

The Heavenly Father

Romans 8:15 NKJV

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Job 22:21 NKJV

"Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Thereby good will come to you."

- I. Review of the Father's interests.
 - A. No matter what you are going through, it should not keep us from promoting or advancing the interests of our Heavenly Father.
 - B. If you are born again, and even Spirit-filled, you are not automatically interested in the Father's interests.
 - C. You can be in the ministry and not promoting the Father's interests.
 - D. It is our responsibility to discover the Father's interests and get proactive.
 - E. The majority of the Church will never come to discover the Father's interests until someone like you tells them.
 - F. You can be a leader and be interested in the Father's interests and have people working for you who are not.
 - G. The only people who will have kingdom success are those who determine the Father's interests and promote them.
- II. Acquainting _____ with the Father will produce good in our lives.
 - A. How can we have _____ in someone we have not known?
 1. The _____ is still going about _____ the reputation of the Father.
 - i. It started in the Garden of Eden with the devil turning His _____ into _____.
 - ii. Does the world generally view God as _____, _____ and _____?

2. Typically we hear more teaching and preaching regarding the _____ of the kingdom than we do about the Creator and King of the kingdom.
3. Just because you have heard certain ministers, pastor and teachers explain Bible principles of the Father does not make you _____ with who He is.
4. We must go to the _____ in order to determine who He is and what He will do.

B. _____ of your Heavenly Father will change four areas of our lives:

1. It will change the way we _____ Him.
2. Knowledge of your Heavenly Father will stabilize your responses to _____.
3. Knowledge of your Heavenly Father will stabilize your responses to _____.
4. Knowledge of your Heavenly Father will stabilize your responses to _____.

III. Four things you should _____ about your Heavenly Father.

A. _____ He is

1. How? Not by going to the _____ first.
2. Look at the _____ He goes by.

B. What He will _____ - His _____.

1. What He does for one, He will do for another - under the same _____.
2. He is no _____ of persons.

C. His _____.

1. Enormous _____ is gained when you understand how faithful He has made Himself.
2. His _____ is impeccable.

3. He will never _____ to something He has no intention of _____.

D. His _____.

1. The _____ (_____)

2. _____ of the Holy Spirit (_____)

3. Spiritual _____ (_____)

a. As we develop spiritually, we will determine spiritual, financial increase _____ with Him. (3 John 2)

b. The majority of the time we will be _____ that which has been _____ in us.

**** Does our _____ reflect our interests or His?

SECOND HOUR

Stewardship Not Ownership

Psalms 35:27 NKJV

***Let them shout for joy and be glad,
Who favor my righteous cause;
And let them say continually,
“Let the Lord be magnified,
Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.”***

I. It takes more than _____ to prosper. It also requires _____.

A. We have discussed God's _____.

B. How you manage the _____ you have today will determine to a great extent how _____ God can prosper you tomorrow.

Luke 16:10-13 NIV

10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? 13 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

- C. Some Christians have interpreted these scriptures to mean you shouldn’t have _____.
1. What they are really saying is that it is _____ to be poor.
 2. Our text declares He takes pleasure in the _____ of His servant.
 3. Actually, according to Deuteronomy 8:18, it is God who gives us the _____ to get wealth.
- II. God considers it your _____ to prosper.
- A. He expects you to _____ your resources to increase His kingdom on the earth.
 - B. God has _____ that from man ever since the beginning.
 - C. In the first few chapters of Genesis, Adam’s primary responsibility, in addition to fellowshiping with God, was to exercise _____ over God’s _____.

Genesis 2:15-17 NKJV

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

- D. God tells _____ to do three things:
1. _____ the garden - to work in it and keep it _____.
 2. _____ the garden - _____ it from being damaged.
 3. _____ from eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 - a) God instructs Adam to _____ himself from a portion of the garden’s _____.
 - b) Why do you think God would give such a _____?

- c) God wanted Adam to acknowledge that He was the _____ of everything that had been put under his care.
- d) He wanted Adam to realize that he was simply the _____ of God's _____.
- e) We call this _____.

- III. The same thing is true for us today. We are _____ not _____.
- A. _____ this phrase, "I don't have a thing God did not give me."
 - B. If we are to be successful money _____, we must remember that God is the true owner of all we have.

Psalms 50:12b NKJV

For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.

- C. It's our responsibility to recognize God is the _____ of the whole world and he has made us stewards of His _____.
- D. How do we _____ His ownership?
 - 1. By _____ ourselves from the first 10% of our income and giving it back to God.
 - 2. You may be thinking you can _____ this part and go on to other _____ to money management.
 - 3. If that is you, you may as well _____ about financial success God's way.
 - 4. _____ is only available to the _____.
 - a) This is His _____ requirement.
 - b) You cannot go beyond this until you meet the _____.
 - c) What you are actually saying is that you are not _____ to God for the resources He has _____ you with.
 - d) In fact, you will eventually _____ what you have now if you don't tithe because the devil will devour it.
- E. Remember what happened to _____?
 - 1. He had _____ over the garden as long as he withheld himself from what was _____.
 - 2. But then he followed Satan's _____.
 - 3. Once he ate from what was _____:
 - a) He forfeited his _____ to Satan.
 - b) He lost his right to _____.
 - c) He was _____ from the garden.

- d) He lived under a _____ rather than enjoying the blessing of God.
- F. If the enemy of your soul can talk you out of tithing, he can strip you of your rightful _____ over God's _____.
1. If you heed his counsel, you give him entry into your _____ that will allow him to steal from you and keep you in financial _____.
 2. You may be arguing, "but that was _____! Jesus has redeemed us."
 3. Jesus redeemed us from the _____ but He did not relieve us of our _____ over God's resources - including withholding the tithe.
 4. Tithing _____ you as a steward.

THIRD HOUR

Stewardship Not Ownership

Mark 4:3-8 NKJV

3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

- I. It takes more than faith to prosper. It also requires faithfulness.
- II. God considers it your responsibility to prosper.
- III. God has made us stewards not owners.
- IV. Once you have determined to meet the basic requirement of tithing, you are ready for the next key - making a _____.
- A. This parable outlines why a _____ is so important.

1. Notice that because the sower scattered his seed at _____, instead of following a predetermined plan, some of it was _____.
 2. Many believers make that same mistake with their _____.
 - a) Instead of planning in advance, they spend _____.
 - b) As a result, much of their seed is _____ and they don't enjoy the _____ God intended.
- B. Habakkuk 2:2 gives instruction to _____ the plan down.
1. What does that mean to write down your financial _____?
 2. It simply means to design a _____ that will help take you from where you are now to where you want to go.
 - a) Put it down in _____ and _____.
 - b) Make it simple enough to reference at a _____.
 3. _____ may be a dirty word where you come from but it is an absolute _____ if you want to prosper.
 4. Do you think God plans to put great amounts of wealth into your hands if you have _____ in your _____ (_____)?
 5. Luke 16 lets us in on the fact he isn't going to dramatically increase our income if we can't keep _____ of the money you have now.
 6. Put aside your _____ of budgeting, sit down and pray, figure and _____ one out.
 7. Then, once you have established it, _____ to it. Carefully watch what you spend.
- V. Guidelines concerning _____.
- A. Look again at the parable from Mark 4 and we discover another Biblical key to money management - steer clear of _____.
- B. Financially speaking, borrowing money puts you on _____.
1. Like the seed that sprang up quickly but withered, buying things on credit gives you the _____ of instant prosperity.
 2. But since it has no _____, when times get hard and the heat gets turned up, that kind of prosperity will _____.
- C. Should we never borrow? No, but I am saying you should never be in _____.
- D. The difference between borrowing and _____ is significant:
1. Borrowing is entering into a _____ to pay someone a certain amount of money within a specific period of time.
 2. _____ occurs when you fail to keep your agreement.

3. It is that type of debt the Apostle Paul was referring to when he said, "Let no _____ remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another." Romans 13:8 NIV
- E. How can we keep from _____ to such debt? By avoiding the kind of _____ God says is wrong.

Proverbs 22:26 NKJV

***Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge,
One of those who is surety for debts.***

1. Scripture makes it plain that we should not _____ for others.
 2. It also says that we should not _____ any loan.
 - a) If you borrow to purchase an asset, the asset itself should have enough _____ to support the loan without your personal endorsement.
 - b) Borrow only against assets that will hold their _____ through the entire _____ of the loan.
- F. It's very sad to see so many Christians _____ the Bible's warnings and plunge themselves into financial _____ through unscriptural borrowing.
1. Most do it with _____ - the greatest modern day source of surety.
 2. With just a tap, insert and signature, they buy thousands of dollars worth of rapidly _____ items which have no collateral value.
 3. With _____ and _____, such credit card debts can take years to pay off.
 4. It is during those years of paying that debt off, the Christian borrower becomes the _____ of the non-Christian lender.
 5. Then, the borrower finds they cannot be God's faithful _____ because they owe more than they can pay.