

**BIBLICAL PROSPERITY**  
**Session 6 – The Blessing of Giving**

**I. Review**

- A. **Genesis 12:2 (KJV)** – “I will bless you.... and you shall be a blessing
- B. God provides bread for food – something for us
- C. God provides seed to sow – something for others
- D. Poverty is a curse
- E. Prosperity and the Ministry of Jesus

**II. The Giving Connection to Prosperity in Scripture**

**A. Abraham's initial call**

**Genesis 12:1-3 (KJV)** – <sup>1</sup>Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: <sup>2</sup>And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup>And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

1. God declared His blessing upon Abraham, but not without first asking Abraham to give something.
2. God's requirement in establishing His covenant with Abraham was for him to trust God enough to **GIVE/SOW** his family ties, his homeland and everything familiar to him in obedience so he could **REAP** God's blessing upon his life

3. In this example, God established seed time and harvest, sowing and reaping and the benefits that come from obedience in giving.

## B. Abraham’s tithe

**Genesis 14:18-20 (NIV)** – <sup>18</sup>Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, <sup>19</sup>and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. <sup>20</sup>And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything

1. KJV = Tithe
2. This is the first example of “Tithing” in the Bible.
3. Abraham initiated giving 10 % of what he received back to God.
4. The “Tithe” did not begin in the old covenant law, but rather began as an act of the heart desiring to give something to God.
5. This is an important lesson for those who always say; *“tithing was under the old covenant,”* as an excuse not to give.
6. Abraham had already learned the covenant principles of sowing seed and reaping a good harvest.

## C. The Children of Israel Enjoyed an Abundant Harvest

**Deuteronomy 12:5-7 (NLT)** –

<sup>5</sup>Rather, you must seek the LORD your God at the place of worship he himself will choose from among all the tribes—the place where his name will be honored. <sup>6</sup>There you will bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, your sacred offerings, your offerings to

fulfill a vow, your voluntary offerings, and your offerings of the firstborn animals of your herds and flocks. <sup>7</sup> There you and your families will feast in the presence of the LORD your God, and you will rejoice in all you have accomplished because the LORD your God has blessed you.

1. The people will bring their tithes and offerings
2. The people will feast
3. The people will rejoice
4. The Lord blessed His people
5. Notice that giving and blessing go together

#### D. The proclamation over the Tithes

##### **Deuteronomy 26:1-15 (NLT) – Harvest Offerings and Tithes**

<sup>1</sup>“When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you as a special possession and you have conquered it and settled there, <sup>2</sup>put some of the first produce from each crop you harvest into a basket and bring it to the designated place of worship—the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored. <sup>3</sup>Go to the priest in charge at that time and say to him, *‘With this gift I acknowledge to the LORD your God that I have entered the land he swore to our ancestors he would give us.’*

<sup>4</sup>The priest will then take the basket from your hand and set it before the altar of the LORD your God.

<sup>5</sup>“You must then say in the presence of the LORD your God, ‘My ancestor Jacob was a wandering Aramean who went to live as a foreigner in Egypt. His family arrived few, in number but in Egypt they

*became a large and mighty nation. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians oppressed and humiliated us by making us their slaves, <sup>7</sup> we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors. He heard our cries and saw our hardship, toil, and oppression. <sup>8</sup> So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and powerful arm, with overwhelming terror, and with miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup> He brought us to this place and gave us this land flowing with milk and honey! <sup>10</sup> And now, O LORD, I have brought you the first portion of the harvest you have given me from the ground.'*

Then place the produce before the LORD your God, and bow to the ground in worship before him. <sup>11</sup> Afterward you may go and celebrate because of all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household. Remember to include the Levites and the foreigners living among you in the celebration.

<sup>12</sup> "Every third year you must offer a special tithe of your crops. In this year of the special tithe you must give your tithes to the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows, so that they will have enough to eat in your towns. <sup>13</sup> Then you must declare in the presence of the LORD your God,

*'I have taken the sacred gift from my house and have given it to the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows, just as you commanded me. I have not violated or forgotten any of your commands. <sup>14</sup> I have not eaten any of it while in mourning; I have not handled it while I was ceremonially unclean; and I have not offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God and have done everything you commanded me. <sup>15</sup> Now look down from your holy dwelling place in heaven and bless your people Israel and the land you swore to our ancestors to give us—a land flowing with milk and honey.'*

1. Participation in tithes and offerings was an act of obedience to the word of God
2. Tithes and offerings were a result of the blessing that God had already provided

3. Participation in the tithe and offerings included a declaration of God as the source of all blessing
4. Those who participated had the right to ask for God's blessing upon His people which included abundance; "*A land flowing with milk and honey,*" a land of abundant provision, lacking nothing.

#### E. The Malachi 3 Blessing of the Tithe

**Malachi 3:8-12 (KJV)** – <sup>8</sup>Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

<sup>9</sup>Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. <sup>10</sup>Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

<sup>11</sup>And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup>And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts

1. God took notice that the people were not giving him anything
2. The Old Covenant included a curse for not obeying God in giving
3. There was a commanded blessing upon obedient giving which included:
  - a. Heaven's open windows
  - b. Showers of blessings/provision
  - c. Abundance/more than enough/not enough room to receive it
  - d. The devourer would be rebuked from your harvest
  - e. People would see the blessing of the Lord upon your life

4. While the curse is taken away by Jesus in the new covenant, there is still much to be said regarding the heart of those who do not participate in giving.
  - a. The spirit of poverty hinders giving
  - b. The spirit of fear hinders giving
  - c. The spirit of generosity comes from the Lord
  - d. The nature of God is giving
  - e. When we are born again, we have the nature of God which includes a heart to give
  - f. Selfishness goes against the nature of God
  - g. If all of these are working in your life to keep you from giving, the harvest of blessing and inheritance will be hindered in your life.
  - h. While Christ has redeemed us from the curse, the curse is still working in this world's system. Although we are born again, it is still possible to give place to the devil and permit the curse to work in our life.

## F. The New Testament Giving/Prosperity Connection

### 1. The Words of Jesus

**Luke 6:38 (KJV)** – Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

2. Paul to the Corinthian Church

**2 Corinthians 9:5-15 (NIV) –**

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

<sup>8</sup>And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

<sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup>And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

- a. Paul spoke openly about offerings

- b. Paul taught that your level of giving was connected to your level of receiving
- c. Paul used the comparison of giving to sowing seed
- d. Paul taught that God supplies everything needed including seed to sow and bread for food
- e. Paul taught about increase
- f. Paul taught that we could reap a harvest of abundance
- g. Paul commends the Corinthian church for their INDESCRIBABLE gift

### 3. Paul's Instruction to the Philippian Church

#### **Philippians 4:15-19 (NIV) –**

<sup>15</sup> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. <sup>17</sup> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

- a. Paul received offerings for his ministry journeys
- b. The Philippian church members were ministry partners of the Apostle Paul
- c. Paul stated that he had received their offering and that his God would bless those who had given to him by supplying all their needs according to HIS riches in glory.



- d. This promise is directly connected to the generous support that the Philippians were sowing into Paul’s ministry.
- e. Giving/sowing into those who TEACH you the things of God is scriptural

**Galatians 6:6 (NLT) –**

*‘Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.*

**III. PERSONAL CLOSING THOUGHTS**

- A. Giving had always been a part of God’s relationship with humans
- B. Giving is always connected with blessing/prosperity
- C. There are no examples in scripture of God blessing people who did not have a heart to give
- D. Giving reflects the heart of an individual
- E. The more we become like Jesus the more we will desire to give like Jesus

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