

GOD'S BEEN GOOD TO US - *BE GRACIOUS*

Luke 6:37-38

- ***In what ways has the Lord blessed me in my life?***
- **God wants to bless His people physically, emotionally, relationally, vocationally, spiritually and financially.**
- *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29:11)
- **Many Christians are their own greatest hindrances to receiving God's blessings.**
- ***What steps can we take to receive more of God's blessings and become a greater blessing to God and to others?***

To Experience More Of God's Blessings We Need To:

TREAT OTHERS IN <u>GODLY</u> WAYS

- Jesus - *"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven."* (Luke 6:37)
- **Many Christians are prone to judge and condemn others, and hold grudges against other people, in spite of what Jesus said about doing that.**
- **Living godly requires demonstrating *Kindness* to others.**
    - **We are unkind when we are judgmental or condemning towards others.**
    - *"Clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."* (Colossians 3:12)
    - **We should be kind, gentle, patient and merciful to others because: 1) God has been kind to us (Titus 3:4-5), 2) we want others to be kind to us (Proverbs 21:21), 3) we want to become a better person (Proverbs 11:17).**

- **Living godly requires extending *Forgiveness* to others.**
    - **Bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness block God's blessings from our lives.**
    - Jesus – *"If you won't forgive others, your Father in heaven won't forgive you."* (Mark 11:25)
    - **When we don't experience God's forgiveness we won't experience God's blessings in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"You will be treated as you treat others. . . . Why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? . . . Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye . . ."* (Matthew 7:2-5)

To Experience More Of God's Blessings We Need To:

GIVE TO HELP OTHERS IN <u>GENEROUS</u> WAYS

- Jesus - *"Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full . . . <u>The amount you give will determine the amount you get back</u>."* (Luke 6:38)
- **All Christians should give generously of our time, talents, tithes and offerings to support the work of the Lord.**
- **To give generously we have to strategically *Plan out our Finances*.**
    - *"Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty."* (Proverbs 21:5)
    - **Planning with our finances includes: 1) living by a budget, 2) having an emergency fund, and 3) systematically paying off debt.**
    - **Living within our income involves putting off buying things until we can afford them.**
    - *"Fools spend whatever they get."* (Proverbs 21:20)
    - **Financial freedom is not determined by how much we make, but how much we spend.**
- **To give generously we have to willingly *Share our Resources.***
    - *"<u>Tell them to use their money to do good</u>. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them."* (1 Timothy 6:18)
    - **We are "doing good with our money" when we are: 1) Tithing To Our Church, and 2) Supporting other Missionaries/Ministries.**
    - *"The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put GOD first in your lives."* (Deuteronomy 14:23).
    - **People who are generous givers tend to be far happier and blessed than those who are self-focused and miserly.**
    - *"Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!"* (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

- **To give generously we have to faithfully *Trust in God's Provision*.**
    - Jesus - *"Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full . . . The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."* (Luke 6:38)
    - **Receiving from "giving" is a life principle.**
    - *"A farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop."* (2 Corinthians 9:6)
    - **What we give emotionally, physically, relationally, spiritually and financially will come back to us in many different ways.**
    - *"'God loves a person who gives cheerfully.' And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."* (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
    - **Many people would "get out of a hole" financially if they would become a generous giver.**

- **Experiencing God's best requires Compassion towards others.**
    - Jesus - *"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven."* (Luke 6:37)
    - **Real compassion for others will drive us to become encouragers to others and generous givers to others.**
- **Experiencing God's best requires Confidence in Him.**
    - *"Tell those who are rich . . . not to be proud and not to trust in their money . . . But their trust should be in the living God."* (1 Timothy 6:17)
    - *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. . . . Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first part of everything your land produces. Then He will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine."* (Proverbs 3:5-10)
- ***What steps do I need to take to receive more of God's blessings in my life?***