

## 6. Accessing Heaven's Abundance

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Sub-Title: The Power of the Offering

- We are nearing the end of our 40 Day Campaign
- We are positioning ourselves to receive more of heaven's abundance
- We are receiving God's wisdom to bring us into a new level of abundance

**Psalm 66:12 (NLT) ... We went through fire and flood, *but you brought us to a place of great abundance.***

- God is purposing to take His people to a place of great abundance

**Main points from the previous message:**

- a. Jesus instructed us to seek first the Kingdom of God
- b. Abel offered the firstlings of his flock to God
- c. God commanded the Israelites to bring the Firstfruits as an Offering
- d. Jacob vowed to give God a tenth of everything God would give him
- e. The Principle of Tithing is practiced throughout the Bible
- f. Honouring God with our Tithe (tenth) is an eternal Principle

### **1. God wants to supply all our Needs**

**Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***

- Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian church who had financially supported him in his ministry
- He said: You have sent financial aid to supply my needs, so I was able to continue in the ministry
- And now, he said: ... my God shall supply all your needs ...
- Somebody once said: God will supply our "needs", but not our "wants"
- We disagree with that statement
- God has never intended to lock us into some subsistent lifestyle
- He wants to provide us with the nice things in life

## **2. God also wants to give us the Desires of our Heart**

**Psalm 37:4 (NKJV)** *Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

- Here, the Bible tells us that, when we delight ourselves in the Lord, He gives us the desires of our heart
- This understanding goes beyond just having our basic needs met
- It is a level of faith higher than just believing God for our bare necessities
- God is interested in the desires of our heart & provided they are good and right, He wants to give us what we desire

**Psalm 145:18–19 (NKJV)** *The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.*

- Same again as in Ps. 37:4, only this time, it spells out another condition:
- Vs. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him ...
- People who fear God will ensure that their desires are good and right
- And God wants to fulfill those desires

## **3. Giving and receiving**

- Ap. Paul spoke to the Philippian believers about “giving and receiving”
- He said: Because you have given financially towards my needs, you are now positioned to receive from God towards your own financial needs
- They had invoked the law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7)

**Philippians 4:15–18 (NLT)** *As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. 16 Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. 17 I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness. 18 At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.*

- The church at Philippi was the only church who sent financial offerings to Ap. Paul
- They did so “more than once”
- Paul was a tent maker by trade (Acts 18:3)

- Their financial offerings enabled him to devote more time to his ministry as an apostle
- He said: I'm not talking about your offering because I want your gifts
- He said:
  - I want you to receive a reward for your kindness
  - I want you to receive a harvest for the seeds you have sown

**Philippians 4:17 (AMP)** *Not that I seek or am eager for [your] gift, but I do seek and am eager for the fruit which increases to your credit [the harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account].*

- Paul told them that their financial offerings would result in a harvest into their account

#### **4. God multiplies our Offerings**

**2 Corinthians 9:10 (NKJV)** *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, **supply and multiply the seed you have sown** and increase the fruits of your righteousness,*

- Ap. Paul encouraged the Corinthian church to prepare an offering, to be sent to the saints in Jerusalem who struggled economically
- Then he said: In the same way as God supplies seed to the farmer & bread for food, He will supply you with the ability to sow a financial seed, and then multiply it back into your lives
- To encourage them to be generous, he said:

**2 Corinthians 9:6–7 (NKJV)** *But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.** 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

- The summary of Paul words:
  - A small offering will result in a small harvest
  - A large offering will result in a large harvest

#### **5. Develop a generous Heart**

**Proverbs 11:24–25 (NKJV)** *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. 25 **The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.***

- Same language – using farming terms, in relation to giving finances
- Scattering – giving financial offerings
- The generous soul will be made rich
- One who waters (others) will himself be watered
- We should never underestimate God’s willingness to multiply our offerings, and to prosper us financially

**Luke 6:38 (NKJV) 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.”**

- Again, the principle of receiving an increased return for our giving
- Notice: ... with the same measure ...
- It is in our own interest to increase the size of our measure in our giving
- A bigger measure in our giving of offerings will result in a bigger harvest

## **6. Cornelius’ Memorial Offering**

**Acts 10:1–4 (NIV) At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. 3 One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” 4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.**

- Cornelius, God has heard your prayers & noticed your generous gifts
- Vs. 4. Your prayers & gifts have come up as a memorial offering before God
- Memorial - a “stone of remembrance”, that which keeps alive the memory of someone or something
- God sees our generous offerings as memorials
- Interesting, Cornelius and his household were the first Gentile (non-Jewish) person to hear the gospel and receive eternal salvation