

Lesson 3: The Laws of Giving and Receiving

When it comes to sharing the Word of God with people, only give to them what they have a capacity to appreciate and receive. The Bible talks about having ears to hear. The more we treasure, esteem, value the Word of God, the more revelation we will get from the Holy Spirit.

Mark 4:23-25 AMP

If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend. And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure[of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure[of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you — and more [besides] will be given to you who hear. For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away [by force].

- Prosperity should not be a controversial subject since the Bible talks a lot about it
- How we prosper in this life is tied to how we first prosper spiritually- healing or financial
- It's a built-in safeguard – the more we mature spiritually the more we will prosper
 - o Matthew 6:33, as we seek first the Kingdom, all these things are added to us

3 John 2 NKJV

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

1 Timothy 4:8, “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

Giving & Receiving

- **Please Read: Philippians 4:10-19**
 - Paul did not just talk about giving, but also receiving as well- both are important
- Vs 14- *“Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.”*
- Giving is about partnership with God and the Body of Christ
- Vs 15- *“Not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you only”*
- So many missed opportunities to invest into God's Kingdom- be led by the Holy Spirit
- Vs 17- *“I am looking for what may be credited to your account.”*
- Many are great about giving, but are clueless about receiving or reaping- your account
- Vs 18- *“They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.”*
- Giving is an act of love and sacrifice; it represents our life (blood, sweat & tears)
- Vs 19- *“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*
- When we look to the needs of others, it's no surprise that God makes provision for us

Abundance Mentality

- Just because people have stuff does not automatically mean that God gave it to them
- Folks can get things through debt, by stealing and fraud
- I don't believe the Lord is not satisfied with where we are at in the financial arena

Sure, He is pleased that we are making progress, but there is so much more to God's economics that we have not tapped into. Until we can get our eyes off of what we are used to on this earth, we are limiting Him. He wants us blessed so we can be a greater blessing.

- We need to develop a mentality of abundance
- Beware of always telling your children, "We can't afford that!"
- That will build a consciousness of lack and limitation in their hearts
- Instead, encourage them to believe God for it and agree with them in prayer
 - o Mark 9:23, "Everything is possible for him who believes."
- **Please Read: Deuteronomy 28:12-13**

The Church has been great about telling people to give; pay their tithes, give offerings and alms to the poor- which is all great! But I think it has become a little mechanical and we give without examining the ground we are sowing into, and worse we're not expecting a return.

Why some have a Small Harvest

Here is an important point to consider, the people of God are reaping a harvest, but they are much smaller than they need to be.

- They sowed sparingly- 2 Corinthians 9:6- "*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap...*"
 - o The measure we give will come back to us in a multiplied fashion
- They did not sow in good ground- Mark 4:13-20
 - o All ground is not automatically good ground- do your due diligence & research
- They forfeit the blessing of God- James 4:1-6
 - o Faith works by love (Gal.5:6)- unforgiveness, disobedience and the like nullifies
- Allowing the thief to come in to kill, steal and destroy- 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - o Lack of action is the same as action; stand up to the enemy and resist him!
- They did not discern their harvest or only part of it- John 4:35-38
 - o We need to discern (know) when, where and how to reap- when harvest is ready
- We need to discern how much of the harvest we are going to receive- Joshua 18:1-3
 - o So some tribes took full possession of the land they needed
 - o However, others like the tribe of Joseph took only a little bit and complained

Question: "Do you know how much giving you have sowed this year so far?"

Why Some People don't have Harvests

- First for the most obvious reason; they have not sowed- Luke 6:38
 - o Concerning material things, just making confessions is not enough- must give
- They got tired, waiting for the harvest and gave up- Galatians 6:7-10
 - o Don't ever put a time limit on when the harvest is ready for reaping- Heb. 6:12
- Many think reaping is automatic- Proverbs 14:23
 - o We have to take responsibility for reaping when the Holy Spirit tells us it's ready

How to Reap

So the next obvious question is this, "having sown material seed, how do we reap a material harvest?" We can be walking by faith in one area of our life, and not walking by faith in another. We can be living in divine health, but be struggling financially. Faith in one area of the promises of God does not automatically make all the promises of God manifest in our lives.

Question: "Here is a provocative question, 'Can a Christian sleep through their harvest?'"

Proverbs 10:5, "He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son."

We have to sow before we can reap and our lack of giving often finds its roots in a lack of faith. If we were to give as the Lord has asked us to, there would be no problem in reaping a harvest today. However, for most of us, when prompted by the Lord to give, we have doubts that He is able to get it back to us in time in order to meet our other obligations that are coming up. "Well Lord, if I give that \$500 to so-in-so, that I have set aside for this bill that is due in 15 days, can You really get it back to me in time?"

- **Please Read: Ecclesiastes 11:1-4**
- "Give portions to seven, yes to eight" it is talking about giving extra for the future
- If we wait until it's convenient or better conditions we'll miss God given opportunities
- The key is to give immediately when the Lord prompts us to give- that is faith
- When people need us, they need us now; brief window opportunity- Luke 11:5-8
- The Lord is not going to ask, "Is this a good time for you," when it comes to obedience
- Need to stop praying for money and about money the way we have been up until now
- The money we need is not going to come from heaven; it's in the earth
- Been good at making deposits (giving)? Now it's time to make withdrawals (reap)
- Claim what you need out of this world system in Jesus' Name- bind the devil as well
- Be specific and name the dollar amount that is needed to meet those needs
- Faith to sow and it takes faith to reap- laying hold of the promises of God- Heb. 6:18
- When it comes to reaping, expect the Holy Spirit to lead you to opportunities to reap