

The Abundant Life Part #4 Open Window's Pt 2–

Last week: Plural - More than one window.
More than one source of blessing and opportunity

Malachi 3:10 - NKJV

¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, "Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not **open for you the windows** of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room* enough to receive it.

Psalm 37:4 - (KJV)

⁴ Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

We don't like to talk about money in the church do we?

- It kind of **like politics** – "let's not go there."

*Did you know that **Jesus talked about money** more than He did any other subject?*

- ***Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables*** were concerned with how to handle money and possessions.
- **In the Gospels**, an amazing **one out of ten** verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money.
- The Bible offers **500 verses on prayer**, **less than 500 verses on faith**, but more than **2,000 verses on money and possessions**.

Why did Jesus use money?

Matthew 6:21 - NKJV

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- There **the desires of your heart** will also be.

Now we are talking about **the Abundant Life** right?

- So let me ask you, how many of you would say **you are living the Abundant life** if you got a 25% raise on your job this year?
- How about a 50% raise? Right?
- Now we are talking about **Abundant Life.....**

Money doesn't solve all our problems... but it does solve a whole lot of our problems.

- **Most stress** in most relationships comes as a result of money problems.
- You think God doesn't see that?

The blessing of money can also cause people to have problems.

- If you don't handle it properly, **it can destroy you** as fast as any addiction.
- In fact, it will become **an addiction**.
- It will land you in **the divorce court** as quick as anything else
- Because it creates **opportunities**.
- If a person is **not spiritually mature** enough to handle those opportunities when they come, the **opportunities will destroy you**.

This is why **God holds back** on some people **He wants to bless** financially

- Because **He knows** **it would destroy them** if He blessed them the way He really wants to bless them.
- This is why it's important for us to **grow up spiritually**, so God can **trust us** with **what He wants to give us**.

But look at this scripture.

Malachi 3:10 - NKJV

¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, "Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room* enough to receive it.

- **It sounds to me that God would like for His people to be blessed.**

James 1:17 - NKJV

¹⁷ Every good gift and every **perfect gift** is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

God knows what we have need of.

- He knows the **perfect gift**.
- It may be **finances** – help with Mortgage or rent.
- It may be **keeping our children safe or healthy**
- ***It may be all kinds of things*** that **we don't think about** when it comes to God blessing us.

We would rather have the money, but God knows that we couldn't handle the money right now.

- We might want better **health**, but **God knows** that we are learning to trust Him right now.
- It may be a **new job**, but **God is teaching** us to be faithful at the job He has already given us.
- It may be a better **marriage**, but **God knows** that we first have to learn to give of our selves completely and unreserved

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding ***abundantly*** above all that we **ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us,

See, all of these things **have to do with us.**

- **God wants to bless us**
- **Are we spiritually mature** enough to receive the blessings?

James 1:17 - ***“Every Good gift comes down from the father”***

- He **doesn't** give bad gifts... He's not a cheapskate - He wants to bless
- He **can only bless us if** we are first faithful of what He has already given us.

Luke 6:38 - NKJV

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.***

Look at that...

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good **measure**, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over,

We expect God to give that way...

- Give, and it shall be given unto you;
- good **measure**,
- pressed down,
- and shaken together,
- and running over,

But let me ask you...

- **Do we give** in good measure?
- Do we give pressed down?
- Do we give shaken together?
- Do we give running over?

Or do we give only what's necessary?

- Or the exact amount?

Look at the end of Luke 6:38 that we all like to quote so much...

For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

If you measure to the line, then God's going to measure to the line.

- If you **measure good**, and pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, then **guess what God's going to do**.
 - People ask, ***should I give on my net or my gross***.
 - Which one ***is measuring to the line***
 - **Which one is a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over?**

It's not about the amount; it's about ***the measure***.

- You can be the biggest giver in the church...
- But that **won't mean a thing**
- ***If*** that gift is not in accordance to the measure of your capability.

God measures according to what we are capable of.

- That's why the tithe, (The tenth part of) is so important.
- It's ***God's measuring cup***.

*** Here's something else we need to understand,

- **God gives to us in the measure we give to Him.**
- He does not do math the way we do.
- It's not a dollar amount or even entirely a percentage.
- It's what is in **our heart**.
 - ***Begrudgingly?*** He gives the same way.
 - ***With reservation?*** He gives the same way.
 - ***Cheerfully and with a full heart?*** He gives the same way.

***** Here's a point I want to make.**

When God finds someone whose wallet is open to the needs of the Kingdom, there are more **"Windows"** that will open to that person than they can look through.

- **Opportunities** for financial growth will come that they never knew existed...
- If you **haven't** experienced this in your life, you are missing out...

You think **God's not able to bless you** financially in ways you can't even imagine?

Psalm 24:1 - NIV

¹ ***The earth is the Lord's***, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

Listen... I need to kill a myth here...

- God's not stupid - **He's not a bad accountant**
- **He knows how** to get it into the hands of people ***who will in turn be gracious and giving!***

He helped **Peter** pay his taxes with a coin from a fish's mouth.

- You think He can't think of ways to help you pay your bills?
- Stop leaning on your own understanding and start – ***really trusting God!***

God's not going to violate the spiritual laws He has already established ***just because we don't have faith.***

That's why He asks **you** for **the first fruits**.

- Because **He wants to bless you** with **His** first fruits.

People are like, **"I'm just waiting on God to bless me..."** or **"Man, it just seems like we never have quite enough..."** or **"I'm just barely getting by!"**

- Well is it possible that **He's just measuring** in the same measure ***you are measuring with?***

We **can't** figure out why it's so close sometimes

- Yet it is the **same way** we are giving to God.
- ***Should we really expect anything different?***

We're talking about The Abundant Life

- I don't think there's a thing wrong with talking about being blessed financially if we are going to talk about the Abundant Life.

Giving is a form of worship.

- **Just like singing Or raising your hands Or praising Him.**

God measures in the same way you measure.

- If you put your house in front of His house...
- **What do you think is going to happen?**
- But what could happen *if you were to put the needs of His house in front of the wants of your house?*

That's why the Bible talks about first fruits.

- See giving is a part of our worship.
- And it is our "**First Fruit**" worship.
- Other words, *it's the first thing God is looking for* in our worship.
- **Giving is never about money it's about our hearts**

For some people giving is more important than the emotion of worship as we know it because its first fruits.

Genesis 8:22 NKJV

²² "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

Seed time - That's what the offering is about.

The offering in the service is the time to plant some seed.

- Why do we plant seed?
- Because we know we need there to be a harvest.

You can't harvest what you haven't planted.

- That's called stealing.

Some people want other people's blessings

- But they haven't planted the seed that those people planted.

Genesis 8:22 NKJV

²² “While the earth remains, **Seedtime and harvest**, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night **Shall not cease.**”

There is still a chance to get a harvest.

- It’s not too late.
- But you can’t begin to receive it **if you don’t plant it.**

Giving to God is Worship.

- It’s **our opportunity to sew seeds** into His kingdom and as a result **allow Him to open some windows** of opportunity into our own lives.

God does not need your money – heart.

- Remember our focus scripture ***“the thief comes to kill steal and destroy.”***
- One of the biggest lies in the church world is that **preachers shouldn’t talk about money** in the pulpit.
- **Jesus did.**
- In fact, He talked about money more than He talked about most anything else.
- Critics of the church want to silence Pastors when it comes to certain subjects
- For years one of the biggest things most pastors are scared to death to talk about is money.

CLOSE:

I’m not afraid to talk about money and I’ll tell you why...

- **I love you.**
- I want you to **be blessed.**
- I want **God’s best for your lives.**
- I’m tired of seeing **God’s children struggling** to get ahead in this world.

Because of His death on the Cross -

- We are not only heirs, but **Joint heirs with Jesus Christ**
- **To every blessing** this Bible talks about...
- That includes what belongs to **Our Heavenly Father.**
- **“The Earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof”**

If I am a joint heir, then that lets me know that **God's not going to hold back** when it comes time to hand out the inheritance.

Here me on this as I finish:

- **The prosperity of God** in your life goes way beyond your bank account.
- **God uses your** bank account to set you up for other things to happen.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 – NIV - Generosity Encouraged

⁶**Remember this:** Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and **whoever sows generously will also reap generously.**

⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

What do you need to become more Abundant in your life today?

How can God more abundantly bless you and your circumstances today?

Come and sow today at the altar!!!!