

## **GOD'S PLAN FOR BLESSING**

### **October 2023**

#### **FIRST SUNDAY**

Everyone likes to be blessed. Most of us would like to be more blessed. And, in an effort to be more blessed, we try various ways to secure the blessings we desire. The truth, however, is that we will never be satisfied until we do things God's way.

Consider the following....

When someone hurts you, the world says, "get even." God says, "forgive and let it go."

When you are depressed, the world says, "take drugs." God says, "set your mind on Me and I will give you peace."

When it comes to money, the world declares to get all you can and can all you get, then sit on the can. God says tithe, given to Him, and even greater blessings will flow into your life.

If your way isn't working...try God's way.

#### **Joshua 1:7-8**

**7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

Following God's Word will bring a prosperous and successful life...

1. Courageously keep the commands of the Lord. Follow Him even when common sense says to go the other direction.
2. Meditate constantly on the promises of God. Keep them ever before you. If you are faithfully following His commands...even in giving...you can count on the promises He has made.

#### **SECOND SUNDAY**

It is important we learn to see God first, not the blessing. A characteristic of our age, actually of most of humanity, is the money hungry spirit which has permeated our culture. Don't forget, we have been forewarned about this very thing.

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#### **2 Timothy 3:4**

**..traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...**

Our day, depicted by Paul as being “dangerous,” certainly coincides with the description above. In fact, much of our age is now represented by the well-worn line from the movie *Jerry McGuire*. “Show Me The Money” was the oft repeated mantra of that film, and of our culture. We, as believers, must have a different world view. Our constant plea must be “Show Me The Lord!”

We want to see, and show, the goodness of the Lord in every area of our lives...money included. That means we are to be counter culture...loving God more than money. We demonstrate that through our tithing. We show God, and any who care to look, that He is first and foremost in our lives.

### **THIRD SUNDAY**

Remember, the Lord told Joshua in Joshua 1 that obedience would bring blessing. The Psalmist adds to that charge.

#### **Psalm 1:1-3**

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seats of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither. And whatever he does shall prosper.**

God tells us very clearly that obedience to Him...and that includes not looking to the ungodly for advice and guidance but following His plan... will lead to blessing. Wall Street and others may tell you tithing and giving is foolish, but God was making and keeping promises long before any of them were formed.

Here's the principle in one verse: those who follow God's ways are like trees planted by living water, they bring forth fruit, their leaves don't fade, and all they do shall prosper. Sounds great, doesn't it?

The tree had to be planted, given, invested into the soil, long before any productivity was performed. Obedience always precedes blessing. Follow HIS plan of tithing and giving...and He will provide the blessing.

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### FOURTH SUNDAY

The Bible is clear about this: *all we have, regardless of how hard we worked for it, is a blessing from the hand of the Lord.* God was specific with His children about becoming presumptuous concerning their blessings.

#### **Deuteronomy 6:10–12**

**10 “So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, 11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—12 then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.**

God let them know it wasn't their strength or abilities which had led to their abundance. He had prepared things in advance through others all in an effort to bless them as they followed His voice. However, they were going to face a subtle temptation...one which many people succumb to in our day.

Have you ever met someone so full of themselves it was said of them “they started believing their own press clippings?” That's what Israel was facing...and many in our culture today are confronting. We actually start believing WE did all the stuff which has been done. WE earned the money. WE developed the abilities which led us to our financial status. WE....

The truth remains, if the Lord did not assist us, keep us going, provide us with our intellect and abilities, we would have nothing. Thankfulness to Him should characterize every day of our lives.

But there is one thing more...God let them know in this chapter what He was going to do next in their lives depended upon what they did with what He had already provided. It was true they had been blessed. But if they wanted more blessing, they were going to be required to follow His plan.

If God's future blessing in your life depends on what you do with what He has already done in your life, what's going to happen? Start being a wise servant today...tithes and give as the Lord has commanded and He will watch over your life.

### FIFTH SUNDAY

All of us are born with a certain amount of “MINE!” in our nature. Our babies, when they were small, would pick up something, even if it were dangerous, and with defiance exclaim, “MINE!” That's part of a fallen nature in all of us.

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God knows we are like that, some worse than others. That's one reason He calls repeatedly for us to be givers, tithers. It's also why so many resist with all their might giving a tithe to God...we say it is "MINE!"

### **Proverbs 3:9-10**

**Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase. So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.**

Our giving of the first fruits, the tithe, is an act of surrender to God. It is one way we demonstrate to Him, and our selfish nature as well, our utter surrender to His sway over every part of our being. It is saying to Him, "I know all things flow from you and will return to you." It acknowledges His priority in our lives. It shows we have matured in Him to the point we recognize our need of total surrender.

Don't worry. God promises great blessings when we reach this place. The words "plenty" and "overflow" are both terms of great blessing. God will honor His word when we act in obedient faith. Today is a great time to start opening your life to His blessings by obedience in tithing.