

WISDOM

WORK!

WEALTH

FIND GOD'S PURPOSE FOR
YOUR PROSPERITY
THROUGH SIDE GIGS,
STARTUPS, AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



A COLLABORATION WITH
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Principle of God's Marketplace: Double Blessings

Gen 12:2-3 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse.

Truth said again: God does not bless what His Word forbids.

The first use of the word “bless” is Gen 12:2-3. The Hebrew word (Strong's H1288) for bless is BARAK and means: “to bless, as God, men, and other created things, and very often used of the result of the divine favor, to cause to prosper.” To bless is to be constructive and encourage prosperity, to build up others in a progression of and growth.

Let's count and number each phrase and bold God's **BLESSING** and how others are to **bless** to see how each sentence can be helpful to us.

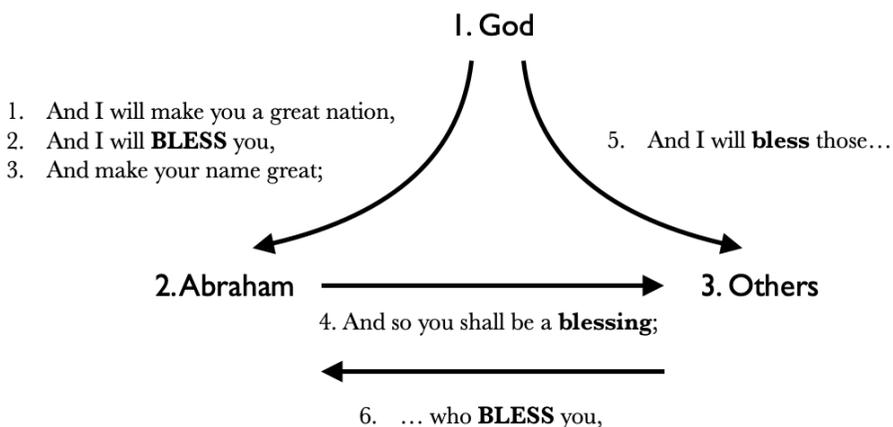
1. And I will make you a great nation,
2. And *I will* **BLESS** you,
3. And make your name great;
4. And so *you shall* be a **blessing**;
5. And *I will* **BLESS** those *who* **bless** you,
6. And the one who curses you I will curse

In phrase #2, God BLESSES (talents, resources, time, etc.) Abraham first. In #4, Abraham finds his purpose, “you shall be a blessing” to Others out from his blessings from God. The next phrases #5 and #6 are together, but this is crucial. *Listen to this list of phrases! Watch for it!*

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The blessings are *said* in this sequence, #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, but blessings are *shared* in a different order: #1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 5. God BLESSES Abraham (#2), Abraham blesses Others (#4), *Others return a blessing to Abraham* (#6), *then and only then will God BLESS Others* (#5).

Draw out each numbered phrase into a picture or graphic (see below) and you'll find a sort of a "back and forth" perspective between God, Abraham, and Others. Follow along, so you don't miss this incredible principle.



The key phrase is when He says, *“And I will bless those who bless you.”*

Let's put each person's name in there, *“And I [God] will bless those [Others] who bless you [Abraham].”*

God *starts* and shows blessings are about relationships, it takes *two people* taking *two actions* to receive their *two blessings* each. God *initiates and matches* what we do for and with each other, *He blesses twice* when Abraham and Others do their part. God gives one blessing to Abraham and another blessing to Others. Does this sound like God has a scarcity mindset? Nope! It's about abundance and prosperity for all of us.

If Abraham does not pass along God's blessing to bless Others, i.e., hoards his blessings, Abraham won't receive his second blessing from Others. But here's what most people miss. *Others will ONLY receive God's second BLESSING when they bless Abraham back.* If Others fail to bless Abraham, God

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won't give Others them their second blessings. Both have to do their part...or the double blessing cycle is broken. We as believers are the seed of Abraham.

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Wait, there's more.

First approach, God *directly* BLESSES Abraham and You. If you put your name in Abraham's place and receive the #2 *direct BLESSING* from God (talents, resources, etc.), you're to do something with it for Others, as your giftedness (talents and gifts) and God guides you. But Others who receive the #2 blessing from you should, sad that it does not always happen, bless you back in whatever form is appropriate. *It is when Others bless you back that God will BLESS Others a second time.* It is when Others covet (Exod 20:17) and steal (Exod 20:15) blessings from Abraham and other people that God punishes Others, i.e., fails to bless them their second time, they become cursed. In other words, *Others get two blessings (lower case "bless"), Abraham (CAPS "BLESS") gets two blessings, unless either fails to do their part in this double cycle of blessings and prosperity! Why steal, you miss out receiving God's second blessing!*

Second approach, God *indirectly* blesses Others and You. Now it gets interesting. When did you last receive an *indirect blessing* from someone whom God had BLESSED them, which is different from a *direct blessing* you receive from God? If you receive an indirect blessing from someone, then they are your "Abraham," and you are their "Other." Think about this. When you have received a blessing from someone, did you fail to bless them back in any form? No "Thank you," a kind word, or better yet, *telling others how they blessed you, paying them, or even praising God for their Godly deeds?* Did you receive an indirect blessing from your parents? Sibling? Friend? Pastor? Unbeliever? Business owner? Customer? Did they make your life better and fuller because they shared their blessings with you? Did you bless them back? Did you build them up, bless them back, as the Bible mentions for us to do?

Tough blessings question: How many of us will gladly tell others of how bad someone, especially a business, was to us compared with how someone

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blessed us? In most cases, you will more than likely tell others about your bad experience than the good done for or to you, i.e., how they blessed you.

But what does God want us to do from His Word?

Prov 3:27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do it.

Whether a *direct blessing* from God or an *indirect blessing* from others, we are to bless others! So, if you have received a blessing from someone, you're to bless them back *so you can receive your second blessing from God.*

This is NOT an effort to track every blessing "transaction" you receive, but is intended to open your eyes to both the *direct* and especially the *indirect blessings from God.* When you open your eyes to direct and indirect blessings, it becomes an *attitude of gratitude* with what blessings have come your way.

Like Abraham, what has God BLESSED YOU with first so you can bless others? Think giftedness (talents + gifts) and other resources. Like the Others, who has blessed YOU that you have failed to bless back, i.e., they've made you prosperous, and you're to share this prosperity back to, with, or for them, in whatever form fits your situation? Do you highlight, i.e., point to, the good others have done to you to others?

Sometimes we're slow to praise God for His direct blessings, but we're woefully deficient to His indirect blessings from those who have blessed us.

God BLESSES both of us. Notice God blessed Abraham first, then how God blessed Others through Abraham. *God blesses both of us, one for you and one for me.* Now put your name in Abraham's place and reflect on what blessings you have received directly from God, then ask yourself, "Who am I to bless?" Then, put your name in the Others' place and ask, "Who has blessed me so I can bless them back in return?" Why?

Like Abraham, I don't directly bless you so I can get a blessing back from you, I bless you so you have the opportunity to get your SECOND BLESSING...from God! It's an opportunity to see God's hand when He BLESSES both of us...TWICE!

Don't miss a blessing by failing to bless others, both receive and give blessings. Now replace the names of Abraham and Others with other blessings partnerships: Husband/Wife, Parents/Children, Pastor/Congregation, Employer/Employee, Business/Client, and You/Neighbor.

Double blessings concept in the New Testament

Here is the double blessings principle from a different perspective. Paul restates it in his letter to the Corinthians.

*2 Cor 9:6-8 Now this I say, he who **sows sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**, and he who **sows bountifully** will also **reap bountifully**. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And **God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; [emphasis added]***

If you don't sow first, i.e., work and take the necessary action steps to earn what you are capable of earning, you can't learn to earn and discern how to invest, share, or give (time, talents/skills, and treasure/money) to others. But if you make just enough to "get by" and not earn to your God-given maximum abilities, i.e., sow/earn/invest sparingly, i.e., stingily, you will reap sparingly.

The Greek word for "sparingly" (Strong's G5340, φειδομένως, pheidomenōs) is only used here in this verse and means, "stingy" and the root word means, "to spare, to abstain." What good is being stingy with or abstain from (i.e., like a monk) producing earthly wealth when you can't take it with you (1 Cor 15:50)? However, your created wealth, coupled with good deeds, will be rewarded in heaven (1 Cor 3:11-15). We are to sow/work with hope so that we will be able to do good deeds in the marketplace and be able to invest, share, and give to others (1 Cor 9:10-11).

The Greek word for "bountiful" (Strong's G1909, ἐπί, epi + G2129 εὐλογία, eulogia) means, "blessing, benefit; that blessings may accrue, bountifully." Blessings may accrue, i.e., increasing amounts over time? A similar topic is in Proverbs 11:24-25 and Luke 6:38. Paul's letter to the Corinthians expands on what he first wrote to the Galatians.⁷¹

Gal 6:6-7 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

⁷¹ See the chapter, *Issachar and Zebulun, Bible + business partnership*, below

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The Greek word for “abound” (Strong’s G4052, περισσεύω, perisseuō) in is aorist, active, infinitive and means, “to furnish one richly so that he has abundance; to make a thing to abound unto one, to confer a thing abundantly upon one.” God furnishes His abundant grace blessings (active) at the moment we become saved (aorist) *for an express purpose or result for each of us (infinitive)*. In other words, from the beginning, God is always ready, willing, and able to invest in us, but only if we daily decide and have the capacity and faith to put to use what He has made available and provides for His glory.

The Greek word for “sufficiency” (Strong’s G841, αὐτάρκεια, autarkeia) means, “a perfect condition of life, in which no aid or support is needed [...] hence, a sufficiency of the necessaries of life.” Expositor’s says, “in order that ye, having always all sufficiency, sc., of worldly goods and gifts (See 2 Cor 8:7) may abound unto every good work.⁷²

The Greek word for “abundance” is the same word (Strong’s G4052), but is different here, it is present, active, subjunctive. It means we are (active) to continually to sow and produce wealth (present), but the potential or probability of creating wealth is still our choice and our efforts (subjective).

The Amplified Bible says these verses this way.

*2 Cor 9:6-8 (AMP) Now [remember] this: **he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows [a]generously [that blessings may come to others] will also reap [b]generously [and be blessed].** Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one **whose heart is in his gift**]. And **God is able to make all grace [every favor and earthly blessing] come in abundance to you**, so that you may always [under all circumstances, regardless of the need] have complete sufficiency in everything [being completely self-sufficient in Him], and **have an abundance for every good work and act of charity.** [emphasis added]*

God’s “abounding” grace blessed us first at the moment we were saved *for the express purpose or result (infinitive) that we are to choose (subjunctive) continually*

⁷² See *The Expositor's Greek Testament, 2 Corinthians 9*

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(present) to be an abundance of blessings to others. God's double blessings start with Him BLESSING us first, so we are to be a blessing to others.

*[W]e have here in three clauses, three stages which we may venture to distinguish as the **fountain**, the **basin**, the **stream**. "God is able to make all grace abound toward you";—there is the fountain. "That ye always, having all-sufficiency in all things";—there is the basin that receives the gush from the fountain. "May abound in every good work";—there is the steam that comes from the basin. **The fountain pours into the basin, that the flow from the basin may feed the stream.***

*The Christian life in all its aspects and experiences is an outflow from the 'the Fountain of Life,' the giving God. Observe how emphatically the Apostle, in the context, accumulates words that express universality: "**all** grace . . . **all**-sufficiency for **all** things . . . **every** good work." But even these expressions do not satisfy Paul, and he has to repeat the word "abound," in order to give some faint idea of his conception of the full tide which gushes from the fountain. **It is "all grace," and it is abounding grace.***

*But this grace is not only many-sided, but abounding. It is not congruous with God's wealth, nor with His love, that He should give scantily, or, as it were, should open but a finger of the hand that is full of His gifts, and let out a little at a time. There are no sluices on that great stream so as to regulate its flow, and to give sometimes a painful trickle and sometimes a full gush, but **this fountain is always pouring itself out, and it "abounds."***

*God means that the basin should be always full right up to the top of the marble edge, and that the more is drawn off from it, the more should flow into it. But it is very often like the reservoirs in the hills for some great city in a drought, where great stretches of the bottom are exposed, and again, when the drought breaks, are full to the top of the retaining wall. **[emphasis added]**⁷³*

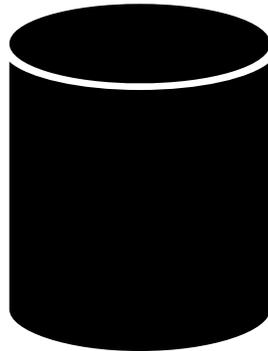
God's abundant wealth can only be shared with you and the rest of us when two conditions exist. First, the capacity of the *basin*, the wisdom of you and I, to be able to handle the flow and amount of blessings from God. Can we personally handle \$10,000 or \$1,000,000 or even \$10,000,000? If not, we need to learn and grow how to handle the blessings God has in store for us.

⁷³ See Alexander MacLaren's *Expositions of Holy Scripture* of 2 Cor 9:8

Second, the productivity *stream* we create from our basin of blessings moves from us to others. The bigger our *capacity basin* and the bigger our *productivity stream*, the larger number of people we can bless through our help.

What is your *capacity basin* to handle God's abundant blessings? Is your discerning habit basin to handle wisdom, work, and wealth small, medium, or large? Do you know the right habits God wants you to follow? Are you frivolous or reckless? Greedy or stingy? Or do you self-sabotage your and other's abilities and capabilities to be blessed or be a blessing?

What is your
basin capacity
for blessings?



Is your *productivity stream* the size of a trickle of a straw, the size and force of a 1 1/2 inch fire hose, or of the size and force of a 12-inch pipeline?

Your capacity basin size needs to be congruent with the size of your productivity stream. A straw fits a glass, and a 12-inch pipeline fits a barrel, but don't let a 12-inch pipeline connect with a glass or a straw with a barrel.

Love and abundance grows and grows the size of your basin and stream, fear and scarcity shrinks each of them smaller and smaller. Abound in blessings and be a good steward so you can grow more to handle more!

We receive God's many blessings to *scatter* them, not *gather* them, the more blessings we gather the more we can scatter
