

# The Blessing of Giving

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# Blessing: definition

- ▶ To confer prosperity or happiness upon
- ▶ To ask the favor or protection of God

Blessed:

- ▶ Having supernatural power working for you.

## Deuteronomy 28:1-2(NKJV)

- ▶ “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

## Deuteronomy 28:3-6(NKJV)

- ▶ <sup>3</sup> “Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.
- ▶ <sup>4</sup> “Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.
- ▶ <sup>5</sup> “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
- ▶ <sup>6</sup> “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

## Deuteronomy 28:7-8(NKJV)

- ▶<sup>7</sup> “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
- ▶<sup>8</sup> “The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

## Deuteronomy 28:9(NKJV)

- ▶<sup>9</sup> "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.

# 1. God Must Be First



## Exodus 13:12-13(NKJV)

- ▶ <sup>12</sup> that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males *shall be* the LORD's. <sup>13</sup> But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

## Exodus 23:19(NKJV)

- ▶<sup>19</sup> The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

## Old Testament Law

- ▶ The firstborn was to be sacrificed or redeemed.
- ▶ The firstfruits (10%) was given to redeem the remaining 90%.

## John 1:29 (NKJV)

- ▶<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

## Romans 5:8(NKJV)

- ▶ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## 2. God Gave First

- ▶ God gave Jesus, His firstborn, to redeem us!

## Malachi 3:8-9(NKJV)

- ▶ “Will a man rob God?  
Yet you have robbed Me!  
But you say,  
'In what way have we robbed You?'  
In tithes and offerings.  
<sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse,  
For you have robbed Me,  
Even this whole nation.

## Malachi 3:10(NKJV)

- ▶ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house,
- ▶ And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts,  
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.



## Malachi 3:11 (NKJV)

- ▶ “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,  
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,  
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”  
Says the LORD of hosts;

## Malachi 3:12(NKJV)

- ▶ “And all nations will call you blessed,  
For you will be a delightful land,”  
Says the LORD of hosts.

- ▶ We need to acknowledge we are stewards, not owners.
- ▶ True tithing comes from the heart-not from a legalistic mind.
- ▶ The devourer is rebuked!
- ▶ The righteousness of grace always exceeds the righteousness of the law.

### 3. Tithing is not law- it is life!

- ▶ God gave Jesus, His firstborn, to redeem us!

## Genesis 14:18-20(NKJV)

- ▶ <sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said:
- ▶ “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”
- ▶ And he gave him a tithe of all.

## Luke 6:38(NKJV)

- ▶ <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

## Luke 6:37(NKJV)

- ▶ “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

## 4. It Takes a Heart Transplant

- ▶ God doesn't want us to catch the vision of getting. He wants us to catch the vision of giving.
- ▶ A properly focused heart is more excited about the giving part than the receiving.
- ▶ When we are grateful, we are generous.
- ▶ Our attitudes toward possessions have a powerful ability to expose the true nature of our hearts.



## Luke 19:5-10(NKJV)

- ▶ <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." <sup>6</sup> So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

## Luke 19:5-10(NKJV)

- ▶ <sup>8</sup> Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”
- ▶ <sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; <sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

# The Attitude of a Giver

- ▶ Zaccheus was compelled to give half of his goods to the poor AND restore 4 times to those he had wronged.

## John 6:8-9(NKJV)

- ▶<sup>8</sup> One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"