

LESSONS THAT SHAPE OUR LIFE - 9 - ABUNDANCE

- **ONE OF THE GREATEST LESSONS THAT WILL SHAPE OUR LIVES AND OUR FUTURE IS THE LESSON THAT TEACHES US THAT WE WERE NEVER INTENDED TO LIVE IN SCARCITY.** POVERTY IS NOT SPIRITUAL, HOLY OR IN ANY WAY HONORING TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. ALL THE LESSONS OF LACK ARE OF DIMINISHMENT, POVERTY-THINKING AND INSECURITY. *Simplicity and poverty are different (Rich Mullins)*
- YOU CAN LEARN ALL ABOUT POVERTY BY DOING NOTHING. BUT YOU HAVE TO WORK AT LEARNING ABOUT ABUNDANCE. *God's blessings are linked to abundance!*

JOHN 10:10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

- EVERY PARENT WANTS THEIR CHILDREN TO PROSPER AND SUCCEED. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS A GOOD FATHER AND HE RECEIVES GLORY WHEN WE PROSPER.

Eph. 3:20 *Now to Him who is **able to do exceedingly abundantly above** (river at flood stage) **all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,***²¹
to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

I. WHAT ABUNDANCE IS AND WHAT IT ISN'T

A. ABUNDANCE IS TO LIVE IN THE EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

- **Abundance is the awareness of divine care and provision.** It is the experience of the presence of God in ways that continually transform our hearts. Faith grows. Hope grows. We experience more mercy, more love. more of His goodness. We are continually washed in the extravagant grace and overwhelming provision of heaven for our every need.

B. ABUNDANCE ISN'T RICHES OR POSSESSIONS - BECAUSE IT ISN'T SOURCED FROM THIS WORLD. IT IS THE **CAPACITY** TO DRAW FROM THE LIMITLESS RESOURCE OF GOD'S CREATIVE WISDOM AND POWER TO SHARE THE BOUNTY OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

- **SOLOMON - WISDOM AND RICHES**

2 Chr. 1:11 *Then God said to Solomon: "**Because this was in your heart, and***

*you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king— ¹² **wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.***”

1. **UNTIL WE LEARN HOW TO BE DOWNWARDLY MOBILE, WE WILL STRUGGLE TO BE UPWARDLY MOBILE.**
- **PAUL’S PERCEPTION OF HIMSELF CHANGED THE CLOSER HE CAME TO GOD:** *Greatest Apostle - 2 Cor. 11:5; Least of Apostles - 1Cor. 15:8-9; Least of all Saints - Eph. 3:8; Chief of Sinners - 1 Tim. 1:15.*

Eph. 3:8 *To me, **who am less than the least of all the saints**, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*

- **HUMILITY HAS ALWAYS ATTRACTED GRACE** - *Grace is everything we need, not only salvation - it is the unmerited favor and the enabling power of God*

A. ABUNDANCE IS THE INHERITANCE OF THE SONS OF GOD

- **A SON INHERITS - *salvation, heaven, future***
1Pet. 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to **His abundant mercy** has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an **inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- **A SON WHO OVERCOMES INHERITS ALL THINGS - *as in ALL***
Rev. 21:7 *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.*

II. LIVING IN ABUNDANCE

A. STEWARDING THE ABUNDANCE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN

1. AMONG MANY THINGS, ABUNDANCE IS ROOTED IN WISDOM

ABUNDANCE IS LINKED TO *WISDOM* (PROV. 8). IT IS LINKED TO *RIGHTEOUSNESS* (PSALM 112:3). IT IS LINKED TO *GENEROSITY*

(PROV. 11:25). IT IS LINKED TO **GRACE** (EPH. 2:4-8). IT IS LINKED TO **BLESSING** (EPH 1:3). IT IS LINKED TO **INTIMACY** (PSALM 16:11). ABUNDANCE IS LINKED TO **FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP** (2 COR. 9:8)- NOT HOW MUCH YOU GIVE AT CHURCH BUT HOW YOU USE ALL RESOURCES ENTRUSTED TO YOUR CARE. ABUNDANCE IS LINKED TO **OBEDIENCE** (DEUT. 28)

Prov. 8:11 *For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*

2. WISDOM IS DIVINE CREATIVITY

Prov. 8:23 *I [WISDOM] have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.*

- **IMAGINATION AND INNOVATION IS THE ABILITY TO SEE WHAT DOES NOT YET EXIST.**

ROM. 4:17 *(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did*

COMPOUND BOW VISION • NON-TOXIC STAIN FORMULA

- **ABUNDANCE IS THE ABILITY TO CONCEIVE AND CREATE WHAT YOU NEED.**
- **POVERTY THINKING CANNOT IMAGINE THERE WILL EVER BE ENOUGH. WE SERVE THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE, SOLUTIONS AND PROVISION ABOUND!**

3. OUR GOD-GIVEN CREATIVITY IS THE KEY TO BRINGING PROSPERITY TO OUR LIVES. IT IS THE SEED GOD GIVES US

2Cor. 9:6 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (CONTEXT OF OFFERINGS)*

2Cor. 9:10 *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.¹² For the **administration of this service** (THE ADMINISTRATION OF GIVING) **not only supplies the needs** of the saints,*

but also is **abounding through many thanksgivings to God**, (GRATITUDE!)

- **A GOD-GIVEN IDEA IS WEALTH. BUT IT IS IN SEED FORM. IT NEEDS TO BE PLANTED, WATERED, CULTIVATED AND THEN HARVESTED.**

Deut. 8:18 “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you **power** to get **wealth**...

4. **GOD EXTRAVAGANTLY BESTOWS HIS WISDOM UPON US TO BLESS OUR LIVES.** You may or may not be rich, but you can live well!

James 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, **lacking** nothing. ⁵ **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.

III. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STEWARDING MORE

A. UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL THINGS ARE OURS

1. **A STEWARD OF ALL THINGS HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR**

Rom. 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things**? (ALL THINGS!)

2. **BELIEVING ALL THINGS ARE MINE EMPOWERS ME TO SERVE**

2Cor. 9:8 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**.

Phil. 4:12 (PAUL) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. **Everywhere and in all things** I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

3. **GRATITUDE UNLOCKS THE ABUNDANCE ALREADY GIVEN TO ME**

Phil. 4:18 **Indeed I have all and abound** (THIS FROM PRISON). I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. (THE SENSE OF ABUNDANCE WAS NOT IN THE QUANTITY RECEIVED BUT IN THE GRATITUDE EXPRESSED) ¹⁹ And **my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by**

Christ Jesus. ²⁰ *Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

IV. SCRIPTURES THAT HIGHLIGHT ABUNDANCE *(For Personal Study):*

Psa. 72:7 In His days the **righteous** shall flourish,
And **abundance** of peace, Until the moon is no more.

Rom. 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive **abundance of grace** and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

1Cor. 3:21 *Therefore let no one boast in men. For **all things** are yours:* ²² *whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—**all are yours.***

1Cor. 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are **all things**, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom are all things**, and through whom we live.

2Cor. 6:10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and **yet possessing all things.**

2Pet. 1:3 as His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

3John 2 Beloved, I pray **that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.**

1Tim. 1:14 And **the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love** which are in Christ Jesus.

Psa. 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God **full of compassion, and gracious**, Longsuffering and **abundant in mercy and truth.**

Psa. 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth,
And shall **delight themselves in the abundance of peace.**

Psa. 65:11 You crown the year with Your goodness,
And **Your paths drip with abundance.**

Prov. 8:21 That I (WISDOM) may cause those who love me to inherit wealth,
That I may fill their treasuries.

Eccl. 5:19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and
given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this
is the gift of God.

Psa. 112:1 Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
Who delights greatly in His commandments.

2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; **The generation of the upright will
be blessed.**

3 **Wealth and riches will be in his house, And his righteousness endures
forever.**

Psa. 34:10 The young lions **lack** and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD **shall not lack any good thing.**

Prov. 11:25 **The generous soul will be made rich,**
And he who waters will also be watered himself.

Prov. 22:9 **He who has a generous eye will be blessed,**
For he gives of his bread to the poor.

Is. 32:8 But a **generous man devises generous things**, And by generosity he
shall stand.

Luke 6:38 **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.”

Eph. 5:20 **giving thanks always for all things** to God the Father in the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ,