

f) God Expects Return On His Investment

Matthew 25:26-30, NIV – (25) ‘So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ (26) His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? (27) Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. (28) Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. (29) For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. (30) And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

6. WE START BY LEARNING TO BLESS WITH WHAT WE DO HAVE

1 Peter 4:11, NIV – “If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.”

1 Corinthians 14:3, NIV – “But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.”

Romans 12:14, NIV – “... bless and do not curse.”

SUMMARY

1. We Are Blessed To Be A Blessing

Question # 1 – Have I made the commitment to God, that everything I have and everything I will yet receive, will be used to bless others?

2. Being Blessed Is A Responsibility For Every Christian

Question # 2 – Will I commit to do whatever is necessary, to receive God’s blessing?

3. The Pre-Requisite For Personal Blessing, Is To First Bless Others

Question # 3 – What do I have, that I can use right now, to be a blessing?

4. If We Do Not Have A Kingdom Purpose For Our Blessing, It Will Become Corrupted

Question # 4 – Have I asked God what He wants me to do with the blessings He has blessed me with?

5. God Expects Us To See Blessing As Seed To Be Invested, Not Something To Be Consumed

Question # 5 – What blessing has God given me, and how does He want me to invest it for him?

6. We Start By Learning To Bless With What We Do Have

Question # 6 – What are all the resources I presently have, that I can use to bless others?

A SEASON OF TRANSITION

4 – A Core Motivation To Bless Others

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SIX PRINCIPLES TO EMBRACE TO BECOME BLESSING-MOTIVATED

1. WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Genesis 12:2-3, NIV – “(2) I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; ... and you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Galatians 3:14, NIV – “(14) He [Jesus] redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus ...”

2. BEING BLESSED IS A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVERY BELIEVER

a) We Are Responsible To Receive God’s Blessing

Deuteronomy 15:4-6, NIV – (4) However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, (5) if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. (6) For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

b) We Must Choose To Seek God’s Blessing

Genesis 32:26,29-30 NIV – (26) Then the man said, ‘Let me go, for it is daybreak.’ But Jacob replied, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’ ... (29) ... Then he blessed him there. (30) So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.’

3. THE PRE-REQUISITE FOR PERSONAL BLESSING, IS TO FIRST BLESS OTHERS

a) God Only Promises To Meet All Our Needs After We Have Blessed Others

Philippians 4:17-19, NIV – (17) Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. (18) I have received full payment and even more; 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. (19) And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

b) We Determine The Size Of Our Blessing

Luke 6:38, NIV – 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.

c) Giving Releases Proportional Blessing Back To Us

Acts 20:35, NIV – ... *the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’*

- When you give, you put into operation God’s law of being blessed back
- When you give first, the measure of faith you choose to give with, determines the size of the blessing you receive back!

4. IF WE DO NOT HAVE A KINGDOM PURPOSE FOR OUR BLESSING, IT WILL BECOME CORRUPTED

a) God Blessed His People And Warned Them To Be Careful With Their Blessing

Exodus 12:35-36, NIV – (35) *The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. (36) The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.*

Exodus 20:23, NIV – Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.

b) God Has A Purpose For Your Blessing

Exodus 25:2-8, NIV – (2) *Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. (3) These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; ... (8) *Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.**

c) We Can Easily Misuse And Start To Trust Our Blessings More Than God

Exodus 32:2-4, NIV – (2) *Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” (3) *So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. (4) He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”**

Exodus 32:24, NIV – *So I told them, “Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.” Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!*

d) Ask God What He Wants You To Do With The Blessing He Gave You

Exodus 35:4-5, 21-22, NIV – (4) *Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the LORD has commanded: (5) From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze; ... (21) *and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. (22) All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.**

e) Find A Cause For Your Blessing That Cannot Be Corrupted

Matthew 4:3,5-6,8-9, NIV – (3) *The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ ... (5) *Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. (6) ‘If you are the Son of God’, he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’* ... (8) *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. (9) ‘All this I will give you’, he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’**

5. GOD EXPECTS YOU TO SEE BLESSING AS SEED TO BE INVESTED, NOT SOMETHING TO BE CONSUMED

a) Our Blessings Are Entrusted To Us, But They Are Not Ours

Matthew 25:14, NIV – (14) *Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.*

b) Blessings Are Given To Us On The Basis Of Our Ability To Manage The Blessing

Matthew 25:15, NIV – (15) *To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.*

c) God Requires That You Account For What You Do With Your Blessing

Matthew 25:16-19, NIV – (16) *The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. (17) *So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. (18) *But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. (19) After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.***

d) Your Reward Is Determined By Your Faithfulness

Matthew 25:20-23, NIV – (20) *The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master’, he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ (21) *His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’ (22) *The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master’, he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’ (23) *His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’****

e) Everything God Gives You Is Seed To Sow

Matthew 25:24-28, NIV – *Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master’, he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.’*