

The Math of More

Deuteronomy 8-9

The dominant story of the Old Testament is the story of these slaves in bondage whom God reaches down to, lifts them out of Egypt, and takes them to the Promised Land. It's the story of people who are leaving captivity and oppression behind. It's the story of what happens when God is at work in your life. Victory is when you are rescued, redeemed, and released from whatever holds you down, holds you back, and ensnares you. God was leading them into a new land with new opportunities and new possibilities and he made so amazing promises to them along the way.

"Every place where you set your foot, I will give you as I promised Moses." Joshua 1:3

Their future was just a matter of where they were willing to put their feet. Their obedience and willingness to follow God and take the steps allowed them to experience all that God had promised them.

What is the "Promised Land?"

- God's destination for your life.
- His place of fulfillment for you.
- His place of overabundance.
- His place of establishment for you.
- His place of peace for you.

The Enemy wants you far away the Promised Land. He wants you to wander through life and never experience total victory. It is possible to go around in circles and keep experiencing the same things over and over.

What if God has more for us?

If there was more, would we take a step and go get it?

Webster's dictionary defines "*more*" as being "*in greater quantity, amount, measure, degree, number, or greater quality.*"

What if there was more to life than I'm living?

What if the promises of God were actually applied to my life?

Have you settled for less than the life you've always dreamed of?

Have you settled for less than the life God has desired for you?

How do we get from where we are to there?

God is willing to take us further and higher than we have ever been.

What if God had more for our family?

What if God had more for our finances?

What if there was more joy?

What if there was more satisfaction?

What if there was more faith?

What if there was more grace?

What if there were more answers to prayer?

What if God had more for my family, my finances, and my future?

What if I prayed more and worried less?

What if there was more of Christ and less of Me?

We live with a sense that we were made for more.

We all have a desire for more. It is in our DNA to want and to have more.

We believe more is the path to the great life.

You can have more, but more can have you!

There is a formula for more.

It is possible to take less and gain more.

More isn't cheap!

The price involves the loss of all you value. Obtaining the “*more*” requires living with “*less!*”

When God gives His commands, it's not to restrict our lives. He is trying to expand our lives.

“These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.”

Deuteronomy 6:1-3

How do we get from where we are to the MORE God has for us?

Sometimes we settle for less than the life God has desired for us.

We all need just a little more these days!

We live in a world with less than we need, but with Jesus, we have ALL WE NEED!

Their future is bright with promise, but it is filled with difficulties.

1. THE PROMISES OF MORE

“When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” Deuteronomy 6:10-12

“The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little.” Deuteronomy 7:22

“For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.” Deuteronomy 8:7-9

“The land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end. So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.” Deuteronomy 11:11-15

“Every place where you set your foot will be yours.” Deuteronomy 11:24

“See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.” Deuteronomy 11:26-28

2. THE PATH OF MORE

“Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. 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. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.” Deuteronomy 8:2-3

God doesn't just give His “more” to everyone. Those who get “more” walk a special path. He gives His “more” to those who walk with Him. The secret of their success would be connected to their obedience. When God gives His commands, it's not to restrict our lives. He is trying to expand our lives.

“Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors.” Deuteronomy 8:1

“Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to Him and revering Him.” Deuteronomy 8:7

Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times more in the age to come. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” Mark 10:28-30

“The LORD shall increase His blessing upon you more and more, upon you and your children.” Psalm 115:14

3. THE PROVISION OF MORE

- There is More of God's Power for our needs.

God promises, “He is able to do immeasurably MORE than we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.” Ephesians 3:20

What does immeasurably more look like? There is more than what you are currently experiencing.

This world will always have more stuff, but it will never satisfy. This world has nothing that can permanently satisfy you or me. There is a God in heaven who wants you to have more than you are currently experiencing. I want the “more” that God can give me!

“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.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

We have more than enough because God is abundant and has everything that we need.

- There is More of God’s Provision for our finances.

You would think if you gave more you would have less, but the generous person has more.

“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:24-25

Satan cannot stop the blessings of God, but he can distort the blessings of God in our lives.

“Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

“The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.” Deuteronomy 28:4-6

“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 6:37

“The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.” Deuteronomy 28:8

“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing.” Proverbs 3:9-10

The first fruits means that God deserves our first and our best.

- There is More of God’s Pardon for our sins.

“But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” James 4:6

“Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.” Micah 7:18

- There is More of God’s Presence in our lives.

“You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with multiplied pleasures at your right hand.” Psalm 16:11