

Immersed in the Blessing pt7 – Sustained and Thriving By the Blessing

Pastor John Carmichael

[2Co 9:6-11 NASB95] 6 Now this [I say,] he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one [must do] just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 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; 9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." 10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

- The world's system is experiencing and huge economic downturn. Inflation has been horrible. It is harder for people to buy a house. Wages have not kept up with prices. This is not a political statement, just an economic analysis.
- Yet, we, Christians, do not have to depend on the financial system of the world.
- God will sustain you and cause you to thrive in any environment.
 - Sustaining:
 - [Deu 29:5-9 NASB95] 5 "I have led you forty years in the wilderness; your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot. 6 "You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or strong drink, in order that you might know that I am the LORD your God. 7 "When you reached this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out to meet us for battle, but we defeated them; 8 and we took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites. 9 "So keep the words of this covenant to do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.
 - [Luk 22:35 NASB95] 35 And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" They said, "[No,] nothing."
 - Thriving:
 - [Psa 105:37 NASB95] 37 Then He brought them out with silver and gold, And among His tribes there was not one who stumbled.
 - [Luk 6:38 NASB95] 38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure pressed down, shaken together, [and] running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."
 - [Mat 6:33 NASB95] 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

What does God want us to understand about sustaining and thriving in the blessing.

We must understand two important truths about sustaining and thriving in the blessing.

I. Sustaining and thriving in the blessing is unstoppable.

- a. Doesn't matter where you start.
 - i. Abraham - started with nothing, became very rich! [Gen 13:2 NASB95] 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold.
 - ii. Beggar from ash heap... [1Sa 2:8 NASB95] 8 "He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He set the world on them.

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- b. Doesn't matter where you are.
 - i. Isaac - sowed in the land of famine, reaped 100-Fold. [Gen 26:1-3, 12-14 NASB95] 1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. 2 The LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 "Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. ... 12 Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and herds and a great household, so that the Philistines envied him.
 - ii. Works everywhere - [Deu 28:3, 6 NASB95] 3 "Blessed [shall] you [be] in the city, and blessed [shall] you [be] in the country. ... 6 "Blessed [shall] you [be] when you come in, and blessed [shall] you [be] when you go out.
- c. Doesn't matter what is against you.
 - i. Jacob - worked for Laban changed his wages 10 times. [Gen 31:7, 9 NASB95] 7 "Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times; however, God did not allow him to hurt me. ... 9 "Thus God has taken away your father's livestock and given [them] to me.
 - ii. Paul was blessing while under house arrest. [Phl 4:17-19 NASB95] 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. 18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

II. Sustaining and thriving in the blessing is activated by giving.

- a. Tithes and offerings allow you to tap into the blessing. [Mal 3:8-12 NASB95] 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation [of you!] 10 "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. 11 "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. 12 "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.
- b. Abraham gave the tithe. [Gen 14:18-20 NASB95] 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.
- c. Jacob gave the tithe.
 - i. [Gen 31:11-13 NASB95] 11 "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.' 12 "He said, 'Lift up now your eyes and see [that] all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. 13 'I am the God [of] Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.'"

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- ii. [Gen 28:22 NASB95] 22 "This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."
 - d. Your giving connects you to God's provision. [Pro 3:9-10 NASB95] 9 Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.
- **The blessing of God on you will cause you to be sustained and thrive no matter where you start, where you are, or what is against you and is activated by giving.**