

# The Most Abundant Life™

## The Blessings of Generosity

Genesis 8:22 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> "As long as the earth endures, **seedtime and harvest**, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

### I. The Power of Giving

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

<sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. **For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**"

#### A. Is Giving Arbitrary?

Genesis 4:2-7 (NIV)

Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Exodus 12:3-6 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. . . . <sup>5</sup> **The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect**, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

Leviticus 22:17-20 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>18</sup> "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites and say to them: 'If any of you--either an Israelite or an alien living in Israel--presents a gift for a burnt offering to the LORD, either to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, <sup>19</sup> **you must present a male without defect** from the cattle, sheep or goats in order that it may be accepted on your behalf. <sup>20</sup> Do not bring anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf.'

#### B. Jesus, an offering on our behalf

Hebrews 9:14 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit **offered Himself without blemish** to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Romans 8:31-32 (NASB)

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, **but delivered Him over for us all**, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

#### C. Giving as Worship

Malachi 3:8-11 (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!*" <sup>10</sup> "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the

windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. <sup>11</sup> "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes*," says the LORD of hosts.

1. tithes & offerings
2. blessings & curses

### III. Counsel RE: Money Matters

#### A. Warnings

##### 1. Greed

Luke 12:15 (NASB)

<sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

##### 2. Laziness

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

##### 3. Deceitfulness of wealth

Matthew 13:22 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

1 Timothy 6:9 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

#### B. Encouraged

##### 1. Generous

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

##### 2. Accumulate wealth

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.<sup>19</sup> In this way they **will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age**, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Luke 16:9-10 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> "And I say to you, **make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness**, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings. . . . <sup>11</sup> "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you?"

##### 3. Seek God & receive

Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and **all these things will be given to you as well.**