

## 2017! Part 5: For Bursts of Blessings!

Our word for 2017 is: "Intentionality!"

***Intentionality: beyond an intention; wanting and wishing... taking deliberate actions to obtain our objective! Intentionality: taking deliberate actions to take hold of our lives in God!***

**Moving with intentionality... Taking hold of our homes!** Making it the "sanctuary" from where all "dominion" in life flows from! **Gen 1.26,28** *E+S = EEW!* **Jam 3.16 Taking hold of our jobs!** Employee/employer "we work as unto the Lord!" **Eph 6.5-9** With the promise of blessing; promotion and prosperity, from God! **Col 3.24 Taking hold of our church!** Do good to all men, but especially those who are of the household of faith! **Gal 6.9,10 1Th 5.15**

**Taking hold of the key that opens the door for us to everything else!** "If you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? **Lk 16.11** Unrighteous mammon is described as that which is least... **v10** And contrasted with *true riches!* **v11** "unsearchable riches of Christ" **Eph 3.8** **"The way we use our worldly goods is an indispensable condition of all spiritual advancement!"** –*Ellicott* "Unjust in little, unjust in much!" **v10**

"And if you have not been faithful in *what belongs to another man*, who will give you *what is your own?* **V12 (Mt25.14ff Lk19.12)** All our earthly possessions are clearly marked as belonging to someone else! We are nothing more than stewards now! "God gives the power/wealth!" **D8.17-19** "This is a test!" Aptitude/placement! ***It should be clear that how we do here w/money/possessions results in what we are given as our own, there!***

"You can't serve two masters, for either you will love and hold to the one or hate and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon!" **v13** Mammon as a master will control *everything* you do, think, say... **And God will never be much more than your servant!** If God is your Master, money will be your servant... And you will do what is righteous and good with it!

**Text Notes...** POV: the "unjust ruler..." *was the one who padded his way thru life with what "belonged to another!"* **Lk16.1ff** Commended for being wise! *For using what, at the end, was "another's" to pave the way for his future!* **v8** Jesus commentary: **"Make sure you** make friends for yourself with the mammon of unrighteousness here so that when you die there will be people there to receive you into eternity! **v9**

**Moving with intentionality... In our finances and resources... To provide a healthy, prosperous, generous, environment for our families! To rightly position ourselves to prosper and be promoted on the job! To push our church out into the community we are called to serve! To set and maintain our personal stand of faith in choosing our Masters...** And to stand by God's word on all points, even if we can't stand on it ourselves...

None of us will stand perfectly, but we have no power/right to change God's word to fit/relieve poor performance! It's foolish to say, "It's my money and I will do what I want with it!" **D8.17 Lk12.15-21** No one can rightly say, "The way I handle my money has no bearing on my spirituality!" **Lk 16.11 Mk 10.22 1Tim6.10** It's pride to say, "I don't have to do this God's way to be blessed!" **Mal 2.17, 3.7,13**

**Proverbs 3.9,10** "Honor (that's intentionality) the Lord with your substance and with the first-fruits of all your increase; so that your barns will be filled with plenty and your presses will burst out with new

wine!" Once again: "*Honor (that's intentionality) the Lord with your substance and with the first-fruits of all your increase; so that you will have plenty and your labors will prosper and be ready to overflow!*"

**Prelude to the Promise!** "*Forget not* God's rule, *keep* His commands in your heart... *Let not* mercy and truth forsake you... *Trust in* the Lord and *lean not* on your own understanding... in all your ways *acknowledge Him*, and He will direct your walk... *Be not* wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and *depart from* evil, it is health and vitality... Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase... and do not despise His chastening... because whom the Lord loves, He chastens!" **Pr 3.1-12**

**Honor the Lord with your substance... and first fruits... for overflow...** Intentionally show your devotion by, and worship with, the use of your substance... OT occasions of free-will gifts toward the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness, the temple, and in the giving of tithes and offerings! Commends use of wealth for pious and charitable purposes! (alms, relief, etc.) And with the first fruits of all your increase... THE BEST of your incoming!

**Asides... Cain and Abel! Gen 4.1-8** "And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground and offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat. And the Lord had respect to Abel and his offering but not for Cain and his offering; and Cain was angry and his countenance fell. The Lord asked, 'Why are you so angry?' If you do well you will have excellency, and if not, sin is waiting at the door... and it came to pass that Cain rose up and killed Abel."

First human murder in the Bible was over giving an offering God's way! "Murdering" pastors ever since! The problem with the first offering was what is still the problem today... Man wanting to be in control of what they believe to be their own... Not wanting to give God's way... FAITH! It is an act of faith to give the FIRST... No faith to *try and give from the leftovers!*

**Proverbs 3.9,10** "*Honor* the Lord with your substance and with the first-fruits of all your increase; so that you will have plenty and your labors will prosper and be ready to overflow!" Solomon, The Teacher, richest man on earth, communicating success secrets... Use your resources for worship! Use them to do good to man-kind! Resist self-ish control! Give God what He wants! Heart! Give away and increase your wealth!

**Proverbs 11.24,25** There is one that scatters and yet increases; and another that withholds what is right, but leads to poverty. The liberal soul will be made fat: and he that waters will be watered also himself. **(Ps112.9 2Cor 9.6-11)** This is the reality of the kingdom of God! We give away and we end up receiving more! We seek "first" and He adds to us! The promise is blessing on your storehouse and the success of your labors!

**Intentionality...** A prayer to open the way for you to be blessed... Your response to give God the glory of the great things He is doing... Each week we will celebrate the "increase," "bursts" and "overflows!"

Fill out a card, or call the office by Thursday, to give us "What the Lord did!" And "It was this much of a burst!" Ex: "I got a promotion, with a \$20,000 bump!" "I received a gift out of the blue. \$5,000" "Someone gave me a car! \$10k" "I was supposed to pay \$6k/got it for 2"