

SERIES: INCREASING YOUR CAPACITY FOR GOD
SERMON: INCREASING THE SIZE OF YOUR GIVING INCREASES YOUR
CAPACITY TO RECEIVE
1-7-24

OPENER:

Isaiah 54:2 (NIV) Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

ILLUSTRATION:

When you order coffee from Starbucks, you're asked what size you would you like. Your options are Short, Tall, Grande and Venti. The difference between the sizes is simply their capacity.

Capacity is - the ability to hold or contain more.

I believe God has an outpouring of supernatural blessings for his people in this New Year, and we need to increase our capacity, so that we can take advantage of it.

So, what do you desire from God? Do you want a short amount of blessings? Do you want a tall, just a medium amount? Or do you want a grande amount of blessings or possibly event a Venti!

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

If God has the ability, He has the willingness, and it is His desire to bless us abundantly above all that we could ever think or ask or even imagine. If there is no shortage of resources with God and heaven's supply room, then the problem must lie with our capacity to receive.

**HOW DO WE RECEIVE MORE OF GOD?
WE HAVE TO INCREASE OUR CAPACITY TO CONTAIN IT!**

**GOD HAS GREAT THINGS FOR YOU BUT GOD CAN ONLY GIVE YOU WHAT YOU
HAVE THE CAPACITY TO RECEIVE.**

This verse in Isaiah says to *enlarge, stretch, do not hold anything back, lengthen.....*

EXAMPLE:

2 Kings 4:2-6 (NLT) One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, "My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the Lord. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves."

What can I do to help you?" Elisha asked. "Tell me, what do you have in the house?"

"Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil," she replied.

³ And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. ⁴ Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled."

⁵ So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. ⁶ Soon every container was full to the brim!

"Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons.

"There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing.

The oil only ceased when she had no more containers to hold it. If she had gathered a hundred more containers, increasing her capacity to receive, the oil would have continued to flow. It is the same with us.

THE AMOUNT WE RECEIVE FROM GOD DEPENDS UPON OUR CAPACITY TO CONTAIN IT.

**JUST BECAUSE GOD HAS A SURPLUS OF BLESSINGS IS NOT A A VALID REASON FOR HIM TO WASTE HIS BLESSINGS.
GOD DISLIKES BEING WASTEFUL.**

ILLUSTRATION:

> When God fed the Israelites with manna, He told them to collect only what they could eat for the day.

> When Jesus fed five thousand, He asked them to collect the fragments.

SIDE NOTE:

Often we find in the Word where receiving the promises of God are conditional. In many verses God is saying, 'If you do this, then I will do that' or 'this will happen'. In fact 335 verses have the phrase "if you" in them.....

>Ex 19:5 ...*If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people...*

> Matt 17:20 ...*I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

**THERE ARE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS GOD WANTS TO DO FOR US - IN US AND THROUGH US.
BUT WE MUST MAKE ROOM FOR THEM.**

GOD IS NOT GOING TO POUR SOMETHING OUT TO YOU IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO CONTAIN IT.

What if this year in 2024 you actually took responsibility for your life, putting it in a position where God could do more and better things with it than what you could ever imagine? What if you actually dared to live a larger life, to ask God for bigger things and to believe more things are possible ?

We are fooling ourselves if we think that we can just leave it all up to God to bring His will to pass in our lives without any effort on our part.

There are some things that can only come into our lives when we meet certain conditions to receive them. It does little good to ask God to “bless me, fill me, enlarge my borders, increase your anointing on me, if you are not willing to take the necessary steps or make the changes to receive them.

Over the next 6 weeks we will be looking at principles of increasing our capacity for God. Today's principle:

INCREASING THE SIZE OF YOUR GIVING INCREASES YOUR CAPACITY TO RECEIVE

Luke 6:38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

Luke 6:38 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.”

TWO SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES IN THIS VERSE:

1. IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE SOMETHING - YOU HAVE TO GIVE SOMETHING.

“Give and it will be given back to you.”

Be a blessing—

If you want to be blessed then be a blessing. If you can't show that God can get a blessing through you, then why should He bring a blessing to you?

Be generous -

Don't be a hoarder. You can't be a stingy and tight and prosper. Find someone who could use a blessing and be one to them. Go beyond what's comfortable or easy. Go out of your way.

Serve others—

Going that extra mile, giving that extra help, going beyond what is expected or required. Our culture is marked with people who want to get by with as little effort

as possible. Too many people want to give a little and receive a lot, but it doesn't work that way.

Matt 5:41 "...whoever asks you to go one mile, go with him two."

If you're not available to serve, then you're not able to lead. Leadership begins with servitude. Jesus said the way to the top was found on the bottom - on bended knees serving and giving to others. So, if you want to lead then give in servitude to those in leadership.

**YOU CANNOT EXPECT TO GET SOMETHING UNLESS
YOU SOW SOMETHING.**

Galatians 6:7-9 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. ⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

We all know the Law of the Harvest, it has been drilled into us from when we were little. We've been told you are what you eat. Garbage in, garbage out. You become the average of the friends with whom you associate. You reap what you sow.

The verse is talking about you can't trick God. If you invest in yourself and in sin, and expect to receive spiritual blessings then it won't happen.

**YOU CANNOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE SOMETHING UNLESS YOU SOW SOMETHING.
IF YOU HAVE A NEED - SOW A SEED.**

SECOND GIVING PRINCIPLE:

2. THE SIZE OF YOUR GIVING DETERMINES THE SIZE OF YOUR BLESSING

"For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

**IF YOU WANT MORE OF GOD - THEN GIVE MORE.
IF YOU GIVE LARGE THEN YOUR CAPACITY TO RECEIVE
WILL BE LARGE.**

**IF YOU WANT MORE THEN YOU MUST INCREASE THE
AMOUNT YOU ARE GIVING.
WHEN YOU EXPAND YOUR CAPACITY TO GIVE - YOUR CAPACITY TO RECEIVE
INCREASES.**

ILLUSTRATION:

Show giving a small measure, a medium measure or a large measure..... then God gives back using your own measure.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

ILLUSTRATION:

Show a packet of seed. Plant one seed or plant the whole package.

YOUR AMOUNT OF HARVEST IS DETERMINED BY THE AMOUNT OF SEED YOU PLANT.

SIDE NOTE:

MORE IS NOT DETERMINED BY THE AMOUNT - BUT BY THE PERSONAL SACRIFICE IT IS TO YOU

Matthew 12:41-44 ⁴¹ Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.

⁴³ Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. ⁴⁴ For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

"Jesus sat down near the collection box"

When you given a large amount of your resources,(time, money, talents, money, care and kindness, love, your surplus, etc.) then you have cleared out a large area in your life for God to return the blessing.

WHEN GIVING BECOMES SACRIFICIAL THEN YOU HAVE INCREASED YOUR CAPACITY TO RECEIVE FROM GOD.

