

Life in Pieces! Part 2: Bursts of Blessings!

I took one of the kids to the dentist to check a tooth that had been worked on. They ended up having to pull the tooth and they refunded the almost \$300 that we had paid for the previous service and we weren't out any money for the extraction. On top of that, we received a \$60 refund check in the mail yesterday from another doctor's office. Release: \$360 Received gift card from a guy at work for helping him w/certifications! \$400 Went to get inspection sticker. Owner said, "It's on me!" = \$25 Got a \$100 dining room set for \$80. Release of \$20! Insurance had gone up to \$4080 yr. because of an accident, lowered it to \$800. Release of \$3,280. Tuesday, called in, same job, same work, \$6 hr. increase, \$1114 mo./\$13,728 yr.! I was impressed to *not only tithe but to give beyond*. While I was getting bills set out the Lord told me to increase our tithe this pay period. I was taken back by the amount knowing we had \$2000 in unexpected expenses. I know God is beyond faithful *so I wrote the check out before I even opened the computer to pay bills*. When all was done, I was able to pay our bills with money left over. And when I checked the mail today there were 3 unexpected checks in the mail totaling = \$1,580.00. (*making us able to help two other families!*)

"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 you will burst with blessings to overflow!" **Prov 3.9,10**

"Prove Me with your giving, says the Lord, and see if I won't open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that you can't contain!" **Mal 3.10**

We are taking intentional actions to encourage richness of works on the foundation of your life... We are sharing the stories with the intention to make proof of God... And we are not doing it FOR the blessings sake... but for the blessed-life God has for every believer! The point is to move us to faithfulness in *what is least* to have what is *"more!"*

Luke 16.11 "If therefore you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" KJV "If therefore in the unrighteous mammon faithful not you were, the true who to you will entrust?" Gk True: alethinon: alethinos: alethes: sterling, real, unfeigned, trustworthy... "If you cannot properly deal with money, who will commit to your trust the real stuff of life?"

1Timothy 6.17-19 "Charge them that live in abundance... that they're never to trust in uncertain wealth but in the living God (**Lk 16.13**) who gives them all things to richly enjoy... to confer benefits, to be rich in good works, good at imparting, liberal to share, treasuring up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come (**1Cor3.12**), laying hold of eternal life!

That Good Foundation... "According to the grace given by God, as wise master-builders we lay the foundation and others build... and whatever any man builds on this foundation; gold, silver, precious stones, wood hay or stubble, it will be tried by fire in the day, and if any of it survives the fire, there will be a reward!" **1Cor 3.10-14** Gold, silver, precious stones can take the blast... and we will receive a reward! **v14** Wood, hay, stubble turn to ash... and we suffer loss, though still saved! **v15**

Now... Told you that I would be gone eight Sundays over the next twelve weeks... *1/2 reason for sharing because its never happened before...* wanted you to know... Not wearing out, down, prepping for, taking, or wanting a new job! Teaching the concepts that have been successful here to our District! *Out spreading our influence/our portfolio!* By announcing that, I was not suggesting that this place runs on my presence...

Asides... We have built our foundation for Holy Spirit leadership of Spirit-filled people for a long time to come! *It's why we are grateful, rather than prideful, regarding our*

church! We didn't do, can't take the credit... But we can all rejoice that we have been privileged to be part of it! Anyone of us, all of us, can be gone, and this church will continue functioning and serving our community!

The other ½ of the reason I announced I would be gone is so that nothing would harm the momentum we have... And I wanted to caution you about the same thing... In the moment and midst of changes, be alert and careful not to cause any harm! Getting ready to enter into a new time, a new space, and a new "place!" And as wonderful as that is... not everyone will want to go! Change of any kind, even the best kind, can be hard for some people! *"People are all for change as long as it doesn't affect them!"* And I want to say, "Go lovingly, with our love and gratitude!" No need to pick a fight over anything! Don't mar what you have been part of with wood, hay, stubble...!

So... Intentionality! Getting ourselves ready for a new day! "The Church is a service organization and can only work if there are servants!" The enlarged scope of ministry ahead requires many more engaged to serve! As members of an army-based-hospital model... Enlisted v. civilian mindset... Doctors and nurses v. patients... Convalesced v. casualty realities... **Have to be on our feet to render aid!**

Intentionality! One of the most important things for you to concentrate on is core-strength! **Eat up the Word of God!** "Nourish up in the words of faith and good doctrine, for godliness is profitable for all things!" **1Tim4.6-8** "The words I speak to you are spirit and life!" **John 6.63** **Exercise the faith that rises from it!** "Faith comes by hearing the word of God!" **Rom 10.17** "Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, thereby deceiving yourselves!" **Jam 1.22 Rom 2.13 Heb 4.2**

Proverbs 4.20-23 "My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; *keep them in the midst of your heart (lebab: the organ, emotional life)*. For they are life to those that find them and health to all their flesh. *Keep your heart (leb: the center of anything) above all keeping; for out of it are the issues (totsaah: exits, boundaries, deliverance, source) of life!*

Intentionality! No place more important for you to apply your strength than... "home!" Single, married, divorced, or widowed! There is nourishment, energy and power from the Word of God to establish "core strength!" There is the establishment of exits (when in trouble), of boundaries (not to cross), of deliverance (when we have gone too far), and source (the affections for what is above overarching what is base)... **Increased ministry we are facing requires increased foundations...**

Home is the foundation and fountain of all ministry, dominion, and service! Familial ties are important to God! He is the Father, Jesus is His Son! He is the "first-born" of many sons and daughters! We are all brothers and sisters! Jesus is the groom and the Church is His bride! And we are His habitation, His dwelling, His home where He dines with us!

Marital ties are important to God! In the beginning God pronounced every thing good until "Not good/man alone..." Crafted woman... Created marriage... "The two became one flesh, a great mystery, illustrative of Jesus and His Church!" **Eph 5.31,32** The *supernatural* melding of man and woman... for dominion, rule, service!

Marriage Asides... There are many Christians today who have fallen into a trap, hard to get out! Co-habiting under common law... Agree with you; common v. supernatural... Federally lawful, *spiritually*, not so much... Missing out on the spiritual dynamics of being united, two as one, by God! If there is a goal of truly having "the best of both worlds" it will be found in God, not Gov't loopholes or concessions! **Psalm 103.2** "A man with a wife with a problem is a man with a problem!" "If you know this, happy are you if you do it!" **John 13.17** "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loves His church and gave Himself for it... that He might present it to Himself, glorious... he that loves his wife (like that) loves himself and he that doesn't hates himself!" **Eph5.25**

Moral ties are important to God! Guard your mind... w/onslaught of porn... keep it from adulterous activity! TV, social media, marketplace filling up with offers of “fantasy sex!” Know the spiritual truths... but... Establish a “running narrative” for yourself! **Pr 1.10,15,16 22.3 27.12** Single, married, divorced, widowed... Protect/strengthen your bond with God!
We are in a time of expanding ministry requiring the servants of it to be up and on their feet... And nothing says “standing tall” like standing with God and bursting with blessings!