. You either love one and hate the other, or you hate the one and love the other. A house divided will not stand. Attention cannot be divided. Being double-minded is divided. Being distracted is being divided.

The thief tries to hammer on the door and get your attention, but we have to be honed into what the Master is saying. We cannot miss it. We need to talk to God about the things in our lives that are so demanding. They come in areas of our want and desire. They come in areas of our love and attention. We cannot put anybody or anything before the Lord.

People put demands on you, finances and health put demands on you. Work can make demands. There are all kinds of ways that the thief tries to work to try to get us out there where we do not belong. We have to bring everything back to the Lord.

In the book of Luke, chapter 19, we see the parable of the 10 minas. We see that the servant is focused on the master. The Lord says, "Do not take your eyes off Me. Keep your eyes on the Word of God; keep your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith." (Hebrews 12) Fix your eyes on Him and do not be distracted.

Have you ever noticed when you are in church and somebody walks in the room, everyone's eyes look at the person walking in? That should not be so because you should have your attention towards the teacher. It is a distraction. When you get your eyes off the Lord, what happens? Look at what happened to Peter when he was walking on the water. He sank as soon as he started looking elsewhere and not at Jesus.

If you are sawing a board, your eyes had better be on what you are doing. If you look to the left or to the right, there go your fingers or hand. By the way, there is no attention deficit; it is a lack of attention, a lack of focus. It is not a sickness or a disease. It happens because folks are not trained to listen or pay attention. Give them to me for a week and I will get their attention. I will torment the hell out of them with discipline and training. It would do everyone good to stand a little test in the military. If you are not paying attention, you can get shot.

Do not let things get into your head, or you will get your eyes off Jesus. Be attentive so that when Jesus needs something you do not miss it.

The Story of the Minas

- Luke 19:11-14 *"While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. He said, "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. (Three months'*

wages.) *'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'* (There was the instruction.) *But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We do not want this man to be our king.'* ”

He had just given them some money and they hated him! Did you ever receive good but you did not care for the person? It is the story of our country. We have bailed out nations and helped them and they hate us. They do not want to pay anything back. They do not want to be involved with us. There is something wrong with that. Maybe we ought to look at what we are doing as far as trying to be the savior of the world. There is only one Savior of the world, and his name is Jesus.

- *“He was made king, however, and returned home.”* (Luke 19:15) In spite of what people do, the will of the Lord will be done.
- *“Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.”* This was a time of accountability. The Lord is looking at what we are doing with what He has given us.
- *“The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ ‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ ”* (Luke 19:17-17) This man was faithful in a small matter and blessing came.
- *“The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’ His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’* (Luke 19:18-19) *Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina, I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’ ”* (Luke 19:21) This was a man with an attitude and so he gave an excuse as to why he did not earn his master any more money. You will find that excuses lead to poverty. Jesus says not to make excuses. Let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no. Anything more is sin.

- *“His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant!’ ”* (Luke 19:22) People are known by their actions. Jesus says you will know them by their fruit. You will know them by what comes out of their life, what they produce in their life as to what they really are. People can say Jesus is my Lord, but if they live like hell, He is not their Lord, and they are going to hell. If we ask God’s forgiveness, we are forgiven but we need to purpose that we will not go back there again.
- *“ ‘You knew, did you, that I am a hard man.’ ”* (Luke 19:22) He was not a cruel man. He was trained, productive and disciplined. You do not get to be the master by not learning how to rule and control your life and what is around you.

Many folks look at the Lord as being hard and cruel. When you were a child did you think that your parents were hard and cruel because they made you do what they told you to do? Is that true with a boss or other authorities in your life? This is the devil’s problem. He has an authority issue. He has an authority problem with God. He wants to do his own thing, but God is cramping him from doing his own thing because God does not want it, and he must submit whether he wants to or not. So we have issues.

The Measure of Faithfulness

The servant did not have a faithful quality. He saw the master as somebody that was a pain in his life, but did not have enough power to override the master.

Have you been in the position either with a husband, a parent, or a sibling where you did not have enough power to get your own way because they were bigger? So you waited until you had the opportunity to get it? That is being unfaithful.

When you are trying to promote your will to be done, you do not have a faithful heart to those around you or the authorities over you. You are just waiting for an opportunity to make your move. Did you ever want somebody else’s job? That is being unfaithful. If you waited for them to fail or helped in that process, that is being unfaithful. There cannot be any blessing in it. When David had the opportunity to “take

out” King Saul in the cave, he said, *“Touch not God’s anointed.”* It was one of the finest things he ever did. He was faithful. That will come back to you either in blessing or in cursing depending on what you have done. If you have been faithful, it will come back to you in blessing. If you have been unfaithful, it will come back to you in cursing.

“All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits.” (Proverbs 16:2)

The first two servants were not expecting rewards. They were just being obedient, and their heart was to bless the master. Obedience is faithfulness. The other servant hid his mina so it would be safe and he could give it back. But the master was looking for increase on what he had.

The Lord has given us time, talents, and treasures. He expects us to use what we have been given. We cannot use what somebody else was given; it is what has been given to us. You do not compare with somebody else, you do not compete with somebody else, the Lord is not asking you to do anything with what belongs to somebody else. He has given it to you to use as He directs.

The measure of faithfulness is based on the measure of obedience to do what the Master has directed. If you are distracted and you are not paying attention to Him, you will live your life doing whatever you think is best. This is unfaithfulness.

We Will Give on Account

We are here on this earth to be about our heavenly Father’s business. We are to glorify God and to advance His kingdom. People have never been taught that. There are many kingdom parables in the Bible, but people have never been taught what they are about. They are about life. They are not just little stories to be told.

People are always asking the question, “What does my future hold? What is my purpose for existence? Why am I here? What am I supposed to be doing?” The Lord has it all written down in the Bible. By the Word and by the Spirit of God you will come into it all. You are

not here just to live and occupy time and space, breathe air, get married, have babies, go to work, or do whatever. We are here about a holy vocation and calling that the Lord has purposed for each person on the face of the earth. We have been given something that the Lord wants us to fulfill in our lifetime.

Someday, Jesus is coming back and we are going to give an account to God. Know that all of these kingdom parables are about Him. He is talking to the ones He has entrusted you with, like your time, your talents, and your treasures. You are to be about His purpose. Look at your life and how you waste time and God-ability. Look at the wasting of relationships. Many times people do not even think about a person until they are dead, and then they show up at the funeral. I do not go to funerals anymore because I am going to enjoy the person while they are here. They are not there at the funeral so I am not going there. I do not need to relieve my grief at the funeral. If I have loved them while I had them, I do not have any grief. You cannot resolve the grief if they are dead. You cannot go back and redo or undo anything. We need Jesus. We need the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to help us.

We need to say to people that this may be the last moment that we have with each other and we need to make the most of it. We need to love folks while we have them and not take them for granted. We need not to criticize them and be critical of them because somebody may be dead the next moment. If all you are is a sarcastic, negative, critical person, they may be thankful when you go.

The servant in Luke, chapter 19, was probably hoping his master did not get to be king because he would tell him what to do, and he did not like being told what to do. He was lazy. Many people do not have anything because they are lazy.

A sluggard does not want to do anything but lay around. They say "There is a lion in the road." (Proverbs 26:13) They are actually saying, "If there is a lion in the streets, then I cannot go out because I do not want to get hurt so I am just going to stay safe in the house." The Lord equates laziness with wickedness. If a man does not work, he does not eat. (2nd Thessalonians 3:10)

- *“You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did not you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest? Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’ ” (Luke 19:23-24)*

Many Christians do not get it. They think that we should give something to the person who has nothing. In Deuteronomy 28 it says that the poor folks are cursed, and there many reasons why people are poor. Laziness is one of them. Distracted people many times are poor. They do not have any focus. Disobedient people are often poor.

Have you ever lost a job because you did not do what you were told? Did you think that you knew more than the person who told you to do something? Maybe that contributed to your losing your job because you thought you knew better. Even if you did know better, it was not your place to be unfaithful. Violating God’s principles is why many people are poor.

The Proverbs say if you drink, you will end up in poverty. I am not talking about water or fruit juice. There are many causes why people are poor. If you give to such a person, you are not helping them because they are cursed, and their curse will come on you. Have you found that somebody is always at your door wanting a handout, demanding, “What kind of Christian are you? You will not help me.” I tell them, “What kind of Christian are you that you are in this position? If you were not violating God’s principles, you would not be in this spot.” You may think, *but they are family*. *“Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” And He stretched out His hand towards His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.” (Matthew 12:48-50)* They all thought Jesus was crazy and came to put him away. He was a bad reflection on the family.

The master gave the money to the one who had the most. The master did that. Why should the one who is unfaithful and wicked be rewarded? It was taken away from him and given to the most faithful.

Do you think it was not fair, loving, or kind? It is not just to bless somebody who is cursed. If you reward somebody when they are doing wrong, you are not helping them and you do not care about them. You are not allowing them to change to do what is blessed and right. You are “enabling” them to continue to be cursed, and as a result, you will be cursed as well because they will drain you of everything you have mentally, spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially. When they are done with you, and you quit helping them, they will curse you to your face. They will hate you because you did not help them to continue in their problem. Then someday you will stand before God, and He will say, “Did I tell you to help them?” And you are going to have to say, “No, I did it myself.” He will say, “That is why you are not going to get the blessing that I had for you because you did it your way instead of my way.”

What God has given us is not for us to decide what we will do with it. It is all His. Our bodies are the temple of God and not to be used for things that God does not want them used for. Someday we will have to give an account to God.

The Lord is not looking for unfaithful, wicked people to be His children. He did not die on that cross and come after us to have us not change from who we were before. There cannot be any room for deception.

Every time I honor God with my giving, I am thanking Him because I know I am doing exactly what the Lord says to do. Every time I am speaking the truth and love to somebody to help them to grow up into all that God has, I am doing what the Father wants. Every time I am looking at myself and dealing with my issues, and asking the Lord for help to get things shaped and cleaned up, I am doing what the Father wants. If you do not have any peace, then you cannot give peace to anybody. You need to make sure that you are in the peace of God, doing what the Father wants you doing. You need to have that joy in your life. It is your strength. You will not have strength to serve the Father if you are not joyful. He does not want servants who are apathetic. He loves a hilarious, cheerful giver. We are created in His image.

- “*‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’* (Luke 19:25) They had an attitude too. They were thinking, *Give it to me*. Why give it to the one who has the most? It is not for the servant to decide or determine anything. It is for the Master to decide this.

In another parable (Matthew 20) some workers signed on early in the morning to receive a certain wage. Throughout the day the owner of the vineyard kept needing more workers. Then he paid them all the same wage. The people who had worked early in the morning all asked why those who signed on late in the afternoon were receiving the same wage when they had worked all day. The master said, “It is not for you to determine anything; you received what you signed on for. It is for me to determine what I give to whosoever. It is not your problem and you should not be thinking about it.” An attitude like that is unfaithful.

“Many profess to have unflinching love, but a faithful servant who can find.”

Hear and Do What God Says

We are privileged to be part of God’s kingdom.

- *“He replied, ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.’* (Luke 19:26)

That is what will happen. People destroy themselves. In John, chapter 3, Jesus said, “I have not come to condemn the world but to save it.” People condemn themselves because they do not believe or receive His provision for salvation and life.

You do not hear much about the fear of God anymore out there. Churches do not teach it. In Matthew 10 Jesus said that people should not be fearing what others shall do to them, they should be fearing what God will end up doing to them. *“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Many Christians have thought that was referring to the devil, but it is talking

about the Lord who is going to have Satan and all the fallen angels, the unbelievers, the cowards, compromisers, and idolaters etc. burn in the lake of fire separated from God forever. (See Revelations 21-22) That is the torment.

People say that Jesus is Lord, but for Him to be Lord means you do not have a right to do anything except what He says. It should be a delight because everything the Lord wants you to do is good and blessed.

“The commandments of God are not grievous.” (1st John 5:3) They are only grievous to wicked servants (people who do not want to do what God says and want to do whatever they want to do). They are not children or servants of God because you cannot say you love the Lord, and not keep His commandments or not want to do what He says.

Looking at the Word of God, you can see why some folks are blessed and some are cursed. The Word of God shows it all very clearly. You can look at someone’s life and see why something is happening today because back 15 years ago they were not disciplined, and they were left to run their own way. Now they have the problems they have today. Nothing just happens. Everything has a reason why it has gone down.

There are attacks of the enemy that come like that, but the Lord will turn it around. *“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard...”* and turn it around. (Isaiah 59:19)

The Lord talks about great blessing or great cursing can come out of what you do. If you think it is too hard, you do not like it, and you do not want to hear it, you have authority issues. You will get stubborn, hard-headed, and stiff-necked. The Word says, *“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”* (Hebrews 4:7)

That is what happened to the children of Israel, why they did not go into the Promised Land. They hardened their hearts against God’s goodness, benevolence, and promise. They did not believe Him,

and, as a result, they did not receive from Him what He had. He had it for them and wanted them to have it.

The Lord has nothing but good things for people: love, kindness, a happy ever-after kind of world for all of us. But people say, "I do not want that. I do not want Him as my king."

You cannot have Jesus as Savior and not as Lord. You cannot receive all the benefits of heaven without the Lord being the Lord over your life. You cannot receive from God except you give up your life and take on His. God is not going to operate by principles other than His own. This is why many people have problems keeping the commandments of God. They do not like them or want them because they are not their own. Meaning they have not received Jesus as the King.

God loves His commandments and He will fulfill them in you and through you. But if those are different commandments than yours, you have a different style; you will not want to keep God's commandments. You want all the blessings of heaven, you want to pray and have Him do all kinds of things for you, but until you deal with the issues of hell (and the old sinful nature), you cannot have God's best.

This is not a burden; it is a joy and a privilege to be a servant, a child in the Father's house. It is a delight.

Matthew, chapter 25 gives the same kind of rendering as the Luke, chapter 19, parable. This one is about the talents.

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" (Matthew 25:21)

Other versions read: *"Enter into the joy of your lord." "Enter into and share the joy [the delight, the blessedness] which your master enjoys."*

He is saying, "You enter into what is mine." This is better than 10 cities. This is better than millions of dollars. This is what my loving

heavenly Father loves and enjoys, and He is saying that it is yours now. “Come and participate with Me. Let’s share together.”

It is not about all that the Father does for me and can do for me. It is all about my relationship with Him. That is why I do what I do. That is why I keep His commandments. That is why I obey His voice. I love my Father in heaven. I cannot even begin to love Him as much as He loves me. We have a very special thing: Father and son. We are one. That is what has to fill your heart. That is why we do what we do.

We love Him because He first loved us. I trust Him and I believe in Him. The only thing the Lord ever asked me to do is believe Him, and if I believe Him, then I will do what He says. It is a simple natural flow of trust. It is not because He said so, or you have to, or whether you want to or not. I love to do the will of my Father in heaven.

“They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31)

People think, *well, I am just waiting for the Lord.* No, a waiter serves. As we think about what our Father wants us doing, where He wants us to be, and what He wants us to do, the happier we will be. When you receive the truth and start to operate in it, then it will start to work. This is a lifetime commitment, not for only a moment.

God knows what is good for you even more than you could ever ask for or think. He has your welfare in His heart. You need to have His welfare in your heart, and that is thankfulness, thankfulness to all the Lord has done for you.

Do what you know to do. Anytime you are trying in your own head to talk yourself out of doing what you know to do, say, “Get out of my head in Jesus’ name.” Do not let that thief go through your door.

Jesus says, “My sheep hear My voice, and they follow Me.” The ones that are not His sheep do not follow Him. They do not know Him and they do not do what He says.

We have to get rid of stubbornness. It is as the sin of idolatry and rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. That means trying to get your way, and manipulate your way to be done rather than God's will and God's way. Those have to go.

You will find in life that you will be tested on this. Do not be caught off guard. Know that it is coming and do what the Word says.

"You can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens you."
(Philippians 4:13)

When you forget about your situations, and you go out about God's business, you will see how the Lord takes care of everything and everyone.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
Accountability
Chapter Ten

The Work of the Ministry

Since different ideas come into your head, how important it is to follow the Holy Spirit's direction and guidance! There is nothing wrong with His pressure. Have you ever had an "unction" (which is pressure from the Holy Spirit) to say something or to do something? We need to follow that. When something is on our hearts to say or do, do it. That is how we learn to be led of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes I will ask the Father, "Is that You, Lord?" and He will say, "Yes," and sometimes He will say, "No," so naturally I do not do that one.

The Lord has given us time, talents, and treasures. These are all to be used for the furtherance of the kingdom of heaven for the work of the ministry. The world and the devil will pressure you. Your own flesh and self-desires will truly pressure you to do things that are not of God.

People today have so many needs that the pastors and the ministers are not doing what they are supposed to be doing because they are caring for the people's needs. They are supposed to be equipping people for the work of the ministry. They are supposed to be getting them out seeking first the kingdom of God and being out about His work. We are ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Centuries ago, that concept was lost; it came back during the Reformation. Ministers taught that all of God's people are, as the Word says, co-laborers with Christ, ambassadors for Christ, ministers of the Lord Jesus, caring and loving others. That understanding had been relegated to pastors and priests only, but it was not God's plan for them to look out for everybody. However, the devil got that idea into the church to take away the ministry of God from the people. Who is more effective to do the ministry of God than those who are out there with other people? I can equip you for the work of the ministry, and *you* can touch them with the love of Jesus Christ.

When everyone is reaching one, touching just one, the whole region, country, and world can be touched in a matter of days. It is possible if all of God's people were mobilized with the love of God just to share Jesus with people.

The Lord, in these last days, is bringing the ministry of God back to the people. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon all flesh to apply the ministry to the people of God. Our role as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. People use the excuse that they cannot speak, but that is the same thing Moses said to the Lord when the Lord called him. Jeremiah said, "I am too young. I am just a boy. How am I going to be a prophet to the nations?" The Lord can do amazing things.

Peter, James, and John were all fishermen and knew nothing about ministering to people. They were catchers of fish, but Jesus told them they were no longer going to be catchers of fish, they would be fishers of men. *Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."* (Matthew 4:19) The Lord will enable us to do whatever it is He wants us to do however He wants us to do it. He wants to reach and love other people through us. It is an assignment.

In Matthew, chapter 25, the Lord Jesus spoke to the people, *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'" (Matthew 25:31-34)*

Choices We Make

The Lord knew us before the foundation of the world was laid. *"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."* (Ephesians 1:4) He knows everything about us. It is important that even as young children we learn these things and become sensitive to them. Our life is determined by what we are saying, what we are doing, what we are believing, and what we are

thinking. You can live a blessed life, or you can live a cursed life depending on the choices you make.

The Proverb says that even a child is known by his ways. *“Even small children are known by their actions, so is their conduct really pure and upright?”* (Proverbs 20:11) It is never too late to get back on the right track, what the Bible calls “repent:” to turn away from the ways of life that are cursed. For that to happen you have to know what is cursed, and you have to know what is blessed.

If you are doing what is blessed, you are going to be blessed. If you are doing what is cursed, you are going to be cursed. There is no getting around it. Even a child sits up, listens, opens the Word of God, gets in the Bible and starts to read.

Nowadays they teach reading in kindergarten. My granddaughter was on the computer and I asked her what she was doing, and she said, “I am doing computer, grandpa.” And I thought, *Oh man, I did not learn how to type until I was in high school and they are doing computer in the first grade.* Times have accelerated. It is so important that we get the right, God ideas into the little children. The sooner the better because all kinds of other knowledge are being imputed. They need to get the priority of the Lord first, and then everything else in their life can be blessed.

Did you go down a path that you wish you had not gone down? We curse ourselves by choosing to do cursed things. We are blessed because we do blessed things. You cannot do a cursed thing and expect that it is going to end up blessed. You have to learn what is right and what is blessed. You have to learn what is cursed and what is wrong.

The men and women who are sitting in jail are there because they did something wrong. Many think they are innocent. *All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.* (Proverbs 16:2) I tell people, “I do not have an original thought in my head. I get everything from what God’s Word says, and I am very happy about that because an original thought is going to lead to original sin and it is coming out of self rather than coming from God.”

Do you know the Lord is the only one that knows what is right and what is wrong, what is blessed and what is cursed? The devil is not going to tell you because he wants you cursed. "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;*" (John 10:10) He has come to steal the Word of God.

You can know exactly why things happen as you look at what is happening and *why* it is happening. As stated before, "*A man's ways appear right to a man, but the end thereof is death.*" (Proverbs 16:25) Death to a marriage, death to health, death to finances, death to relationships, death to one's own person. Not just physical death, eternal death forever.

The day is coming when the Lord will return and He is going to separate the sheep (believers) from the goats (unbelievers). We want to be among the sheep. We do not want to be cursed. We curse ourselves when we do not believe and receive what the Lord has done for us in His love, and by choosing to do our own thing in our own way. The end thereof is death.

Authorities Established by God

Ignorance is no excuse. In the mid 1970's I was driving down a residential street when I saw flashing lights. I have been taught since a little boy to honor authority, to know what is right and what is wrong, I have been taught the Lord's ways, what is the devil's ways and I have always sought to walk the straight and narrow. So needless to say when the lights were flashing, something was up. There I was and I started to get out of my car. Do not do that. He politely told me, "Sir, please get back in the car." And so I did. Obedience is a good thing. He proceeded to ask me a question. He said, "Sir, did you know how fast you were going?" And I said, "Yes, sir, 42 miles an hour." Always be aware of what you are doing and be aware of your surroundings. Then he asked, "Did you know that this is a 25 mile an hour zone?" And I answered, "No, sir. I did not see any signs posted that it was 25." And he said, "Well, it is 25. It is a residential district and whether it is posted or not it is a 25 mile an hour zone." I said, "Okay." He said, "It is good you knew how fast you were going. A lot of folk do not know how fast they are going." He proceeded to write me a citation. I went to court, pleaded guilty and went to traffic school because 25 is not 42. What I learned from the officer was that

ignorance of the law is no excuse for a violation. It was my responsibility to know what the law is.

So I went to traffic school, and I spent an entire day learning how I could have beat the ticket because I was entrapped. His car was not visible and I was entrapped. And I thought, *Oh, my gosh. I am guilty and they are telling me that I could have beaten the ticket because of a technicality.*

I honor the authorities. All the authorities are for our good. *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”* (Romans 13:1) God has placed them in the earth to protect us and to help us. I have a healthy fear of God and His authorities. It is not “fear” like I am afraid of them. It is “fear” that I reverence, honor, and respect them. I worship God, but I honor and respect the authorities He has placed in the earth because they are enforcers of God’s will and purpose for us.

There was a time in the 1960’s when police were called pigs and other things. I think that if you are going to sling names, the people who called them that are the pigs. It is what we call in counseling terms, “projection.” In the Bible, you do not cast pearls before swine because they do not appreciate the pearls. *“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”* (Matthew 7:6) People who do not honor God’s authorities or honor God are pigs in the sense that they do not appreciate, understand, or value what God appreciates and understands is valuable in our lives.

If you do not honor authority, then you are not honoring God, and if you are not honoring God, how in the world can you be blessed? You cannot.

After traffic school, I went up to the instructor at the end of the day and said, “Sir, I appreciate what you communicated to us. But I do not appreciate the part that I am not guilty when I was guilty because I stand accountable to a higher accountability.” As a Christian, we all stand accountable to a higher accountability, and it is the issue of conscience before God and man. I stand accountable to God if it is a

25 mile an hour zone, and I am going 42 miles per hour; I am a violator.

I attended the traffic school out of submission because that was the consequence of my guilt. I always get into these positions where I have to say something to people about how they are doing things. How are you living your life? How are you looking? How is your spirit man looking? What is going on inside of you?

What Is Blessed, What Is Cursed

The Lord is totally just and wants our best at heart. The problem is we live in a society where irresponsibility is allowed to run rampant and people are making excuses every day of their lives for behavior that is out of line [and is not blessed]. Paul said, *“Behold, I show to you a more excellent way.”* (1 Corinthians 12:31) That way is love.

We are getting ready for Jesus’ return. He is not coming back for a bride that is rebellious, independent, stubborn, obnoxious, or demanding. We cannot have those kinds of attitudes. We need to get rid of the kind of thinking that gives us license to do whatever we want to do, rather than what the law and the will of God is.

We want to be blessed. We cannot be entertaining doubt, mistrust, unbelief, or thinking we can improve the commandments of God. The Lord says not to turn from the left or the right from His ways. Keep it in front of your eyes. *“Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.”* (Proverbs 4:27)

When the policeman said that ignorance of the law is no excuse, it cut through my heart and I thought about that because, “I come, O Lord, to do your will.” This was not just a little thing. It was a big thing.

My bride shares that if you let the child take that piece of candy in the store, the next thing you know they grow up and are taking cars. Do not let them get away with stealing a little. Nothing is little. If we let them get away with it, we are teaching them that a thief’s ways are alright. And beyond that, what we are doing is taking what belongs to somebody else and by doing so that cannot be love.

The Word says that if you do harm to somebody who has done nothing but good to you, the curse will not depart from your house. *“Evil will never leave the house of one who pays back evil for good.”* (Proverbs 17:13) You must restore, repent, change and turn from it and bless that person. Not by just saying, “God bless you.” You bless that person with something that God tells you to do.

Talk is cheap. Has somebody told you they love you and then turn around and did something to harm you? That is not love. *“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”* (Luke 6:31)

The unmerciful servant in Matthew, chapter 18, was forgiven a debt that he could never pay. He owed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the master, but the master took pity on him and forgave the debt. The servant then turned around and went to a guy who happened to owe him 20 bucks and he told him to pay up. The guy was unable to pay and so the servant had him thrown in jail. *“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.”* (Matthew 18:32-34)

People who violate the law in some way come and want prayer to get off. I say, “Lord, talk through that judge. Give them what they need to hear and need to do. Do not let them off.” The only ones that should be let off are the innocent. This is important, and deep down in your heart you know the truth. Your conscience should not be seared, burned, and deadened by constantly, willfully and knowingly going against what is good. It has to be kept tender and sensitive.

If I do or say something offensive, I cannot live with myself until I get it straightened out. If Diana and I have a little spat, I cannot minister until I have it cleaned up. We cannot do this before God who is watching all the time. People act like He turns His head.

If you are not doing anything wrong, you do not have to be afraid of those flashing red lights. I was driving down the freeway one day and I saw a car coming up really fast. Since I was taught to always be aware of my surroundings, I saw that over in the other lane was a

highway patrolman coming off the ramp, and he was sitting there. Sure enough, I told Diana, that guy is toast. He came flying by me like I was standing still, and right behind like honey on the bread there the patrolman was with his lights flashing. I was not concerned that he was going to pull up behind me because I was doing the right thing. If you are doing the right thing, you do not have to be afraid of consequences.

However, you may get consequences for doing the right thing because we live in a world that says the right thing is the wrong thing and vice-a-versa. Have you found that you had to separate from people because you could not do those old practices anymore? In your heart you still love them, you pray for them, you believe God for them, but you cannot participate in what they are doing anymore. You cannot be around that. *“Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”* (1st Corinthians 15:33)

What Are You Doing to Jesus?

The Lord Jesus is coming back and He is saying that He is going to separate people. He said to the righteous:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:35-36)

It is easier to visit somebody that you like and who always does good to you, especially if you think they are going to give you a gift.

When that police officer came to me as I was speeding in the residential zone, he was not the bad guy. He was doing what God had assigned him to do whether he realized it or not. That was for my good that day.

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The king will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one

of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:37-40)

This gives you a different look at the people, and you take on a whole new perspective. Whether they are naughty or nice, respectable or despicable, or whatever is going on, the Lord loves every person on the face of the earth—men, women, and children. He does not see color. He is looking at the heart, and He wants the heart of every person because He wants them to have an abundant life with Him.

When Jesus came, His whole life was about us. He was not about Himself. He came to live, to fulfill the will of the Father for His life, to suffer and to die to save us, and then to rise from the dead to take His place as Lord of lords and King of kings for us.

When we learn this and start to operate as a God-man or a God-woman, we understand that whatever we do to someone else, we are doing to Jesus. You have no right to judge between this person and that person, or anybody. You have no right to look down on anybody. You have no right to show prejudice one over another just because one person and gives you stuff, while the other person offers you nothing. The Lord sees them all the same and loves them all the same.

That is what He taught me. I love people. They are all the same to me. This is God’s best. God loves everybody the same and it cannot get any better. People say, “I want more of Jesus,” and I tell them that they cannot get any more than what they have. The love of God is the best of the best. You cannot get any better than that, and the plan that God has for your life and for the lives of those that you share with cannot get any better than God’s best. He only gives His best. He does not offer us good, better, or best. He serves the best. He does not have anything but that.

If you are giving your best, there cannot be any better given. But are you just doing enough to get by? Did you do that in school? In school nowadays, you can almost do nothing and pass. A guy came to me one day and said, “Pastor, all I want to do is get into the pearly gates.” I said, “What? Just get in? How pathetic is that? You should want to get in and get the best that the Father has.” I want to go into

the castle of God where the king is, where He is beholding me face to face, and He is saying, "There's my boy. Come on in."

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (Matthew 25:41-46)

When I read that as a young boy, I said, "I want eternal life. I do not want eternal punishment. That is cursed." I wanted to do what is right. I am saved by the gift of God not because I go in and help somebody in prison, or I feed somebody who is hungry. You cannot be saved and not want to be doing these things because God put His heart in us. We have the heart of the Lord. If you do not have a heart for people, then you do not have the heart of the Lord.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

- *"At that time, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were wise." (Matthew 25:1-2)* You do not want to be foolish, which is cursed. The wise are blessed. They were all believers waiting for the Lord's return.
- *"The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise. 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'" (Matthew 25:3-8)*

“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:17) If you are saved, there will be faith works that come out. That is: helping people, doing good, loving and caring for others.

- *“No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you.’”* (Matthew 25:9) They were not being unloving. You cannot give your faith and your salvation to somebody else. Each person is going to stand before God accountable for their own life. They cannot give their anointing to somebody else. They cannot give their blessing to somebody else. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”* (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- *‘Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I do not know you.’* (Matthew 25:9-12) That is absolutely what you do not want to hear. *“Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”* (Matthew 25:13)

Someday we are all going to give an account to God for it. We do not need to be afraid of this if we are doing the right thing. We do not have to be afraid of the authorities if we are doing the right thing. Ultimately the Lord will judge us whether we are doing the right thing or not. Jesus was falsely accused, falsely charged, and falsely crucified. But He committed His cause to the Father who judges justly, and the Lord vindicated Him.

He submitted Himself to the working. He did not have rebellion in His heart. He did not have independence in His heart, He just knew that His Father was greater and He was in the will of God doing what God wanted Him to do. The Lord will turn things around.

If something bad happens to you, the first thing you should ask yourself is, “Father, am I out of your will?” You can know it. You know when you do right, doing what God says to do.

A Love for the People

If you have an opportunity to get bitter, do not submit to it and become unforgiving because that is cursed. Cursing is presented to you by a person coming to you and doing or saying something, and you choose to go with that. It is dancing with the devil. Do not cuddle up to that, it is like a python, and it will squeeze the life out of you. You have to say, "No, in the name of Jesus" and do not go there. We overcome evil with good and bring God's best into the situation. If we love, and help and bless those who curse us, that shows we care about them.

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34) They cursed themselves. "Let this curse be on us and our children's children," they shouted out to Pilate. *"But they kept shouting, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'"* (Luke 23:21) They did not know what they were doing.

Your heart of compassion should go out to people when they are hurting themselves because you know that *"...no weapon formed against you will prosper."* (Isaiah 54:17) Every word that somebody speaks against the righteous goes back on those that have spoken it. If you are righteous, that is what will happen, but if you choose to get into it and start bad-mouthing them and entering into it, then you are not righteous. You are cursed as well, and that is what the thief wants you to do.

I am tired of feeding the devil's kingdom. What defiles one ends up defiling others. *"...Lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."* (Hebrews 12:15)

Have you ever noticed what happens with bitterness? It spreads. It is like gangrene in the body, and when you have gangrene, they cut that part off. I want blessing to flow in our lives, and I do not want to see anybody perish. That is the heart of God. The Lord wants everybody to come to the saving knowledge of the truth. We are ambassadors of good will for Christ, and we bring good news to people. *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."* (2 Corinthians 5:20)

When you look at people now (like that person that you think is a total idiot or jerk), you have to know that Jesus died for them just like He died for you. They are just like you. When you look at them, you should see Jesus. I do not see what others see in people. I look past that. I see what Jesus sees in them, and then I believe God to make what Jesus sees happen because that is what it is all about. The Lord is changing us into His image. *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* (Romans 8:30)

You have to have a love for the people. This is what it is all about. You have to love what God is doing in you. The next time you walk by the mirror, just say, “Awesome.” That good work He has begun in us He is faithful to perfect and complete. When you love what God is doing in you, you know it is God doing it and not you doing it. You know it is His undeserved kindness, love, and blessing, and now you start to look at others out of those eyes, and you see Jesus. You allow the love and the power of God to flow through you to transform everybody and everything around you. You are not looking through man’s eyes. You are looking through God’s eyes.

“Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness.” (Luke 11:34) When the eyes are clear, you do not have any guilt; you do not have any fear. You are free indeed. You are free to be about the Father’s business.

Paul said about Timothy that he had nobody else on the ministry team like him. He had a genuine care for the people. Not for personal gain, not for personal interest. *“I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”* (Philippians 2:20-21)

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
Attitudes
Chapter Eleven

Go Out of Your Way

We are managers of what belongs to God. You need to always remember the Lord in your will. When you give finances, God brings it back in terms of righteousness.

Zaccheus was a small man who wanted to see the Lord so he climbed up in a sycamore tree. He would have been lost in the crowd, but he did something extra to see the Lord. He went out of his way.

There was a lady who had an issue of blood for many years. She went to the doctors and nobody could help her. All her money was gone, but she thought if she could just get to the hem of Jesus garment she knew she would be made whole. She fought her way through the crowd, touched His garment, and she was instantly healed. She went out of her way.

Many people do not go out of their way to see something happen. If you need a great financial miracle, sow the best seed that you have. If you are having a relationship challenge you will need some overt love to be given if you are going to see what God has. The Lord of lords, the King of kings in the heavens saw all of us down here lost, dying, and going to hell in a handbag, and He said, "I am going to have to do something to save them." He had it in the plan before the fall of man because He knows everything and He knew what people would do. He came out of the heavens, became a person born of a virgin to live, suffer, and die for us so that we might know who the Father is, and then to save us.

What will make a difference? Who will get God's attention? It is not the people sitting there thinking they will try it and maybe it will work or maybe it will not. That is being double-minded. Those people, God says, are unstable in all their ways and cannot expect to receive anything from the Lord. (James 1:8)

James 1:8 gets my attention because I am a “results” person. I believe that God is a results God, and I am a results person in Him. That means, *“Has He not said it, will He not do it, has He not promised, and will He not fulfill?”* It is impossible that it not happen. With God nothing is impossible. And He says that it will not be impossible to us either in Him. (Matthew 17:20) You have to act on God’s Word.

Zaccheus was thinking that he just wanted to see the Lord Jesus. However, God had another plan because those that come to Him must first know He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who *diligently* seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6) Those are the ones who go out of their way to seek the Lord, to praise the Lord, to give thanks to the Lord. They are not concerned about what anybody else is thinking about them, they are going to praise and acknowledge the Lord. They are not afraid of what people think.

Have you compromised your witness for fear of what somebody around you would think? I figure it this way: if folks can cuss and swear and do all kinds of things, coming out of the closets or whatever, it is time that God’s people come out of the closets too. We need to stand up and not be ashamed of whom we have believed in. The Lord is ashamed of us if we are.

When you get a healing or a deliverance (God does something), *“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.”* You have to tell somebody about what He has done. Then the Lord will want to do more to you and through you because you are acknowledging Him. You are praising Him, honoring Him, and you are thanking Him. God does things for His glory.

A Changed Life

Jesus had never met Zaccheus before, and yet He called him by name and told him to come out of the tree. “I am going to your house today.” In Zaccheus’ fondest dreams he never imagined that the Lord Jesus would go to his house, for he was a tax collector. They were considered the low life of their day. They cheated and stole from people. The religious leaders wondered why Jesus was going to Zaccheus’ house because he was a sinner. If we get honest with ourselves, we have all been sinners. However, we are no longer

sinner. The blood of Jesus has cleansed us and washed us, giving us a new life. We are God-people now, stepping into the God-dimension; the supernatural realm of the Spirit of God.

The Lord wants to bless our finances. One of the things that Zaccheus did was stand up at his table with Jesus and his guests. His friends who were also there were sinners, scoundrels and tax collectors. He proclaimed that he was going to take all that he had and give half of it away and then with the other half pay back what he had stolen. This was a miracle.

Zaccheus' whole life was changed. He became a God-man. He became a manager of God's abundance. At that moment, he said, "All that I have belongs to God." Before it was, "All that I have belongs to me."

When you understand that the Lord gives to us so that we may then distribute where and to whom He wants, He gives the ability to acquire wealth (Deuteronomy 8).

Zaccheus' heart was changed and touched by the Lord. God first loved him, and he responded in faith and love by the actions that he did. He knew exactly what he had done with the folks, and so he was able to distribute to those he had taken from and to distribute the wealth that he had personally amongst those that needed help. That is the heart of God. Zaccheus had an encounter with Jesus within, and in an instant his life was changed and set on a whole new course.

That is why our latter days will be even better than our former days. They will be richer. We will have more blessed relationships than our former days because everything before Christ could not even begin to compare with what we have now in Jesus.

If there is lack in your life, it is not because God missed it someplace. It is because you missed it.

Scholarships are valuable. You need to apply yourself as early as the first grade because if you do not, when it comes to scholarships,

you will come up lacking. You should not just do enough to get by. God intends you for more than that.

When the people looked at Jesus' disciples, they said, "How can these uneducated people be so incredibly smart?" Then it says they realized that the disciples spent time with Jesus. Many times kings and people of royalty were interested in what Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to say because they had learned the wisdom of God. God will give you understanding and wisdom if you ask. God is not looking for the people who are the cream of the crop because usually they are the ones who think they are the cream of the crop and they will not rely on Him. They will not go to Him.

Paul said to the church at Corinth, "You are all very wealthy, educated, and have prowess, but as far as God is concerned you are bankrupt because you think you have done it all."

God gives the power to acquire wealth. (Deuteronomy 8) He helped you to make the wise decisions that helped you to open up doors of blessing. It was the Lord that was with you the whole time.

The Lord told me in the early 1970's to always remember the humble beginnings. If you have seen your life change for the good, the Lord has done things in your life, moved you from blessing to blessing and wisdom to wisdom, faith to faith, and you have seen changes from God, it is like an inheritance. You did absolutely nothing to receive that inheritance. It was a gift from God. You did not work for it or earn it. The Father in heaven has given an inheritance and whoever belongs to Jesus has entered into that inheritance, and all that the Father has for us will come to us in Christ Jesus.

The Importance of Participating

Jeremiah said, "I am a little boy; how am I going to speak to the nations?" Moses said, "I cannot talk." They all had excuses, but the Lord will make up the difference. Everything that God wants you to be and do will come to pass. If you have a poverty mentality, you are not going to enter into what God has.

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. There is an attitude that starts to happen. Zaccheus came into that God-attitude.

It changed him from a selfish, hoarding thief into a magnanimous giver. The first act of his new life in Jesus was to give to those he cheated and to those whom God had put in his heart that were in need. He became a God-manager.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind.” (Acts 4:32) It is a miracle when people are of one heart and mind. Only God can do that. “No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.” Grace is the favor and the ability of God. “There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.” (Acts 4:34-35)

This was not a welfare plan. In a welfare plan the folks have their hands out. They are receiving, but they are not giving. 2nd Thessalonians, chapter 3, says if you do not work, you do not eat. You have to start to take steps to change whatever situation you are in.

We do not condemn people, we just state a better way. A fool receives condemnation when he hears about something that is different than what he is doing.

In John, chapter 6, Jesus said, “You only follow me because I fed you.” When He got spiritual with the people, they all left. Jesus had told them, “If you do not eat my body and drink my blood, you will not enter into the kingdom of God,” and they thought He was crazy. But He was being spiritual. He was foretelling that if you do not participate, eat, ingest, and believe on His body and blood being given to you to save you (you do not receive it), you will not have life. But if you do, you will have life forever. But they did not have spiritual ears to hear. They were only thinking of the physical.

When He said, “You only follow me because I fed you,” He was not talking about bread and soup lines. There is a higher order of God: *“Give and you shall receive.”* And so, when we refer to community

here, everybody was participating. Everybody was giving. Everybody was sharing and receiving. Everybody was blessing with one heart and one mind, and there was no lack amongst the people. God was supplying everything that was needed for everybody. The church people were not thinking about themselves.

If you have given in the heart of God under the direction of the Spirit of God, you will be receiving. It is coming and it is on the way. You are not looking for your ship to come in, but in the meantime you continue giving. It is not one for one. You are looking for pressed down, shaken together, running over. That means you are not looking at what you are receiving, you are just looking at what you are giving and you ask "Okay, Lord, how can I have more to give?"

This is not like interest or investing like the world invests. This is storing up treasures in heaven where moth and rust cannot corrupt. Everything from God comes from heaven. You need to step out of the world's economy and into the heavenly economy. The only way that will happen is to obey the Lord. God wants to finance things in His kingdom in these last days as well as take care of His people, which is a witness to the unbelievers. (Malachi 3:12)

"Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles feet." (Acts 4:36-37)

Glorious things were happening in the community, and the people were celebrating Jesus, they were celebrating the Lord's goodness and having fun with their life. All the attention was on the Lord.

Give As the Spirit Directs, Not as You Direct

"Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet." (Acts 5:1-2)

"Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Did not it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, was not the money at

your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.” (Acts 5:3-4)

There would be very few people going to church if everything you had and made was required to be given. God gives you something so you can manage it for Him. In the God-realm it is not about money, it is about integrity of heart in management. If everyone dropped over dead, the church would be empty. That is not God’s will and desire. But what the Lord saw happening here was that everybody was of one heart and mind in community, giving, sharing, caring, and not thinking about themselves. The devil came along and put the thought into Ananias and Sapphira’s hearts to keep back part of the money that they said they were going to give. They said they were going to give it all. Otherwise there would not have been such an issue about this.

There was not anything wrong with giving 80 percent if that is what God had told him. Integrity of management and life is doing what the Holy Spirit directs you to do. What we do is as to the Lord. When you lie to somebody, you are breaking faith with them, and with God. Your life should be all about God, whether you are doing it right or wrong. You represent Jesus in the earth.

Having that break of faith would break the community and the unity of the community. If one gets selfish, then it starts to spread, and the next thing you know people are pulling back their tithes and their offerings.

Many years ago when I was in the Lutheran church, some people thought that if they pulled back their tithe the church would fold (which was really stupid). Some ended up going blind, having cancers, and all kinds of things happened to them because they were robbing God, seeking to undermine the kingdom of God and the ministry of God. However, the church flourished. One day the Lord said, “This week, son, I am going to do a major move of my Spirit in the house.” So I was all excited. I got up there on Sunday morning ready for this major move of God’s Spirit and there were only 36 people sitting out there. Where was the full house? Anyway, those folks were so receptive to the Word of God. Afterwards when the accounting was done, the funds doubled from before when it was a full house. God

started to build a whole new community, a whole new church. And everybody that left had all kinds of things going on in their lives.

One fellow stepped down a step and broke his neck. Another fellow in the prime of his life had a massive heart attack and died. This was because they were opposing the work of God. There was no integrity in management. The fellow that had the massive heart attack came to me one day and said, "I am wrong in what I have been doing, Pastor. I have been listening to these people and following what they said." (The scorners always use the fools to do their handiwork.) He went on to say, "The Lord showed me I am wrong. What do I need to do?" And I said, "You need to ask God's forgiveness for what you have been doing. You need to ask my forgiveness. You need to ask my wife's forgiveness for what you have been doing, and you need to ask the congregation's forgiveness. He did three of the demands, but he did not ask the congregation's forgiveness for what he did in creating division and strife. So, come Sunday morning, I was looking for him. I was so excited for him because he was going to get free of the whole thing... but they talked him out of it. Monday morning, he was on his mail route going up to a house with the mail and he dropped over dead of a massive heart attack. The Lord is not pleased with this kind of stuff. There has to be integrity in our lives and our walk with God.

After this happened, the church had the best offering ever. But a greater thing happened, and it was not about the offering or the amount of money.

"What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God. When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, 'Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?' 'Yes,' she said, 'that is the price.' (He was giving her an opportunity to come clean.) "Peter said to her, 'How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Oppose God and His grace. Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also. At that moment she fell down at his feet and died.'" (Acts 5:3-10)

What did the people bring to the apostle's feet? They sold lands, houses, and brought their offerings and laid it at the apostles' feet. If God has our bank accounts, He has our heart. What ended up lying at the apostles feet were Ananias and Sapphira's bodies. Dead work will receive death. *"The wages of sin is death."* The gift of God is life in Christ Jesus.

The Fear of the Lord Needs to Return

"At that moment she [Sapphira] fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events." (Acts 5:10-11)

People seem to think that they can do anything and get away with it, but God is not mocked. Whatever people sow they are going to reap. This applies not only to money, it applies to obedience, love, and everything else. In our church a great fear of God came back. The reverence, respect, worship, and awe of God came back. Holiness came back into the community. The reason Ananias and Sapphira's action was so horrible in God's sight is because it was breaking up the community of God. It was breaking up the love of God in the church. It was breaking up the oneness. One heart, one mind. People started thinking that they could do their own thing and still be a part, and God does not see it that way. So, the Lord put the ax to the tree at that point and got rid of the selfishness that was trying to come into the church.

I have seen and heard about this many times over the years. We do not want to lose the healthy fear and awe of God, the worship of God. I do not want to go against God. Like Joseph said, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" when Potiphar's wife was trying to put the make on him.

Ananias and Sapphira caused what happened because the fruit of a lie is death. There can be death to a relationship when mistrust comes in. It will break up relationships and community. The thief is always trying to sow mistrust into people's lives. Folks have a hard time giving because they do not trust. If you give something to the

Lord, no matter what the ministry does with it, you are going to be blessed for what you have done to the Lord.

Years ago scandals in the church happened because of a move of Satan to try to stop the church from advancing the Word of God and people became suspicious, but God will do what He says. God judged those ministries and that work, and He dealt with everybody concerned. Judgment begins first with the household of faith. What goes on in the church will later have an effect in society, and God focused on cleaning up the government, cleaning up what was going on in the world. Those other things were being shown for what they were. It is still going on, and it is going to intensify. In these last days we have got to be holy people living holy for the Lord.

Enter In to What God Has

“The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.”

People who do not want to do what God says will not be where God is talking. They do not want to hear it or be around it because they will be accountable.

A guy told me one time, “Pastor, when are you going to be off of that series?” And I said, “I will probably be on it all my life” because the Holy Spirit knew where He was going with it. Then the guy said, “Yeah, that is what I thought. I really do not want to hear it because if I hear it, then I am going to be accountable and responsible for it.” And I said, “You have already heard enough that you are accountable and responsible for it, so you might as well hear the end of the matter. Most importantly, you need to get to doing it because if it is the Word of the Lord and it is what He says and it is true, then you would be well advised to start doing what God says. Then you can be blessed and enter into all that He has for you.” I never saw him again. How very sad.

People tend to get very religious and try to prove how godly they are when they are not receiving the truth of God. That is religion, that is not life. Jesus said, *“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did*

we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matthew 7:22-23)

“Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.” (Acts 3:14)

There are a lot of people out there that want to enter into what God has. Keep praying and believing, witnessing, and the Lord will bring them in.

“As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. (Acts 3:15-16)

Then the thief came to persecute the church. It did not work to try to corrupt the church from the inside because God dealt with it quickly, and the selfishness was ended and the fear of God came back. Then the persecution was intended to get people to give up their faith; to give up their hope and love, and to turn on one another and start turning each other in. Jesus said, “If you are not ashamed to confess Me before men, I am not ashamed to confess you before the Father.”

The glory of God actually comes upon those who are persecuted for faith in Jesus, for doing the right God-thing. The blessing of God is on their lives. Jesus said, “They love not their lives to the death.” (Revelation 12:11) Because they did not seek to save their life, they gained their life. Those who sought to save their life lost their life. He is talking about life with God.

Ask the Lord What He Wants

The God-man and God-woman are going to ask the Lord, “Holy Spirit, as a manager of what is the Lord’s, what do you want me to do with what I have? What do you want me to do with what I do not have yet?” In other words, the Lord has things coming in. You need to believe God for things coming in. We do not just manage what we have here, we have things coming in from God and the measure of

that is depending on what you are believing. When you pray, believe that you have received, and you will see whatsoever things you desire when you pray. (Mark 11:22)

This is why desire is so important. The Lord told me one time, “Son, you are not asking for enough. Ask for what you desire.” I thought I was asking for a lot. Where I come from I am believing for much because we need much to do what God has given. If you believe for a little, what are you going to do? You are going to give a little, but I am believing for a lot, so we have to give some big seed out there. The Lord said, “I will give you the nations.”

We are sowing the Word of God to the nations. When the Lord said I was not asking for enough, I said, “Okay, Father, what do I need to ask for?” Sometimes you do not know what you need to ask for. So I said, “Lord, give me the words to pray,” and I started praying in the spirit. Then I will know what God wants me to ask for and bring into existence.

The God-man and the God-woman will ask the Lord what He wants done with what they have. *“Honor the Lord with the first fruits of your substance and He will cause your barns to be filled.”* (Proverbs 3:9-10) That was an agricultural society, today it would be bank accounts. When I read that, I went out and opened another bank account. How can you have your barns full if you only have one barn? I am believing God for the increase.

People get stubborn and resist the voice of the Holy Ghost when God is prompting them to do something. This happens when you ask God for a figure to give and when you get one, you say, “Get behind me, Satan. That is too much.” Very rarely do folk say it is too little. Usually they say it is too much. You cannot buck up when the Holy Ghost is talking to you. But this is why many people do not even ask the Holy Spirit what He wants them to do because they are afraid He is going to ask them to give the whole thing.

If God asked you to give the whole thing, nothing but blessing is coming your way. I am not suggesting that you give the whole thing. I am just saying that you need to ask God, and then do what He tells you to do.

You have to want what God wants more than anything else because what you desire is what you are going to have.

“God loves a cheerful giver.” (2nd Corinthians 9) What people sow is what they are going to reap. If I desire to sow a lot, I am going to reap a lot. If I desire to sow a little, I am going to reap a little. I would rather reap much than a little.

God is into increase. That is why the devil has tried to get a poverty spirit into the church and into the people so they do not believe God. If you have much, you can give much to the kingdom. In any case it is about what you have right now. If you are faithful with what you have now, the Lord will give an increase.

Have you checked your giving record at the end of the year and seen how progressively the Lord has been faithful and has given increase in many ways? Have you seen how the Lord took care of you when you did not have two nickels to rub together? That is because you were faithful with what you had back when. It was a residual blessing. You were getting in from the blessing you sowed 20 years ago.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
Generosity
Chapter Twelve

The Blessing of Righteousness

“The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously; those the Lord blesses will inherit the land.” (Psalm 37:21-22)

The Lord blesses those who are righteous, in right standing with Him. The unrighteous are the people separated from God. They may be people who call themselves Christians, but if they are living outside of God’s ways they are not righteous. They cannot be blessed.

There is much nonsense going on among people who call themselves Christians. When the Lord meets up with us someday we do not want to be among those who say, “We did this in your name and that in your name,” but He says, “Depart from Me, you workers of iniquity. I do not know who you are.” (Matthew 7:21)

I want to hear my Lord Jesus tell me, “Well done, son; enter in to my pleasures which I have prepared for you.” That will not be for the unrighteous. They will be in the lake of fire separated from God forever. This only belongs to the righteous. We need to take our lives and our salvation seriously. We do not want to sacrifice it or give it up for anybody or anything.

I want to receive the righteousness that Jesus gave me. *“For He who knew no sin became sin for me so I could receive His righteousness.”* (2nd Corinthians 5:21)

Members of a family often do not think about service. The dads think that they are the head so everybody serves them, moms think the husband should serve them, or children think their parents are there to serve them. Instead, everybody is to serve. When everybody is serving, everybody gets blessed.

In the world a servant mentality is looked down upon and degraded. But Jesus said he or she who would be great in the kingdom of heaven must become the servant of all (under the Lord's direction). We do what the Lord directs us to do towards one another. There are no doormats in God's plan.

Walk in His Ways

"But those he curses will be cut off." People curse themselves by not doing what God says. *"If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm."* The Lord will establish the steps of the righteous. In other words, nothing can separate the people of God from what He has for them if they want to walk in His ways.

"Though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread." (Psalm 32:24-25) Their children will not have to be begging bread. We live in a third and fourth generation welfare system today in America. Why are the children begging bread? – Because righteousness has left the parents. The righteous will never be forsaken nor will their seed ever be begging bread. The children will beg bread because the parents are begging bread.

In Deuteronomy, chapter 28, the beggars are the folks who are not blessed. They are cursed. We do not need to beg bread because our God supplies all of our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. We are doing what God says to do and we are not robbing God. However, if you are not giving tithes and offerings, you are a God-robber. If you are righteous, then all of the promises of God according to Malachi, chapter 3, come to pass. You will never lack for anything. The Lord will rebuke the devourer who has come to steal, kill, and destroy spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships. Everything you set your hand to do will be blessed because the Lord is establishing the steps of the righteous. You can with bold confidence declare when you give your tithe and your offering, and you are honoring God or doing something the Lord directs you to do towards someone, that God is blessing your action. Expect increase to come from the north, south, east, and west from the throne of God because your God is the one who is supplying everything for you to manage.

There is a story about a monkey who tried to grab lots of peanuts out of a jar, but he could not get them out because his fist would not get through the opening. Selfishness will cut off the blessing of God. You are not the source. God is the source. So every time you share, you care. The sharer is blessed. The hoarder is cursed. The stingy man will end up in poverty. The generous man will end up with abundance.

“They are always generous and lend freely, their children will be blessed.” Lend freely where the Lord directs. *“Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever. For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off, the righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just. The law of his God is in his heart, his feet do not slip.* Because he is living his life based on God’s principles. When you do what the Lord says, the Lord will do what He says He will do in your behalf.

Caring, Sharing, Giving

In 2nd Corinthians, chapter eight, Paul wrote to the church at Corinth. He told them to receive an offering for the church in Jerusalem who were going through famine times, for the body of Christ works together and helps one another that way. So he told them ahead of time to prepare so that when he came he would not have to go through the whole process again. He wanted it ready because he was going from place to place to all the churches to receive this offering to help the church at Jerusalem.

Understand, Corinth was one of the wealthier of the churches. They were the most educated and everything that the world would consider high and lifted up. However, they had the most problems of all the churches combined. Many times when folks are blessed with resources they look to themselves and think they are more important than they ought to.

Understand that you are God’s ambassador in the earth. God makes you important, but without Him you are not important. We are co-laborers with Him. What we speak on earth, God will honor it in

heaven. What we hold on earth, He holds in heaven. We can speak blessing. We do not speak cursing, but people curse themselves.

“Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed.” (2nd Corinthians 8:13) Corinth was the only church where Paul had to make a pitch. They had the most of all the churches and could finance the whole operation, but they were also the stingiest.

The church at Philippi was the poorest, and yet they were the most generous. The difference was the heart for God and God’s people. Many times when people are into themselves they do not really care about what is going on around them. They do not care about the work of the Lord, and only care about the work of themselves.

In Corinth before they served the Lord’s Supper they would have a love feast. The rich folks would bring in their “steaks” and the poor folk were sitting with their bread and water in another section. They were divided. That is the way the world operates — the rich and the poor. The poor are always looking for a bone, a crust of bread from the rich, and the rich are not going to give it to them. They are going to use them and abuse them.

The whole world is looking for people with money. They want to associate with them so that they can get something from them. They did not get their money being stupid, unless maybe they inherited it and do not appreciate what they have, or they won the lottery. Most of the folks who won the lottery have a horrible life because they do not know how to handle what they have.

Paul told the Corinthians that he was not going to cause them to be hard-pressed. (You will have whatever you need to take care of your life.)

“...But that there might be equality.” (2nd Corinthians 8:13)

Remember in Acts, chapter 4, how the church was so blessed because everybody had the attitude of caring, sharing, giving, and encouraging one another and building the camaraderie of God, and everybody was believing God for things. Nobody lacked in the camp because there was no lack of love in the community. They cared about one another. *“If you do not work, you do not eat.”* (2nd

Thessalonians 3:10) Everyone was giving. Everyone was caring and sharing. It was not that folks were freeloading.

Freeloading is a welfare mentality where you put nothing in and take everything out. That system is bankrupt and will always be bankrupt because if people are not contributing, it will run out, and if God is not contributing, it is really going to run out. When people are looking to another source other than the Lord, He will not contribute to it. God will finance what He is doing. He will not finance what we are doing apart from Him.

If you want to take care of your own life, the Lord will say, "Have at it." You will run here and there. *"Except the Lord build the house they that labor, labor in vain. They get up early and stay up late."* (Psalm 127:12) Their health breaks down, their relationships break down and everything breaks down. When you are in that place, you cannot give tithes and offerings or look out for somebody else because you are looking out for yourself.

Thankful to Give, Thankful to Receive

You will never hear the righteous grumbling or complaining. (Philippians 2) We are shining lights in the midst of a perverse and crooked generation, holding forth the word of light and truth. It says, there will be no grumbling or complaining amongst God's people.

Moses did not get to go into the Promised Land because he allowed those people to get into his head, and he got angry with them. Then he disobeyed God by smiting the rock rather than speaking to it like God had told him to do. You do not see him saying, "The devil made me do it" or "the people made me do it" because he was a righteous man. He just acted unrighteously at that moment. Understand, the consequence of that action was that he did not get to go into the Promised Land with the people. But Moses did not feel that he got a bad deal. He asked God's forgiveness and the Lord let him see the Promised Land from the top of the mountain from which he then was to depart to be with the Lord. With the grace of God, because Moses was a righteous man, he stood at the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus and Elijah. God let him put his feet down in the Promised Land!

People look at what they have or do not have, and want what they do not have, and they are not thankful for what they do have. Then it disappears because they are not thankful for it.

The people in Corinth were still thinking and acting like the world. They were rich and had everything, but they were not rich towards God.

“At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: ‘He who gathered much did not have too much and he who gathered little did not have too little’.” (2nd Corinthians 8:14)

If they did not have anything right then because they were in famine, how were they going to have plenty?

Have you had a time in your life when you were able to give to others, and you did it thankfully and happily? Then there came a time when you had a need and somebody came to you and said they would like to help you without you asking them to help you. Did you turn them down because you were full of pride? Did you have the same joy and thankfulness to receive as you did to give? *“Give and it shall be given to you, pressed down, shaken together, running over shall people [under God’s direction] give to you.”*

In the parable about the stewards and the manager the one who received the most increase received even more. There are times in your life where the Lord is supplying through others into your life.

The church in Jerusalem did nothing to cause the famine and God supplied to their life by putting it on Paul’s heart to go and receive the offering from all the churches. The mother church was Jerusalem where all the resources had originally gone out to the other churches.

Proud people are grumblers and complainers. They are the unthankful people. They do not appreciate what God is supplying. It is demeaning to them that somebody would come along and say they would like to do something for them.

The Concept of Equality

Paul was telling these people that they could supply what was needed and down the road God would make sure they would be taken care of too. Equality is where we share and we care. The Lord has a limitless pool of resources. He is not like the world. The world's resources are drying up. But what is amazing is that the world still has resources that they have not even looked at or touched. The reason the world does that is to keep the prices up on the resources that are there.

If all the diamonds under the ground were to come forth, the price of the diamond market would go down to nothing. When you understand riches and wealth in God's economy, you may notice the streets in heaven are paved with gold. People war and fight over oil and diamonds. That system is bankrupt because the values are no good. What good is having gold and diamonds if you do not have food? You cannot eat it. *"Having food and raiment let us therewith be content."* (1st Timothy 6:8)

Paul was trying to get through to the people at Corinth that it was about equality. The church at Corinth had no concept of equality because they were "into" rich and poor. That is prejudice, and it creates division. The Spirit of God is not into division or subtraction. He is into addition and multiplication. Adding to and multiplying. He is into goodness.

Righteousness is equated with what you do with your money. If you cannot handle money, how can you handle spiritual things? Jesus also says in Matthew, chapter 6, you cannot serve two masters. You cannot serve God and money. It is one or the other. God uses money to further His kingdom, but money cannot get you the kingdom of God. The world goes after money.

In 1st Timothy, chapter 6, Paul says that if you go after those things, you will become bankrupt spiritually. You will lose your faith. Because either God is the source or your money is the source, and the devil uses money too. The devil says to keep your money and use it for yourself. God says, "Take the money that I have given you and give it out where I direct." He may say, "Go get yourself

something.” I have learned that whenever funds come to me, the first thing I do is say, “Thank you, Lord, and God bless where the funds came through.” Then I am going to ask, “Lord, what do you want to do with this? What did this come for?”

The Lord was trying to help the Corinthian church to get rid of divisions as well. So the offering was actually giving them an opportunity to do something righteous, to do something that would change their way of thinking so that they would quit relying upon themselves.

The Laodicea church in Revelation was rich and it had everything. It lacked nothing, but the Lord said it was bankrupt and needed to repent and change or He was going to leave the church. The Lord will leave a church when it is not righteous. Around here, the unrighteous leave the church. John said, “*They went out from us but they were not of us.*” (1st John 2:19 NKJV) The unrighteous do not want to hear the righteous truth, and do not want to do it. You cannot be unrighteous and be part of the church.

God Loves Cheerful Givers

Pride and greed are one and the same. They are idolatry. The greedy person cannot fulfill the righteous commandments of God related to finance. They cannot tithe, they cannot give offerings. They hate hearing about special offerings. They hate seeing somebody in need, but it is not a righteous anger that somebody is suffering. However, there is a righteous anger. Jesus had it when He saw a man infirmed with sickness. Righteous anger rose up against the infirmity that had plagued the man, and Jesus drove it out of him so he could be whole.

That is how the Lord looks from the heavens when He sees one of His children being mistreated by some demonic host. He comes from the heavens like a momma bear to protect His children, and He is going to deal with whatever is tormenting and afflicting His child. That is righteous anger.

There are people who would say, “Oh, no, I might have to give something or do something to help them” and they do not want to do it... It used to be that when the plate was passed for the offerings,

some were in trauma because it was coming down the aisle and they might have to do something.

The percentage of Christians tithing across the nation is less than seven percent. *“My people perish for lack of knowledge.”* People are either not taught or they do not want to do what they are taught. I am doing you a disservice if I do not call you a God-robber when you are not tithing and giving offerings.

The Lord dealt with me severely in the 1970’s because I would never talk about us as God’s managers and the responsibility of giving. How can you be blessed if you do not give? If you do not give love to people, how can you have a blessed relationship? Love is not with the hope that the person is going to do something nice back to you. When they are giving a trinket over the air, they are expecting you to give a lot more than what that trinket costs.

God loves a cheerful giver. A greedy person cannot be a cheerful (Greek: hilarious) giver. It is impossible for him. Cheerful givers are so excited about the opportunity to give. Paul told this to the Corinth church because they were not excited about the opportunity. They saw no benefit in it. It was not helping them.

They would build a fancy church because it was their church. I have actually seen folks who wanted to take what they gave into the ministry with them when they left. We will not receive a gift that has strings attached. Many times you do not know strings are attached until afterwards. I tell people that this is a church, not a bank. What you put in is not yours as soon as you release it to God. It is God’s. You have no right to come back; it is gone. You need to just leave it blessed because if you try to take something back from God... You are not giving to a church or a man, you are giving to the Lord. If you are giving to a church and to a man, then there is no blessing on that. When you give to the Lord you have an eternal blessing and you are storing up treasure in heaven.

With the Corinthians’ church, this did not compute. You will learn that both wealthy and poor folks often do what they do because it will benefit them. This is where you get the “give to get” theology. That is not blessed giving. Blessed giving is giving out of a thankful heart,

a loving and a caring heart, a God-heart. That is what the righteous do. They do not do it for anything to come back.

When Jesus gave His life on the cross, there was no guarantee that anybody would respond to what He did, but He freely gave Himself. Many people cannot understand that. They think it is totally stupid.

This ministry gives a lot. What people do not realize is that pretty much everything that comes in goes back out, sowing the Word to the nations. We are missionaries. We give to the community and many different things. We gave property to help the city because they were having financial problems. You bless where you live. I have been told over the years by people that we should not have done that, or they ask why we did it. I tell them, "Because God said to." We do what God tells us to do. We planted seed. Now, we did not do it for the city to like us because there are folks that still do not like us, and yet there are many that love us. But that is not why we do things. You do what you do out of love and obedience to God.

Every day the Lord is doing random acts of kindness. He is always showing underserved kindness to people to bless, encourage, and help them. You may never know the full result of what God is doing through you when He asks you to simply give a cup of water to a man of God in the name of the Lord under His direction, and you will receive the man of God's reward. That is beyond any expectation you could ever have.

Ask the Lord What He Wants to Do

You will receive blessing when you ask the Lord what it is that He wants you to do. Savings accounts are not for the rainy day or for what you want to buy. Savings accounts are really for whatever the Lord wants them to be used for. You save so that you have something when the time comes for God to do something with it.

Paul was telling the Corinthian church to start on the first day of the week to set aside something for the offering so it would be there when he came, which was a year later.

Start planning. Mix faith and believe that God will start filling that account because if you are not believing, then it will not happen. You cannot allow distractions to steal from it.

When Jesus was on the cross, He was doing it with joy because He saw what it was going to do down the road. Hebrews, chapter 12, talks about how He endured the contradiction of the cross for the joy that was set before Him. Namely, all of us coming into the kingdom of heaven around the world. It fills God's heart with such joy. When somebody has a need, the Lord can fill that need. He can make it happen.

The Lord never asks us to do something or be something that He is not. He is a hilarious giver. He is in our hearts if we are His. That means He should not have to talk somebody into being a hilarious giver. He should not have to list out 28 reasons why you should give or participate in something. It is either in you or not. The Lord told me years ago in the 1970's that thankful people give to the work of the Lord.

With the God-man and the God-woman pride is out of the way. We realize this is all God's. *Lord, direct me in what you want me to do and how you want me to do it.* He will start to unfold things because He is creative. He is a creative giver. We need to be open and hear what He wants to do and how He wants us to do it. It may be that He does a lot of things over a period of time.

It has happened over time that people have had mass fortunes, and probably four or five bankruptcies in the process. The Lord still continued to give them ideas and ways to do things. They never gave up.

Circumstances happen in the earth. Recessions happen, famines happen, things happen that are out of folks' control. But the Lord still reigns and He will make a way. He has a provision. If you give up, it is not going to happen. You have to mix faith with it.

The Lord never does something in isolated ways. In a certain situation He is doing many things and touching many lives at once. It is like when you throw a rock out into the pond and you see the

ripples. One thing touches another that touches another. If you refresh others, you will be refreshed. That is a promise.

“What you do to the least of these you do to me.” He did not say the most prominent, the most important. We all need the Lord, so get rid of the prejudices.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
God's Economy
Chapter Thirteen

Insights into Psalm 112:1-9

- *“Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.”* (Psalm 112:1-4)

We receive what God has for us as we put a demand upon our account. God wants us whole: spirit, mind, body, finances, and in relationships.

Years ago when a pipe came through my windshield, the Lord was teaching me about patience and how to help people go through the tunnel. Sometimes you say to the mountain, “Move in the name of Jesus,” and it does not appear to move, but the Lord is teaching you to go through the mountain. When you tunnel and excavate through the mountain, you find all the silver, gold, and diamonds, etc. The Lord said to tell the people when they are going through the dark tunnel that there is a light at the other end. People need to hold onto Jesus, put their hand on the wall and keep on going. Through faith and patience we inherit all the promises of God. But it is during that time when we are tunneling through the mountain that we are going to gather all the other treasures to ourselves because the Lord is helping us through it. Along the way, He is saying, “Here, look at this, look at that.” God is light and we have light in us, but we need to turn up the light when we are going through the tunnel.

Realize that the Lord of Hosts is strong and mighty within us. “Rise up, joy; rise up, peace, in the name of the Lord.” Then the light of God goes on. The light of God is a light unto your path and it will help you. Picture yourself as a miner with a little light on your head shining out.

The word “gracious” means full of God’s favor and ability. Compassion means being able to come beside somebody else and help them get through whatever they are going through. Compassionate people are not thinking about their own situation; they are always thinking about others. They are full of passion about community and coming together with people.

The Lord told me years ago, “Son, never lose the passion for the compassion.” It is not about you and what you are going through.

In 2nd Corinthians 1, Paul said, “The things that I went through I went through for your sake so I can help others who are going through similar things.” It was not about him and what he was going through.

- *“Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely.”* (Psalm 112:5) God is generous. A godly man or woman is generous and good comes to them as a result.
- *“...Who conducts his affairs with justice.”* (Psalm 112:5) This is integrity.
- *“Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever.”* (Psalm 112:6)

That is, remembered by the Lord. People sometimes do not remember or have a “convenient” memory. God never forgets. He puts things on people’s hearts so they will remember. The Lord says, *“Forget not all His benefits. Who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases.”* (Psalm 103:2-3)

When you are going through hard and dark times, many folks forget that the Lord reigns. If you are helping people, tell them, “The Lord reigns. There is hope and there is a future because God’s plans for us are for good, not for evil; plans to give us hope and a future.” As we put our eyes to Him and get them off our circumstances, then the Lord is free to work out His plan and His purpose.

- *“He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.”* (Psalm 112:7)

Be not afraid of the sudden fear when it comes, for the Lord shall be your confidence. It is normal for your confidence to leave you when you are in certain situations, but there should be no confidence in the arm of the flesh, in yourself. There should be brokenness at that point. Just step back and say, "Lord, step up." I like being behind the Lord; He is strong and mighty. There is nothing too difficult for Him.

That is why we will have no fear of bad news because our heart is steadfast trusting in the Lord. No matter what we hear, see, feel, or what somebody else is doing, our heart is set in trusting the Lord, and we will not be moved.

- *"His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes."* (Psalm 112:8)

People are not your foes. They may be acting ignorantly or out of character. Sickness and disease is your foe. Poverty is your foe. Pride is one of the biggest foes that you will ever face, but when you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God in due season the Lord will exalt you and help you. Once you get that foe of pride and ignorance out of the way, then the Lord is able to step up and step into that place to love people and do good.

If somebody wants to have a spat with you, just tell them, "I love you and I care about you. I do not want anything to separate us. As much as lies within me, I want to live at peace. If you want to do something else, that is your thing, not mine. I love you and I care about you."

After David had an affair with Bathsheba and then had Uriah killed, he wrote in Psalm 51, *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."*

When you have a steadfast spirit and you have a willing spirit, that will sustain you. You have a heart that is steadfast and you have heart that is secure. God is your security. That person will have no fear and in the end he will look in triumph on his foes.

- *“He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor.”* (Psalm 112:9) He will be dignified in honor because he has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor. When the word says, “the poor,” Jesus says, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit.”*

A Look at 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 9:1-10

In 2nd Corinthians 9, Paul had gone around to all the churches making a collection for the Jerusalem church that was going through famine times. This was a way that God was going to supply for them during the famine.

In the Bible all the great miracles of multiplication and provision happened during times of famine. The Lord wants us looking to Him as the Source. This is one way that the Lord was working for all those who had received Him and were thankful to Him. They were to make a contribution to help other believers from the home church based at Jerusalem.

Years ago the Lord told me, “Thankful people give to the work of the Lord.” If they are thankful for the blessing that God has done in their life, they will honor God first and foremost and then live their life as managers of God’s abundance.

So Corinth was given an opportunity to take their offering and present it when Paul came to pick it up. In 1st Corinthians 16:2 Paul told them to set aside the offering on the first day of the week so that it would be ready when he came. Paul was saying that Corinth, the richest of all the churches, would be doing something considerable to help in the project with the church at Jerusalem.

- *“So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.”* (2nd Corinthians 9:5) A gift that is grudgingly given is a poor gift. It needs to be from the heart.
- *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap*

generously.” The tendency for people is to hoard things for themselves. “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2nd Corinthians 9:7)

Reluctantly means you really do not want to do it, but it is the thing that has to be done. It is like when the offering bucket comes down the row and you are thinking, *Oh, man, I have got to put something in there, and you are feeling obligated.* As a manager of God’s abundance, you only do what God directs you to do. It does not matter if they are family or whoever. If the Holy Spirit is not directing the giving, then it is not being given where it needs to be. God has something He wants to accomplish with people.

“Silver and gold have I none,” Peter said to the lame man. Peter had silver and gold in Acts, chapter 3, but he gave the man healing, not money. Even though Jesus passed this guy many times, this incident was to launch the church after Pentecost. Incredible things started to happen from there.

The Lord does everything with a purpose, a reason, and a plan. He always has a purpose for everything He does. We may not understand the purpose, but when the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do something, know that God has a purpose. When He is prompting you not to do something, know that He has a purpose. Make sure it is the Holy Spirit and not your flesh.

Have you ever asked for an offering figure and it was so high you thought it was the devil? Or you did not ask God for a figure because you thought you would just give something? Leaning to your own understanding is not good because God wants to bless you far exceeding abundantly more than anything you ask or think. It is in obedience to what God says and directs.

- *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you (KJV), so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2nd Corinthians 9:8 NIV)*

God told me years ago, “If I have your wallet, if I have your bank accounts, I have your heart.” You never have to talk to the God-man

or God-woman about giving except to tell them what they are giving towards. People on television spend 25 out of 28 minutes pitching for funds. God does not want that program on the air. That airtime is for getting the Word of God out to people and ministering to them. It is not about pitching for funds. People spend their lives in relation to making money. For what? The Lord says, *“Seek first the kingdom of God and everything else will be added to you.”* You came in naked and you are leaving naked.

You want to leave a deposit of what God has had you do in the earth. Remember in Acts 10:4 Cornelius’ offering went up as a memorial.

- *“As it is written: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”* (2nd Corinthians 9:9)

Paul was drawing from Psalm 112 in the passage. He was saying that the God-man and the God-woman put their trust and their confidence in God. They are managers of what God has whether it is a little or it is more. In your life there are times of little, and there are times of more. We need to know that God will always supply all that is needed for whatever He wants done.

I can tell we are doing what God wants because He will make a way and supply for what He wants. He will put it on people’s hearts. We sow the Word of God through the media, to all the nations. God is doing what He is doing with it, and we pay for it under God’s direction. Then the Lord multiplies it. There is no way that it could ever be done otherwise.

One time a pastor told me, “Pastor, I do not know how you do it. You are on television all over the world but I see only a handful of people.” And I said, “That is all God needs. A handful of faithful folks and God then takes it and multiplies it.” We are channels of God’s abundance.

- *“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”* (2nd Corinthians 9:10)

For the God-man and God-woman, the righteous ones, the Lord will supply whatever we need so that we have it when we need it, and so

we can sow it, so we can give it and manage it. At just the right time when it is needed, it will be there.

If you use your seed before it comes time to sow it, you are being unfaithful. One time a lady was believing for a special offering, and when it came in she said, "Oh, now I can go get a furniture set." She used it on furniture and then came back to me later, and said, "I was believing God for an offering, He gave me a figure, it came in, and then I used it for a furniture set. What do I do?" And I said, "Go sell it and get the money back and give it." She looked at me and said, "No, I cannot do that. I am not going to get what I paid for it." And I said, "That is the problem."

Do you know that God charges 20% interest? It is all about being faithful. What you need will be there when you need it for God's purpose. Retirement is not in God's plan. We never retire until we expire. You may leave a job, but you have not left the kingdom and are still about God's business and purpose.

For God's Glory

Years ago in the late 1970's the Lord gave me a word. He said, "Son, whatever you need will be there when you need it." He was speaking about the ministry. When the time is, then it will come.

Have you found that you did not have any trouble until you did something that God wanted? The thief wants to take away the blessing of what God has done and is giving.

Although it appears that the Lord has gone underground, there will come a time when He is going to surface in all His glory. Everything will be there the way God intended for His glory. *"Though the vision tarry, it is for an appointed time."* This applies personally, corporately, and everything in God's economy. There is no waste, no fuss, and no mess. The Lord is clean as clean can be and He makes all things beautiful in its time. It does not say *His* time, meaning that God creates everything for a purpose and a reason. In its time everything will be there for God's glory to be shining through. That applies to your life and everything that God is doing in the kingdom of God around the earth.

As God-men and God-women, we live in the God dimension. It is not that we stepped out of the world into the twilight zone. The God-man and God-woman know that whatever comes their way God is sending it so that they can manage it. So they ask the Lord what He wants them to do with it.

Whatever things you desire when you pray...” You have to have desire to advance the kingdom of God. The God-man and the God-woman have it.

If we are not advancing the kingdom of God, then we are advancing ourselves and raising the dead. That old, dead, selfish self is a zombie, there is no heart in it. It is stupefied, demonized, and focalized.

The new man and the new woman of God have come forth, and all the glory of God is upon us, in us, and through us. As we walk the earth, what we speak on earth God honors in heaven. We are ambassadors in this earth. The Lord working with us, in us and through us to His glory, and when we are finished, we are going to be with Him forever.

This is the God-man, the God-woman. They do not think about their life. They do not take a moment to think about what they are going to eat, drink, and wear. They never lack for any good thing. They are content whether they are abounding in much or have little.

“I have learned the secret to life.” (Philippians 4:12)

Whatever we need, the Lord knows our needs before we even ask or think about it. It will be there when we need it. That is peace. That is how the Lord intends us to live.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23:6 KJV)

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

Whatever will be needed will be there. The church at Philippi were givers. They were the poorest of all the churches, and yet they were the riches of all the churches. Paul did not have to mess around like he did in Corinth, spending chapters trying to get them into position, and they were the wealthiest ones. They could write a check that would build churches and further missions. They could do whatever, but they did not have the heart of the Philippi church.

We have that heart in Jesus' name. Ask God to put His desire in your heart for him to do what he wants you to do in this earth.

The Lord is searching to and fro, back and forth across the earth looking for somebody to whom and through whom He can show forth His glory in the earth.

I always say, "Father, here I am. Use me." Then the Lord will say, "Okay, we need to work on this in your life and that in your life." Get character things straightened out and shaped up. The Lord will equip and supply.

When God uses the term "use" it is not use and abuse, it is the efficient purpose of God. In the law of use, when things are used, more comes.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
What Is of Value?
Chapter Fourteen

Honoring God

The God-man and the God-woman love to honor God. They cannot get enough of Malachi, chapter 3, the tithe and offering chapter. We honor the Lord in our giving. Every time we give faith, hope, love, forgiveness, goods, or finances as to the Lord, the blessing of God is on it because we are honoring Him.

Abraham honored God by honoring King Melchizedek, who was of royal priesthood. Often times it is thought that it was Jesus Himself who came and Abraham honored him with the tithe before the Law of God was even given on Mt. Sinai. This is an eternal principle of God. It was done before creation, it was done during, and it is done in the new heaven and the new earth.

The Lord is a giver.

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over...” (Luke 6:38) The Lord will cause people to give to you under His direction. The Lord will always give out more than what we give out. But we need to believe that, and we need to receive that. Many people honor God, but they are not believing for the increase to come. It is not one to one with God.

Knowing the Lord is prosperity, and the God-man and God-woman know that. No matter what is going on in their lives, they are not thinking about today, they are seeking first the kingdom of God and everything else they know is taken care of. They do not worry or fear. They do not take a thought for their life because they know who the Lord is, and as they are about God’s business, God is about theirs.

You cut off the blessing of God by fearing, worrying, struggling, and being covetous, or not looking to Him as your source. If you are looking to all kinds of other things and other people, you have idols in your life. The Lord will remove all the idols. As far as the God-man and God-woman are concerned, they shall have no other gods before

Him. They believe what God says, and they are going to honor God; and therefore, He is going to honor them.

A Look at Malachi, Chapter Three

In Malachi, chapter 3, the people quit honoring the Lord with their tithes and offerings. We have the same problem today. The Lord would not even have to say this if the people were doing what He wanted to be done. In some respects, we can be thankful that they were not doing what they were supposed to be doing. That way we can read it in the Word, for somebody in these last few years may have forgotten about tithes and offerings.

The Lord made these statements:

- *“But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.*

‘So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,’ says the Lord Almighty.” (Malachi 3:2-5)

They were doing all those things, but they did not have a thought that it was against the Lord. We have this going on today. Yes, aliens have rights, but they need to become citizens (if they so choose) to exercise their rights. People are free to be citizens when they want to be citizens.

To God’s people, we are citizens here, but this is not our home. We are citizens of heaven. We are ambassadors for Christ in a foreign land. We honor our land, we thank God for our citizenship, and we seek to abide by the rules of the nation we are citizens in.

- *“I, the Lord, do not change.” (Malachi 3:6)*

We live in an unstable setting in our world right now, but the Lord says that He does not change. That is our source of stability and consistency. In this day and age everything is volatile and in flux. Things are changing around us every day. Some people say, "I wish my situation would change" because it changed from what they were comfortable with to an uncomfortable situation. The Lord is with us still whether we are in a comfortable or an uncomfortable situation. He is seeking to do something in us and with us. Character is developed in those times. It may have been in the comfortable times that we were not really trusting God. You do not realize that until things change.

The people had gone away from the Lord.

- “ *‘Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,’ says the Lord Almighty. But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ ‘In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse.’* ” (Malachi 3:7-8)

People have put themselves under a curse of poverty. They have put themselves under Satan’s rule by disobeying God. They are doing what the devil wants rather than what God wants. The devil has come to steal, kill and destroy our life with God and the blessing of life with God. It is not about things like houses and cars.

When you stop giving your tithes and offerings you are cutting your throat, because you become dead spiritually.

- “ *‘ The whole nation of you (is under a curse) –because you are robbing me.’* ”

This is God talking. This is not some preacher, prophet, or somebody’s idea. This is the Lord Almighty talking, and He is trying to get His people blessed.

- “*Bring the whole tithe,*” which is a tenth of the gross of the income, not the net after everything else is paid. Before Caesar, before

taxes, before house payments before everything else, this goes to God. The first fruits "...Into the storehouse" (where you are being fed the Word of God, where you are being cared for and you are growing in the Lord) "...That there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty." This is the only place in the Bible where the Lord says, "Prove Me, put Me to the test, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Malachi 3:10)

If people really understood and believed what this is saying, they would be rushing down to get that into the storehouse. The Lord means just what He says. You will have to have multiple bank accounts at different banks because a bank account will only hold 250 thousand dollars. That is the limit at the bank.

I can never understand people who call themselves Christians and say that Jesus is their Lord, but when it comes to managing God's money they decide for themselves what they are going to do with it. God wants you to invest it in His kingdom. It is not about taking care of yourself.

The God-man and God-woman understand this. It is basic. It is like "Godliness 101." But people in God's kingdom lack because they do not do what He says. They have cursed themselves and then they wonder why they are not receiving the blessing. Financial gain is not the blessing. The blessing is knowing the Lord, and the privilege of giving in God's service as He directs.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) Both are blessed, but it is more blessed to give. It is blessed to receive because it is coming back on what we have given. I expect the blessing to come back because the blessing coming back will be more than the blessing we give out. God can give the increase so we can give more to the glory of God and advance His Kingdom.

- *"I will prevent pests from devouring your crops."* (Malachi 3:11)

They were an agricultural society and pests were thieves. Today thieves come in many ways: sickness, disease, poverty, users, and

abusers. God will give you wisdom so that you do not make bad deals. We have to understand that there is always an element of greed involved when we get taken.

- *“And the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit, says the Lord Almighty.”*

This is the fruit that falls off before its time. It is not ready so it never comes to full harvest.

- *“Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land, says the Lord Almighty.”*

Everybody else will call you blessed because you believed the Lord your God, and He prospers your life: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships. Do what God says.

- *“‘You have said harsh things against me,’ says the Lord.”*

The Lord hears everything that you think and do. The devil cannot hear what you are thinking, but the Lord can. What the Lord is saying is, if there is only good that comes from Me, and you have spoken against what I say and do, you just cut yourself off from life and blessing so you might as well crawl under a rock and die.

- *“‘Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’ You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. (It is a waste of time to serve God, obey Him and do what He says.) What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?’ “ (Malachi 3:14)*

Many people come to the Lord when they are sick or their finances go haywire. They come to the Lord when somebody breaks faith with them in relationship and they have problems. The Lord is not a sugar daddy. Jesus asked, *“Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?”* (Luke 17:17-18) Where is the love of the people for the Lord?

The folks that God knows genuinely love Him are the ones that He is going to bless. These are the ones who hear His Word and obey Him. They love Him, they love His appearing. They are living in Him and for Him. These are the ones that are going to see the goodness of God. The rest will not see the goodness of God because they do not have a heart for Him. They just want the Lord to do something to help them fix their situation in life.

We live in a throw-away society. People are throwing away relationships right and left. There should come a point where something is sacred and holy. The way the Lord taught me, the furthest thing from my heart is to do something to cause harm to somebody else. You do not live to see what you can get out of people.

A God-man and a God-woman does not want to do anything that is going to cause pain to anybody or anything. They do not want to lie, cheat, steal, or dump on somebody else. They want to believe God for and with each other. They want to see the Lord's best for everybody; even the ones that are not doing right. We are believing that God is going to enable them to turn around. *"God calls things that be not as though they are"* (Romans 4:17) and they happen.

- *"But now we call the arrogant blessed."* (Malachi 3:15)

Arrogance says, "I can live any way I want. I do not need to be concerned about what God thinks, or what anybody else thinks." You need to be concerned about what other people think because you may be the stumbling block that is keeping them out of heaven. (Your attitude or your actions may be doing that.)

- *"Certainly the evildoers prosper"* means that the people who are not serving God look like they are all doing good. They are not giving tithes and offerings, and they seem to be doing really well.

If you use God's tithes and offerings for other things, you have a hole in your pocket and everything you have will be taken from you. (Read Haggai 1 and 2) As greatly as God will flood the blessing in, if you are not giving your tithes and offerings, the thief will come in with his trucks, load up, and take it away. That is the way it works. You

are either blessed or you are cursed. The righteous are blessed and cannot be cursed because they are in right standing with God.

- *“And even those who challenge God escape.”* (Malachi 3:15)

That is what the people were saying. Psalm 37 says *“Fret not over evildoers,”* because they are going to have their day. Do not go by what you see. They may not be snuffed out immediately like Ananias and Sapphira were. They may live a long life, but someday they are going to stand before God, and He will say, *“Thou fool, tonight your soul is required of you.”* And *“Woe to the man who is rich in this world, but not rich towards God.”* Nobody gets away with anything. Everyone will be responsible for their life someday whether for good or for evil, and they will have to give an account to God.

How can people say they are Christians and have something against another person? You have to love everybody. There cannot be one person you have a problem with. The Lord loves everybody, and He gave everybody salvation. They just have to accept it, believe it, receive the gift, and act upon it.

- *“Then those who feared the Lord [reverence, worship, honor, believe, trust, and obey] talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard.”* He listens and hears everything that is going on. *“A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His name.”* (Malachi 3:16)
- The Lord Almighty says, *“They will be mine [the ones who feared the Lord] in the day when I make up my treasured possession.”* This only belongs to the righteous. There can be thousands of people sitting in church, but God looks at the righteous.
- *“I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”* (Malachi 3:17)

This is a prophetic word here for the end days as the Lord is separating His church from man’s church. The distinction will be

shown. The righteous will not lack for any good thing during the time of famine. They will have all that they need spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships.

The famine has begun in these days. What has happened in recent years is a sifting and sorting, to get people back into balance, to get the world out of the church, and to get the church back about loving the people of the world so that we can get things back into perspective for Jesus' return (which is coming soon). We have to be ready for it.

Appreciate the Lord and Others

In Deuteronomy, chapter 8, the children of Israel grumbled and complained. God took them from the house of slavery and was moving them over to a prosperous land that was theirs under God's direction where they could be blessed and cared for. The whole time they grumbled and complained about everything. No matter what supernatural manifestation the Lord did for them, nothing was ever good enough for them.

They were ungrateful and unthankful. Poverty mentality says, "What am I benefiting by doing what God says?" This is an ungrateful child. An ungrateful child is cursed and not blessed. If things are not appreciated, there is no blessing.

Appreciate is a financial term. If you do not appreciate somebody in your life, you do not consider them of value. If they are of no value, you will not be adding value to them because you do not appreciate them. Jealousy, envy, and covetousness is poverty thinking. If you do not appreciate what you have, you are going to lose it. It will leave you, not because you are going to go away from it, but because you do not think it is of any value. In the user mentality of the world, if I cannot use you for anything or you do not have anything anymore, then I am going to leave you.

The Lord has given value to everything and everyone without exception. That person that you may not value, the Lord does. That attitude will become a stumbling block to you, which will keep you out of God's blessing forever because you are determining what has value and what does not. You are determining what God will give

you and what He will not. That is spiritual pride, and it will keep you out of God's kingdom forever.

The attitude the people had in the book of Malachi was arrogance. The Lord did not say that they were going to be part of His chosen precious possession. They cut themselves off because they did not appreciate the Lord and the goodness of the love that He had shown to them.

Usually, in the world's system if people have money, then others want to gravitate towards them. You have those that have money and you have those that do not have any (the have's and the have not's). If you have the peace of God, whether you have money or you do not have money, it does not matter to you because you are viewing money in a different way than the person who is not in the Lord. The God-man and the God-woman see things differently than the people of the world.

To throw somebody aside is to break faith. (Malachi 2) It is not just that you will not be with that person (living and doing things). It means that in your heart as far as you are concerned they are dead. Divorce is just a piece of paper. What God hates is the breaking of faith. You can still be friends even though you have divorced. You need to have peace with everybody. You may not be married anymore, but at least you have peace.

Consider 2nd Corinthians, Chapter Nine

- *“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion.” (2nd Corinthians 9:7)*

Giving has to be wholehearted as to the Lord. It cannot be that you are motivated because you see the starving babies and feel compelled to do something. It is important to help the starving babies, but we have to understand we are managers of what God gives. We have to give where the Lord directs us to give.

In many other countries their god is a false god, and it does not take care of its own. The gods these people believe will help them are deaf, dumb, and stupid, made out of stone and cannot hear. In countries where thousands of cows and other animals are living, the

people cannot eat them because it may be Uncle Henry who has come back in another form. It violates their religious beliefs and practices which are not helping them.

To me, if something is not helping you, get rid of it. Go on to something that will give results. That is why I serve the Living God because He is living and He loves us. He is the only Lord that loves the people, cares about the people, and wants to help the people. Jesus Christ came to save us, God come in the flesh to save His people.

That is why I do what I do. If the Lord was something different than that, I would be wasting my time. I would do motivational speaking because God gave me a gift. I can move the multitudes. But He said, "Make sure you are moving them the way that I want them moved." That is why we do not give those offering calls that are compelling you to do something, putting guilt on you, trying to manipulate emotions and feelings to get you to do something.

Ask the Lord what He wants you to do, for you should not give out of compulsion. People do that with family. If family members are not doing what God says, and you enable them, you are out of the blessing of God. God told Jehosophat, through His prophet, "Why do you help those who hate God and are doing wrong things? You are under the same curse they are under because you are trying to help them." You are getting in the way of that person getting help from the Lord. They have to come to an end of their way of doing things, which is causing problems for everybody, so that they can get blessed doing the right thing again. Have you ever helped someone with finances, and all they used the money for was booze and drugs?

- *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."* (2nd Corinthians 9:8) You will be able to do everything that the Lord wants you to do. When you give under God's direction, He will cause blessing to come back to you. In God's economy He wants to help everybody under His direction. Many people have given where God was not directing to give and they lost everything they had.

Not doing what the Lord says is hating God. Jesus, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." To hate Him is to not believe Him and not do what He says to do.

- *"As it is written: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."* (2nd Corinthians 9:9-10) That is the person who is faithful with a little, and God gives more. They are faithful with more, He gives more.

Value What You Have

- *"The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "* (2nd Kings 4:1) That is what Jesus asked the disciples when He wanted to feed the hungry people. They had been out there for hours and hours and Jesus had compassion on them.
- *"Your servant has nothing there at all, she said."* (2nd Kings 4:2)

See how people look at things? If you are thinking you have nothing at all, then you have nothing at all, which is why many people do not have. They are not valuing what they have. The Lord can take what you have, and He can do something with it. He can multiply it. He gives seed to the sower. He is going to see to it that the givers have everything they need to give wherever and for whatever. The Lord will give us what we need to do whatever it is He wants us to do. Renew your mind to understand that and realize that.

- Then she said, *"Except a small jar of olive oil."* (2nd Kings 4:2) In other words, she did not value the oil. She did not see the value of it.
- *"Elisha said, 'Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Do not ask for just a few.'" (2nd Kings 4:3)* People that do

not believe do not do much with it. He was specifically recognizing her basic unbelief about what she had.

- *“Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”* (2nd Kings 4:4) He is saying to pour the oil into the pots. Just do it. What have you got to lose?
- *“She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son, ‘Bring me another one.’ But he replied, ‘There is not a jar left.’ ”* (2nd Kings 4:5-6) How sad. If I had a carte blanche promise like that, I would be getting as many jars as I could find.
- *“Then the oil stopped flowing. She went and told the man of God, and he said, ‘Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.’ ”* (2nd Kings 4:6-7) That oil was a precious commodity, but it had not been precious to her.

Many people do not think time invested in their children is important. They do not think of it as value. Children are a precious commodity. If you neglect that little child, there is no blessing. Sooner or later somebody has got to come to their senses.

My dear father is with the Lord now. His later years were a lot better than his former. In his former years he spent a lot of time working and taking care of us kids. He spent time with us, but he did not spend time with us. He lived through us. One of the things he asked me just prior to going to the Lord was my forgiveness. He asked for forgiveness because there were many things that could have gone in really good directions, but he was always busy doing other things.

I knew my last trip up to see my dad was going to my last trip, and I told my children that. There was not anything in evidence that he was going to the Lord, but I knew that would be my last time to see him. And he looked at me and said, “Son, do you want to play checkers?” And I said, “Dad, I had love to play checkers.” It was God that did that.

Time is too short. We have to see the value of what God has put in our lives now before it is too late. Do not think you have time and you can do something later. There may not be a later. This is the time, this is the moment.

There are different times in your life when you are changed. I remember after my last car crash my daughter was so concerned that I was going to miss her wedding. But God sent daddy back.

It says in the book of Proverbs, "Better happiness in a poverty home than fighting and bickering in a rich mansion." Life is too short for that nonsense. You need to love what God is doing in your life. You need to be so excited about it, and not missing what is of true value. I am talking about eternal value. Many things are passing away, they are just worldly fluff. People are what is significant.

The Lord told me one time, "Son, thank Me for everybody that I have placed in your life – past, present, and future. Be thankful to Me." Be thankful to God for everyone: the good ones, the hard ones, the indifferent ones, the fussing-and-fighting ones without exception. God loves us all.

I know that I may have just one moment with that person, and I have to bring heaven to them in that moment.

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
God's Multiplication
Chapter Fifteen

Your Life Is Not Your Own

The Lord has a multiplication principle. One of the questions that people ask is, "*What is this amongst so many?* (John 6:9 KJV) What is all I have amongst all that is going on?" In other words, it does not appear to be enough. You never have enough money if you are thinking about money.

Proverbs and Ecclesiastes say basically the same thing. If you have a little, you want more, and if you have a lot, you want more. Your life style will just rise up to the amount of money that you have. You spend as much as what you have to spend. There is something wrong with that. You are consuming it.

The Lord is not a God of waste. He cares about His own. He knows our needs even before we ask (Matthew 6). He is waiting for us to believe Him for things.

You have to get out of the old way of thinking that life is all about you. It is not about you. "*The love of money is the root of all evil.*" (1st Timothy 6) It is going to cause people to be shipwrecked in their faith because that is how they live their whole life. They are hoarding it, they are trying to get it by stealing, cheating, and lying; and dishonest gain leads to poverty. "*Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it.*" (Proverbs 1:19)

That is the way the devil operates. "*The thief has come to steal, kill, and destroy.*" (John 10:10) In addition, "*From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*" (James 4:1 KJV) You want something, you cannot get it, you cannot have it, you fight for it and then when you get it, you lose it because it is not yours. He says, "*You have not because you ask not.*" (James 4:2) And when you do ask God you do not get it because it is selfish. "*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*" (James 4:3)

I asked the Holy Spirit to show me what selfish prayer is. He said, "You ask for something, you receive it, but when I should ask for it for another use, you are not willing to part with it." In other words, the Lord will give it to you because you are one of His managers, but then He wants you to use it for something else. If you consume it on your own lusts, there is no blessing on that. But if you use it where the Lord directs it to be used, then there is blessing multiplied.

We have to get out of the world's thinking that "It is all about me." You were created to be to the praise of God's glory. Your life is not your own. It belongs to God. *"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* (1st Corinthians 6:19-20)

Everything that pertains to you in your life belongs to God if Jesus Christ is truly your Lord. Many people say that He is their Lord, but He does not run their life. They run it, and then they look to God to bail them out. We are in an era of bailouts. We need to make our commitment to God, and be responsible and accountable to Him and to others. We live in a day and an age where marriages are going down the tube every day because there is no commitment. There is no accountability or responsibility.

Economic Systems

The reason for all of the debt in our nation is because of a lack of commitment to God principles, a lack of accountability and a lack of responsibility to those being accountable to the commitment. The values are down the tube. If people would do it God's way, they would not have all those problems. Many do not want to have anything to do with God, and yet they want Him to bail them out.

God's people need to understand that we are on a different economic system than the Lord. Yet, many Christians are still on the old economic system rooted in greed. That is why there are so many problems in people's lives. They are greedy and life is all about themselves. They do not care about anybody else.

Paul remembered by the Holy Spirit that Jesus said it is more blessed to give than it is to receive. (Acts 20:35) Paul also said, if you do not work, you do not eat. *“For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”* (2nd Thessalonians 3:10)

The Lord has a supernatural plan of finance, and it works in the natural realm. What people need to understand is the Lord has to be the person's Love. We have to do whatever we are doing in the name of Jesus to the glory of God because it only operates by faith in Him. That is what moves Him. The Lord is not moved by needy people. He is moved by faith in God. Just because somebody has a need does not mean the Lord is going to do anything. It is not because He is uncaring, it is because people do not love Him, trust Him, and look to Him. They are looking to themselves, they are looking to the system that man has put together, and man's systems have failed, are failing, and will continue to fail. They will not change because man has built systems around their systems to perpetuate their systems.

The agencies to help the poor need the poor because they will not exist if the poor are gone. They sought in many cases to help remove poverty, but systems do not want to remove it because then we are removing their system. It should not be that God's people are ever in a welfare system or mentality. It is poverty thinking and you have to get rid of it.

The attitude that you have to survive is a poverty attitude. The Lord causes us to become more than conquerors through Him. *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”* (Romans 8:37) He causes us to be the lender, not the borrower. He causes us to be the blessing, not the cursing. He causes us to take away people's pain rather than giving them pain.

God's Provision for Elijah and for Us

In 1st Kings, chapter 17, Elijah was being fed by the ravens. Elijah believed God would take care of him. He never thought God would not. Now, he wavered at some points when Jezebel wanted to kill him and he ran and hid in the cave. But the Lord was still taking care of him in spite of himself.

In the time of famine, the Lord took care of Elijah by having the birds feed him. They brought him bread and meat in the morning and evening, and he drank from the brook. But the brook dried up.

If the Lord knows our beginning from our end, and He has gone ahead of us preparing the way, He says He is not leaving or forsaking us. God has a provision waiting when the brook dries up. If we are trusting Him, we will see it.

If you are not trusting Him, and you are trusting the job the government, or something else as your source, you are in trouble. As a result, you cannot see the provision that God has for you. You cannot see what the Lord is doing. In Deuteronomy, chapter 8, it says He caused them to hunger so He could feed them. *“He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”* (Deuteronomy 8:3) He was leading them out of the place of slavery and bondage into a Promised Land, and on the way, there was no provision. Consequently, because they did not look at Him, they were always grumbling and complaining.

Despite them, God kept providing because He was trying to teach them to look to Him as the source and believe in Him. He was trying to make them into believers. Just because you sit in church and say, “Jesus is your Lord” and praise God, it does not mean you are a believer. There are different areas of faith. You may have faith for health but not for finances. You may have faith for finances but not for relationships. We must build ourselves up in the Word of God in these different areas.

The main area is to know that Jesus is your Lord, and that He has control of your life. My beloved is mine and I am His. His banner over me is love. *“Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love.”* (Song of Solomon 2:4)

God told Elijah there was a widow at Zarephath (which was where God was sending him).

- *“Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.”* (1 Kings 17:9) If Elijah had not been obedient and went somewhere else, he would not have had provision. You must do what God directs you to do. The only way you can hear what God is giving you is to be still. He says, *“Be still, and know that I am God;”* (Psalm 46:10) You cannot get traumatized and caught up by what is going on, scrambling to make something happen. You just need to get serious. Go before the Lord and inquire of Him, ask Him what He wants you to do and how He wants you to do it. He will show you.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”
(James 1:5)

So the brook dried up, so what? So the relationship dries up, so what? Just make sure *you* are not drying up. God can put joy back in. The Lord can renew you, but you have to want it. The Lord wants your relationships blessed. He does not want you to lack for any good thing. He wants you to be able to be a giver as He directs. If you are one of God’s managers, you will never lack for any good thing and you will always have more than enough to give out wherever God directs you. If you are drying up, you had better take a good look at your commitment to the Lord. That goes spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationships.

If you are drying up, then you have left your Source, your First Love, and you need to get back to Him, the sooner the better. You may have gotten back to the Lord, and He healed you, but you still have relationships that need to be fixed. He did not heal you so you could leave all this other undone.

Elijah went and the widow supplied.

- He said to her, *“Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have drink? As she was going to get it, he called, ‘And bring me, please, a piece of bread.’”* (1st Kings 17:10-11) He was used to eating bread and meat that the birds brought to him under God’s direction.
- *“‘As surely as the Lord your God lives,’ she replied, ‘I do not have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I*

am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” (1st Kings 17:12) There goes the end of her hope and future.

But the Lord promises His people, *“For I know the plans that I have for you, plans for good, not for evil. Plans to prosper, to give hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11-12)

People think that this story is about God taking care of the widow. Now God loves the widows and He is the husband of the widow. However, this story is about God’s provision for the believer.

People around the world say, “Where is God? Why is not He helping the people?” Understand, He is not helping them because they are not believing in Him. He loves them and has promises for them. His plans are good for them, but they are not saying, “I am believing Him.” They are doing their own thing.

If you do your own thing, you will get your own results which will not work because *“God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.”* (James 4:6) God gives ability and favor to the humble. He is actually going to fight against the plans of the proud. *“...they do not know what they are doing.”* (Luke 23:24) God loves them so much He wants their plans to fail so that they will turn to Him and He can save and rescue them. But they are looking for bailouts from other sources, not the Lord. They are mocking God and talking against Him. They are proud and arrogant about not needing Him and not going to Him. It is futile thinking.

- *“Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.”* (1st Kings 17:13)

Elijah was a real man of God. He was not a charlatan. The Lord honors the real man of God. He does things to bless His people. He wants them to know this: *“Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.”* (2nd Chronicles 20:20)

If you are about God's business, He will take care of everything in your life. But if you are not and you are about your own business, He has no responsibility to take care of your life. It says they that labor in the Word of God and share the Word of God are worthy of double hire. *"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."* (1st Timothy 5:17) Honor the man for what he does in his role equipping and training people. Anointing comes from the Lord. As you walk with God, the anointing of heaven is upon your life.

- *"For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.' "* (1st Kings 17:14) The day the Lord gave rain was when the Lord told the man of God to say, "Let the rain fall."
- *"She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah."* (1st Kings 17:15-16)

You are either yoked up with God or you are yoked up with the devil. (When something gets cracked, then the yoke shows.) If you find you are yoked up with the devil, you had better quickly ask God's forgiveness, get rid of the unbelief, and run to God. *"Draw near to the Lord and He will draw near to you."* (James 4:8) Do not let your feelings run your life or you will be destroyed. The feeling you have, no matter how real it may seem, will either bring glory to God or glory to the devil.

The church needs the fear of the Lord back in it because people are not concerned about that. They are doing all kinds of weird things, saying, "God loves me, He will help me, He will forgive me." No, He will not if you are not walking with Him. People have to get this through their heads. You cannot be blessed when you are doing cursed actions and thinking cursed ways. Your life is not your own anymore. Jesus is your Lord. That is the only way you are going to be saved.

I look at the end results. I do not want to give up my salvation for anybody or anything. It is not worth it. Esau was a profane, unholy man who gave up his inheritance for a bowl of mush. God blessed him while he was alive, and made him into a great nation, only to have the great nation destroyed later because he was cursed.

- *“Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, ‘What do you have against me, man of God?’ (1st Kings 17:17) That was ignorance. People think that when something bad happens that God is against them.*

“My people perish for lack of knowledge, and you would not.” (Hosea 4:6) You would not get the knowledge you needed to get. People are not pursuing God. They should ask the Lord, “Why is this going on?” There is a reason. If we lack wisdom, the Lord will show us. “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” (James 1:4) We need to get things resolved so they can get cleaned up.

- *“‘Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?’ ” (1st Kings 17:18) The woman had hidden sin in her life. “The wages of sin is death,” (Romans 6:23) Maybe that child was out of wedlock. Things come around. Maybe there was something in her life that was allowing this to happen. If you have something in your life that you never got rid of, it is an open door to a thief. “Whatever a man sows that is what he is going to reap.” (Galatians 6:7) Unless we put it under the blood of Jesus, get it forgiven, repent of it, acknowledge it, and ask the Lord to cleanse and remove it, it is going to come back.*
- *“ ‘Give me your son,’ Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the Lord, ‘O Lord my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?’ ” Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the Lord, ‘O Lord my God, let this boy’s life return to him!’ ” (1st Kings 17:19-21)*

- *“The Lord heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, ‘Look, your son is alive!’ ” Then the woman said to Elijah, ‘Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.’ ” (1st Kings 17:22-24)*

She became a believer. You may wonder why she did not become a believer with the provision. Life goes on and sometimes it takes people a long time to become believers (the “knowing” believers). *“I know whom I have believed and am fully persuaded and convinced that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him.” (1st Timothy 1:12)*

God multiplied life back. This lady’s life was never the same after this. It does not matter whether it is life provision, giving life, healing, food, or whatever you need, the Lord is able to supply. He does not just supply; He multiplies. Jesus does not say that I have come that you might have a life. He says, *“I have come that you have life more abundantly.” (John 10:10)*

Years ago, the Lord told me, “Son, my people have my salvation, but they do not have my abundant life. Teach abundant life and living. People need to have that. They are just getting along.” Some Christians have no faith that God can do anything, and it is questionable whether they even know they are saved.

Elisha, Manager of God’s Abundance

In 2nd Kings 4 the oil kept multiplying in as many pots as they had. This is the same working.

“So Elisha replied to her, ‘How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?’ Your servant has nothing there at all,’ she said, ‘except a little oil.’ ” (2nd Kings 4:2)

People always think in quantities. God thinks in the presence of something. The Lord created out of nothing to begin with. Have you ever paid you bills and then looked at what you had in your bank account and thought, *That is not very much?* You just cut off God’s multiplication with that wrong thinking. But if you gave the tithe and

the offering to the Lord first, the Lord will stretch your money so that you can pay the rest of the bills. If you do not pay the Lord first, you may find that you come up short.

All that the Lord wants for you will come to you, and He will pay for it. He will not pay for what you want that is outside of what He wants.

“She went and told the man of God, and he said, ‘Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.’” (2nd Kings 4:7)

“One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. She said to her husband, ‘I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. Let’s make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us.’” (2nd Kings 4:8-10) She realized the blessing when she saw it. Then the story continued. One day this lady’s son died and God raised him from the dead. She honored God, calamity happened, and God came back and honored her.

It goes on and talks about death in the pot and the feeding of 100.

“A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain (a tithe on the grain), along with some heads of new grain. ‘Give it to the people to eat,’ Elisha said.” (2nd Kings 4:42) He was a manager of God’s abundance. “‘How can I set this before a hundred men?’ his servant asked.

Here is the way people think: *That is not enough!* What is the point of it? The question is, is it for the servant to ask the master what is going on, or is it for the faithful servant to do what he is told? I find that people’s unbelief gets in the way of what God has. I do not hang out with people that do not have the same vision. If people are not believing God with you, then they are believing God against you. Jesus says you either gather with me or you scatter. *“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me*

scatters.” (Matthew 12:30) It is one or the other. Two cannot walk together except they are in agreement.

The Lord Increases and Expands

People have got to get their act together and come into agreement. Households are not blessed because husbands and wives are not in agreement with God. The question should be: what does the Lord want? The Lord is the Lord of the house, not the wife, the husband, or the little child.

God does not hear when we speak foolishness. When you speak, you need to say something that is edifying to the hearer according to their needs; something that is going to build them up and be a blessing. Even a child can be a blessing with something they say that is significant. God can use little children. *“Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings my praise is perfected.”* (Matthew 21:16) Yet on the other hand, *“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.”* (Proverbs 22:15)

Everything in creation is seed time and harvest. From one seed comes an apple tree. An apple tree has much fruit on it, and in each apple, there are multiple seeds. The Lord intends increase on everything in creation. He made everything to increase that way. God wants things to be fruitful and multiply.

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2nd Corinthians 9:8) As we are seeking first the kingdom and giving according to the direction of the Lord, then God supplies. *“As it is written: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. Now he (God) who supplies seed to the sower...”* (2nd Corinthians 9:9-10) The Lord will supply seed to the sower. If you are not a sower, you are not a giver; the Lord is not going to give you anything because you are not one of His managers. If you are one of His managers, you are never going to lack for any good thing: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships. The Lord will remember what has been done.

“...and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2nd Corinthians 9:10)

This means that the Lord will expand, and He changes it from substance to righteousness. He goes from physical to spiritual, and always equates the two. *“Which is it easier to say, your sins are forgiven [spiritual], or take up your bed and walk [physical]?”* (Matthew 9:5) They go together.

So, if people say that they are Christians and they are not givers (giving tithes and offerings), then they are not Christians. If they say they are Christians and they are not giving out love to people, showing mercy and faithfulness, they are not Christians. If they say they are Christians, and they do not go to church or fellowship with believers, there is a problem. We need to be connected with other believers. People cannot just say that Jesus is their Lord because there has to be fruit in their life. There needs to be evidence.

You are not a fruit inspector for others, but you are for yourself. You should be inspecting your own fruit. Understand, fruit takes a while to develop. I had a cherry tree, and for three years there was no fruit. I was ready to cut it down. Then I read somewhere that cherry trees do not bear until the third or fourth year, and then you are supposed to take everything off the tree. I got some gardening lessons from the orchard guys. They explained to me how some things work.

I am a spiritual gardener. I can tell you when you are doing good, and when you are not, but you ought to know a few things. I encourage you that more fruit will come the more pruned you are. A lot of people do not like the pruning. We are pruned by the Word of God.

If you have a penny, then it could be the beginning of one million under God’s direction, a wise investment as God directs. It will not be your million, but God’s million. You are a manager of what belongs to the Lord. It does not matter what age you are.

Children can start to learn this and understand this if their parents worked with them and explained it. Great things could start to

happen in a child's life. You would not have all of these 'terrible teens'. You will probably still have the 'terrible twos', but it is only for a while because we are going to drive that rebellion away with instruction and correction and discipline, training them up in the way they should go. Not to punish. The Lord is not into punishment, He is into discipline. This is for our good so that we can come into all that God has for us.

What do you have in your life? Do you have friends? Food on the table? Clothes in the closet? Shoes? Faith? Hope? Love? Patience? Kindness? Gentleness? Self-control? Do you have the Lord?

Are you with bad company that is corrupting your good morals? Those are the friends that help you to go in a direction other than God's direction. Those are not your friends. You can try to witness to them and love them, but if you are doing what they are doing, then they are drawing you away from what is God and right. You want to avoid them, for people have a way of being influenced.

I tell the ladies to not hang out with rebellious women or they are going to become rebellious and independent.

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God (2nd Corinthians 9:10-11)

"How can I set this before a hundred men?" his servant asked. But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some left over.' " Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD" (2nd Kings 4:43-44)

THE GOD-MAN
FINANCIAL
The Result of Giving
Chapter Sixteen

Seed for the Sower

People are so used to thinking about themselves, but when they are refreshing others, refreshing will come back to them. Something has to happen with our mind and our thinking in order to prefer others more important than ourselves. *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,”* (Philippians 2:3)

Paul talked about the spirit of generosity in all his letters. When people are seeking first the kingdom, then everything else will be added. *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* (Matthew 6:33) The Lord wants you to have something to give, so if you are a giver, He will make sure you have something.

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower...” (2nd Corinthians 9:10) It is God who gives you what you have to give and tells you when to give it.

People think that prosperity is having a lot of money. How do you have everything in a time of famine when you have nothing? The Lord says, *“Be not covetous.”* (Hebrews 13:5) If you can have faith in the time of nothing, then you will certainly have faith when there is something. When you have nothing, you still have the Lord. Jesus said, *“Apart from Me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5) Haggai said the people had holes in their pockets, and everything they worked for and earned went in and went out. *“You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”* (Haggai 1:6)

Whether you have little or you have much, you should be thanking God every day for everything that He is and all that He has supplied. We are managers of God’s abundance. Do not be thinking that you lack. You will think that way if you look to sources other than God. People change. Some days they are hotter than other days. Some

days they have more passion than other days. Some days you look at them, and they are “out to lunch.” You do not know who they are.

I remember one time when my son’s voice was changing he called his mother on the phone. She was talking to him for a little while, then she said, “Who is this?” She talked with him for about five minutes before she asked. And He said, “It is your son. Do not you know your own son?” Some days it is like, “Who is this?” with people because they are preoccupied, thinking about something else and are not being attentive or tuned in.

When you have God as your First Love and nothing else has become an idol in your life, then you are truly functioning. You will begin to understand that it is the Lord that gives the seed to the sower. Everything in the kingdom of God is about giving. *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (our Lord Jesus) that whoever believes on Him will not perish, but will have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16)

The Importance of Relationship

The Lord wants to give everlasting life, but it is all about relationship with Him. He wants to be with us forever, and He never gets tired of us. We were born for relationship with Him. He created us for fellowship.

I have seen where children (or parents) are just using each other for what they can get. They come around only when they want something. I see that in church, where some people come around when they want or need something. My heart just breaks with the Holy Spirit at that point. But God is gracious and He will do what needs to be done. *“Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?”* (Luke 17:17-18) That is a sad scenario; it should be different.

The Proverbs talks about how you will know who your friends are when you do not have anything. There are others who feel there is nothing they can get from you anymore so they are gone. You do not see any of Job’s family show up during that six months of misery he

was experiencing. They would always come before with their hand out, looking for something to be given to them.

In Job, chapter 42, when all the dust settled and things changed, Job's family started coming around again. This time they were under blessing, and they brought him jewelry and other things. God changed their hearts from being users and takers to becoming givers. Job was a giver, he was a generous man, and that is why he was blessed.

People need to start having a heart to give, and prefer others more important than themselves. It is not about what you have or do not have. It is about realizing that there is a situation out there and we need to do something about that situation.

Look at the Future with Faith

There was a remnant left in Jerusalem after their exile, but nobody "got off their duff" to start to fix the wall. *"They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."* (Nehemiah 1:3) There is an attitude that comes on people where they just give up because they believe nothing can be done. When Nehemiah heard about what had happened, his heart stirred. *"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."* (Nehemiah 1:4) The Lord will stir people's hearts. There are times when our own heart should condemn us and convict us.

Why were all those people in Jerusalem not stirred up when their place was in shambles? Why did they not rise up and rebuild? They were there. They were the remnant. Yes, their families got carried off into bondage, but God's word for the people in bondage was to build houses and prosper. "Settle down and prosper in your captivity." Those people back in Jerusalem were not prospering, and their life was on hold.

When depression came upon Elijah, he ran away and hid in a cave. He should have been among the people because he was the man of

God who had the Word of God. He separated himself from other people, and only trouble would come of it.

Nehemiah was troubled for many days and nights because Jerusalem was in shambles. You cannot give up on anything. The Lord says, *“I will never leave you, I will never forsake you.”* (Hebrews 13:5) He says, *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)

We have to move with the Lord out ahead of us. We have to start with a new beginning. We have to get up. When my daughter was a baby she would not walk, she would just sit. But on her first birthday all of these other kids were running around and she looked at them, got up, and ran off with them.

We cannot look to somebody else to carry us, or do something for us. I do not believe in parent’s paying for their children’s education because I feel that they have to want to do something with their life, and if they want to do something with their life they will have to get good grades and do the work themselves. They will make a way like anybody else. We have to get rid of the mentality that somebody else has to take care of us and carry us. The Lord is our helper.

The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets” (Proverbs 26:13), meaning, they cannot go out and look for a job and work. Some people fall into the category where they do not know what their future holds and they are uncertain. God is your future. He has already been in your future. He gives you a hope and a future.

You should not have a care in the world because you have cast them all upon the Lord who cares for you and watches over you. So, whether I have little or much I do not even think about it. I think about what the Lord wants me to do and how He wants me to do it. We do not look at the future with fear; we look at it with faith.

Serving and Loving

The Lord gives seed to the sower, so if you are not a sower or a giver, you had better become one. *“Now he who supplies seed to the*

sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2nd Corinthians 9:10) You should be more concerned about what others are doing and help them do good. When you do that, God will refresh you. He will refresh those who refresh others. You will see that all of a sudden you have a happy life whether you have little or you have much.

People do not realize that the true sign of prosperity is knowing that God is with you. It is not about how much or how little you have. It is to know that God is with you. If He is with you, you have everything. Whatever you need will be there when you need it. All that the Father has for you will come to you.

Contentment and thanksgiving should be in your life (the ability to enjoy life and what you have whether it is little or much). You do not think about what you do not have. You thank God for what you do have.

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2nd Corinthians 9:10) The Lord will enable you to touch more people’s lives and to give, share, and care for them. As you are faithful with a little, then the Lord gives increase. The Lord will always give you whatever you need to do for what He has called you to do.

A job is not a job necessarily. It is what Luther calls a vocation, a calling from the Lord. I have done many jobs over the years. The Lord used to do a lot of different things at different times to get me to where I am today. In life, there are always transitions and changes.

I remember when I turned 50 the Lord told me, “Son, I want you to do a couple of things. One, I want you to get a physical every year.” It was not to see if I was sick or not. It was to be able to look at levels in my body so I could make the adjustments that need to be made so that I could finish what God called me to do. Two, He told me, “Everything I have prepared you for in these first 50 years is now going to come to pass.” From age 50 to 60, I saw a major increase of what God has given to help equip ministers and people of God for the

work of the ministry, preparing people for the Lord's return. That will continue until I am finished and I am out of here.

In the same way, the Lord has a plan for each person's life. We want to seek Him about that, and He will direct the path. He has given different things to different people to do. But it is all in serving and loving others, financing the kingdom, advancing the gospel, and loving the people wherever you are.

If you have ever received a jury summons, did you want to get out of doing it, or did you think it was your civic duty to serve? Were you able to minister to somebody in that situation? Wherever we are and whatever we do, we are lights for the Lord, giving forth heaven. Do not look at things this way: *Why is this happening to me?* The Lord has a reason; there is a purpose for our lives. He has something He wants us to do, and something He wants us to learn in every situation.

I ask Him, "Father, what do you want me to learn here?" "Father, who do you want to reach?"

With Giving and Receiving Comes Thankfulness

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (2nd Corinthians 9:11)

When you give, somebody is going to be thanking God. We have people in other nations who thank God they are receiving a broadcast and getting the Word of God.

The reason it is more blessed to give than it is to receive is because we are thankful for what God has given us, and now we are able to give it out. He entrusted it to you to give as He directs, and when you give it out then you are releasing the blessing. God gave you a blessing to give, and when you give it, the blessing comes back to you as well as the person who is receiving. Suddenly there is great thanksgiving going up to God from the giver and the receiver, and everybody is thanking God.

Have you found that when you are dwelling on your problems it does not look like there is any hope? That is because there is nothing positive of God going out. You are just wallowing in the muck. The people in Jerusalem in Nehemiah's day were wallowing in their sorrow because of the devastation that had happened to them. They were not free people anymore. They had become slaves in their own minds.

That is what happens when we allow depression to enter; we make everybody's life miserable. We wall up and people cannot love us. We cannot give or receive love because we have walled up. There is nothing but torment going on, and nobody is happy. But when you prefer others more important than yourself, the next thing you know, the Lord is glorified and the giver and receiver are thanking and praising God. Everybody is happy, and it is a celebration.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves..." (2nd Corinthians 9:12-13)

Are you generous? When you are, you prove that you are really a Christian.

There was a missionary who was trying to grow pineapples in a remote area where the tribesmen were thieves, users, and abusers. One day he just let go of ownership and quit getting upset about all the stolen pineapples. The villagers came to him and said, "Tuwan, you have become a Christian."

"...others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ." (2nd Corinthians 9:13) In other words, you are not just a Christian in word; you are a Christian in deed as well. Like the old expression 'put your money where your mouth is'. When you do that, it becomes a witness.

"And for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." (2nd Corinthians 9:13) They are praising God because of your generosity in sharing what you have.

“And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” (2nd Corinthians 9:14)

We are not being generous for show. The religious people of Jesus’ day did everything for show so that others would think how wonderful they were. We are generous for the Lord, and we are only being obedient to what our Father has given us to do.