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## July 2020 “THE PATH TO BLESSINGS”

Dear Friends,

In all my years growing up in church and living as a Christian, I have consistently heard people talk about being blessed, wanting blessings, seeking blessings and so on. Many preachers have taught about God’s blessings and how to receive them. In many cases we are told that in order to receive abundant blessings from God, it is necessary to tithe and give offerings. Some preachers have even said that if we have a need in our lives, we must sow a seed offering and name that seed for the blessing we seek. I admit that in years past, I followed those formulas exactly as I heard taught.

But what if I told you there is a way to get blessed without having to give money in an offering? In fact, what if I told you there are numerous ways to receive blessings that do not involve tithes, offerings or seed-sowing? Please don’t misunderstand and think I am implying it’s perfectly okay with God to stop giving offerings; nothing could be further from the truth. What I’m saying is, what if I could show you from the Bible how to receive overflowing blessings from God that do not first require you to put money in an offering plate?

Now, before we go any further, I need to ask you some questions:

- 1) Do you believe God’s Word?
- 2) Are you sure you believe God’s Word?
- 3) Do you believe God’s Word more than you believe the sermons of man?

That last question is critical. If you are not willing to allow God’s Word, the Holy Bible, to be the sure foundation for all you believe, then you may not want to continue reading this letter. But if you are willing to possibly be challenged in what you believe about getting blessed, then please keep reading. Take a hard look at what the following passages of scripture reveal about being blessed of God to overflowing.

***<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psalm 1:1-3)***

***Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. (Psalm 2:12)***

***<sup>1</sup>The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! <sup>2</sup>Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah. <sup>3</sup>For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head. <sup>4</sup>He asked life of thee, and thou***

*gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever. <sup>5</sup>His glory is great in thy salvation: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him. <sup>6</sup>For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance. (Psalm 21:1-6)*

*<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup>He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. <sup>5</sup>He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Psalm 24:3-5)*

*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. (Psalm 34:8)*

*Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. (Psalm 40:4)*

*Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. (Psalm 65:4)*

*<sup>1</sup>Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son. <sup>17</sup>His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.*

*(Psalm 72:1, 17)*

*<sup>4</sup>Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. <sup>5</sup>Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. <sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.*

*(Psalm 85:4-5, 12)*

*Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times. (Psalm 106:3)*

*<sup>1</sup>Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. <sup>2</sup>His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. <sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. (Psalm 112:1-3)*

*<sup>13</sup>He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great. <sup>14</sup>The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children. <sup>15</sup>Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth. (Psalm 115:13-15)*

*Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. (Psalm 119:2)*

***<sup>1</sup>Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. <sup>2</sup>For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. <sup>3</sup>Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. <sup>4</sup>Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. (Psalm 128:1-4)***

***<sup>1</sup>Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! <sup>2</sup>It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; <sup>3</sup>As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. (Psalm 133:1-3)***

***<sup>32</sup>Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. <sup>33</sup>Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. <sup>34</sup>Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. (Proverbs 8:32-34)***

In all the sermons I've heard by various prosperity preachers, I do not **EVER** remember any of them telling me anything about the verses above. Repeatedly I heard that I had to tithe, give offerings, sow a seed, etc, if I wanted to experience any kind of blessing or increase. In fact, they pretty much taught that I **COULDN'T** be blessed or see increase if I didn't give the way they taught. However, God has made it irrefutably clear in His Word that there are ways to receive blessings in every area of life that do not include the prerequisite of giving money.

Consider the following verse:

***A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. (Proverbs 28:20)***

Over and over I heard things like, "The tithes open the windows of Heaven and your offerings determine how much comes out"... "You must be specific in what you want, so name your seed."..."How much do you want? Then start tithing in faith on that amount."..."If you want God to bless you, you have to give Him something to work with, so give the biggest offering you can."..."There is a special 'multi-fold' anointing here right now. If you want to tap into that anointing, you must right now sow (\$100, \$500, \$1,000, whatever the preacher says)."

There are major problems with such teachings. For one thing, none of it is scriptural. For another, none of it is leading me to develop a faithful relationship with God as described in the many verses I've listed. In fact, such teaching is essentially a get-rich-quick scheme: just give your money, then sit back and watch the abundance come flooding in; there is absolutely no responsibility on the part of the individual to draw closer to God.

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus instructed us to seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto our lives. Giving money in an offering cannot ever in any

way be a manner by which I seek God. I seek God through prayer, worship and meditating in His Word. I cannot buy my way into His presence or purchase spiritual fellowship with Him by giving money in offerings.

Once during a particular conference, the preacher referenced Acts 16:31, “*And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*” He went on to tell those attending that if they wanted to see their family members saved, they must give an Acts 16:31 offering of \$16,310, but if they didn’t have that much right then, they could give \$1,610, and if that wasn’t possible, they could give \$163.10. I think he even suggested God would honor an offering of \$16.10. What a stench in the nostrils of God! To even hint that money could motivate God to save people is outrageous! Ministers who pander that kind of filth should never be invited to preach anywhere.

Again, I want to emphasize that Christians absolutely have a responsibility to give; this is unmistakably clear in scripture. However, our blessings – whatever they may be – are not tied to how much we put in offering plates or send to ministers.

Consider what Jesus taught in Mark chapter four. He said that the sower sows the Word. Then He said that those who are good ground (or, a good and faithful heart) would hear the Word, receive it, and be blessed with thirtyfold, sixtyfold or a hundredfold fruit (that which the Word produces). What if you were to meditate on the verses I’ve listed on pages one, two, and three in this letter, sowing them into your heart at least 50 times each; do you think it’s possible you might start living by those promises as opposed to living by the hollow, fruitless promises of the “give to get” preachers? Do you think it’s possible that you might start seeing an increase in blessings of all kinds? Since God cannot lie, the answer is a resounding YES!

There is so much in scripture concerning God’s blessings for Christians. In fact, Romans 8:32 says,

***He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?***

Though it is not wrong to give tithes and offerings, God does not esteem them to be of greater value than the completed work of His Son, nor does He demand we give them before He will bless us. I have a sermon titled *Receiving God’s Blessings* that will help you understand even more deeply how God appropriates His blessings into our lives. You can request a copy on CD by using the form on the next page.

In John 8:32, Jesus said knowing the truth will make us free. That principle applies to being blessed by God. There is no reason for any Christian to live in the bondage of false doctrine concerning provision, increase, healing, employment, peace, or anything else where of we may have a need. After all, my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). Christians are children of the God of abundance who abundantly loves us and makes all grace abound unto us (2 Corinthians 9:8). He is a good, good Father!

In His Grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

P.S. - Last month I shared about the critical need for Christians to acclimate themselves to technology and take advantage of all it offers. We are living in a day and time when "I don't know how," is no longer a valid excuse. Learning to use a computer is easier than ever, and laptop computers can be purchased for less than \$250. Plus, using newer technology enables us to have more teaching available than ever before.

Our ministry is offering a 64 GB thumb drive that is loaded with the audio of all my sermons from 1999 through 2019, plus all my teaching series, plus all the conferences held at our church, plus all the services in which I've ministered in other nations. That is the equivalent of more than 2,000 cassette tapes or CD's! Just imagine how much shelf space all those tapes or CD's would require; but you can have it all on one, small thumb drive. Also, since we are not charging for the thumb drive, why wouldn't a person want to take advantage of such an incredible offer?

That being said, we are no longer offering cassette tapes of sermons, and CD's are only made by special request, such as the sermon CD offers presented in these letters. As technology advances, so will the way our ministry functions so we can more effectively accomplish the spread of the Gospel. (NOTE: Some of our Grace Ministries Bible College students who are inmates are only permitted to receive course teachings on cassettes; therefore, we will continue to make tapes for them due to those prison restrictions.)

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Please send me a CD of the sermon, *Receiving God's Blessings*.

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My love gift for this month is: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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