

**Abundant Life #7**  
**A Blank Check**

**John 15:7 - NKJV** - <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

**Has anyone ever given you a blank check?**

- I've had customers through the years that trusted me gave me **a blank check** and told me to just fill it in when I was done with the job.
- But it doesn't mean much for someone to write you **a blank check** if you know they don't have much in their account to back up the check.

**1 Corinthians 10:26 – NKJV** - <sup>26</sup> for “the earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness.”

- **He owns it all.** Everything in the bank He owns that.
- **There is nothing** on this earth that **doesn't** belong to Him.

**John 15:7 – NLT** - <sup>7</sup> **But if you remain in me and my words remain in you**, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

**John 15:7 – CEV** - <sup>7</sup> **Stay joined to me** and let **my teachings become part of you**. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.

We've been talking about **The Abundant Life** and what that means to a believer.

- If someone **wants** that **Abundant Life** I've been talking about...
- We should ask ourselves.....

**Does John 15:7 operate in your life?????**

**\*Not** the last part of the verse (**We all like that part**.)

**John 15:7 – NLT** - you may **ask for anything** you want, and **it will be granted!**

**\*But the first part** John 15:7 – NLT - <sup>7</sup> But **if you remain in me** and **my words remain in you**...

- **'You remaining in me'**, pertains to **your relationship** with Jesus.
- **"My Words remaining in you"** pertains to what **value** you place on His word in your life.

We all love the idea of a **blank check** being ***written to us from God.***

But let me ask you... ***How many of us would write Him a blank check?***

- A **blank check** from our checking account.
- A blank check on our calendar
- A blank check of our talent
- A blank check of love for other people?
- A blank check that says, ***“Use this part of me however you need to.”***

### **Luke 6:38 - NKJV**

<sup>38</sup> 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.***

- We love the idea of **a blank check from God**, but how do we feel about writing Him one?
- For with **the same measure** that you use, **it will be** measured back to you.

***God in His word*** makes unbelievable promises to us.

- ***Promises*** that most people **can't** believe.
- This is why **faith** is so hard to find in people sometimes.
- God says, “Ask **anything** in my Name and **it shall be** done for you...”
- And people **can't** have **that kind of faith**.

This is why the first part of **John 15:7** - NLT - 7 But **if you remain** in me and my words remain in you...

- This is why **church** is so important.
- This is why the **preaching** is so important.
- **Parents**, you are doing right to bring your children to church.
- You are doing a good thing **dad or mom** if you are sitting here by yourself this morning.
- You will **pass something on** to that **next generation** from our Heavenly Father **that will help them in their life**.

**Romans 10:17** - <sup>17</sup> So then **faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**CEV** - <sup>17</sup> ***No one can have faith without hearing the message about Christ.***

**Hearing the word of God is necessary** in our lives if we are going to be able to receive from God the things that we ask Him for.

- **And my words remain in you...**

**If the preaching is boring to you.**

- Or it's your least favorite part of the service
- And you are someone who hates reading the Bible
- You are probably going to have **a hard time** receiving the things that God has prepared for your life even though **He promises you a blank check.**

**Ecclesiastes 2:26 - CEV**

<sup>26</sup> If we please God, he will make us **wise, understanding, and happy.**

**(WEALTHY!)** But if we sin, God will make us struggle for a living, then he will give all we own to someone who pleases him. This makes no more sense than chasing the wind.

**So God offers to us a blank check in many ways of our lives.**

- He said, **"Ask what you will."**
- But we have to understand that ***there are some conditions*** attached to that blank check.
- There's some **responsibility** connected to it.

**Ecclesiastes 2:26** – NLT - <sup>26</sup> **God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him...**

**The NKJV puts it this way... Ecclesiastes 2:26 - <sup>26</sup> For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy:**

It's sad, but so many **Christians** get so upset **when things aren't working out** in their lives.

- They **blame God** because the **"Blank Check"** isn't being honored.
- "Hey God, what about that **"Ask What You Will" thing.**
- But we **forget** so quickly our own responsibility and connection spiritually to God's promises.

**So Dad says to Little Johnny** - "You stay out of the street where you could get killed all day today and when you come in, I will have a Popsicle for you.

So Little Johnny goes out to play for the day and he tries his best for a little while but eventually, He's out playing in the street where cars have to dodge from hitting him all day.

And at the end of the day, Little Johnny goes into the house asking about that Popsicle. **Now let me ask you something.**

**What kind of father would go ahead and reward his son after he did what he told him not to do?**

Especially when what he told him not to do was for his own safety?

By giving him that popsicle, **he is telling his son** that he can behave anyway he wants in life and he's still going to get rewarded.

**This is why** so many of our sons and daughters are **so confused** in this generation.

**Here's what I know.**

- **If** I'm messing up spiritually, I have **no right** to claim the promises of God
- **Until** I seek repentance and lean on His grace.
- Don't expect God to be cashing whatever check you want cashed that day.

**God's Word** has so many **promises** attached to it.

- **Promises in the Word of God** for you to receive whatever you're in need of.
- There is **so much** that we can claim and receive through His Word.

**\*If you can't say** with all confidence that you are ***living The Abundant Life***, I just want you to know that **you are missing out** on so many incredible things.

***I love the story of Solomon*** - I Kings, chapter 3, verses 3 through 14.

***God appeared to Solomon*** in a dream and said, **"Ask what you wish me to give you."**

- **Solomon could have asked for anything.**
- It was like **God was giving him a blank check** and was saying, **"Just fill it in."**

**1 Kings 3:3-14 - NKJV**

<sup>3</sup> And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.

<sup>4</sup> Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that *was* the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup> At Gibeon ***the Lord appeared to Solomon*** in a dream by night; and **God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?”**

<sup>6</sup> **And Solomon said:** “You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.

<sup>7</sup> Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore ***give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people***, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”

<sup>10</sup> The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. <sup>11</sup> Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, ***but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice***,

<sup>12</sup> behold, I have done according to your words; see, **I have given you a wise and understanding heart**, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.

<sup>13</sup> **And I have also given you what you have not asked:** both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.

<sup>14</sup> **So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments**, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

**Solomon could have asked for riches, a long life, revenge on his enemies, the latest chariot, or even to be the next, famous Jerusalem Idol.**

**What did he choose?** - <sup>9</sup> Therefore **give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people**, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

Solomon asked for wisdom, understanding, and character, for the sake of the people and the community.

- I think that request woke up the angels in heaven.
- He didn't want fame, fortune. Where did that come from?"

### **CLOSE:**

**Solomon** could handle a promotion because he had wisdom. He **didn't use God** or the community as a means to his own end.

- **Too many these days ask for themselves first.**
- It's all about **their agenda**.
- But **not Solomon**.

### **How did God respond?**

"Behold, I have done according to your words...I have given you a wise and discerning heart...and...I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that **there will not be any among the kings like you** all of your days." (Verses 12, 13)

### **Do you see the lesson in that?**

**Matthew 6:33** – NKJV - <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**So here's the blank check.**

**John 15:7** NKJV- <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, **you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.**

- What are we going to do with that?
- How will we spend it?
- How will we use it?