

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF GOD

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The man of God is the gift of God to you. He is a servant of God. He is the messenger of God to you for your deliverance, salvation, healing, prosperity, general well being and training in righteousness. How you receive him and relate with him determines what you gain from him and his ministry.

Matt 10:5-16

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9 Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; 10 take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

11 "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. 12 As you enter the home, give it your greeting. 13 If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. 15 I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. 16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

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Eph 4:11-13

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

NIV

The man of God is the mouth piece of God. He is the instrument through which the mind and blessing of God are released. If you receive him you have received Jesus who sent him and the Father who sent Jesus. You have to believe first that he is a messenger of God to believe his message.

Matt 10:40-42

40 "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. 41 Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

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God is a God of love and a consuming fire. So also, the man of God is a messenger of love and fire. He stands for God and speaks for God. God fulfills and confirms the words of his mouth. The man of God is the instrument through which God carries out his orders. He is the instrument of manifestation of His power and grace.

Isa 44:26

26 who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be built,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'

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BLESSING OR CURSE

It is either the man of God is a blessing to you or a curse. What you receive from him is dependent on how you receive him.

Luke 2:34

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

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Luke 10:8-12

8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

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HOW TO GET CURSED

1. Don't receive them.
2. Despise them.
3. Speak evil of them.

Ps 105:15

15 "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."

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4. Don't believe in their words or instructions.

HOW TO BE BLESSED AND PROSPER UNDER THEM

1. **Receive and welcome them as God's messengers to you for your own good. Respect them.**

- 2. Don't despise them because of their age or level of education, or because you got born again before them.** God saw you before he chose and anointed them. Don't despise them for anything.

Matt 10:40

40 "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me.

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- 3. Speak only good of them.** Don't be in a place where they are being run down. Don't join or sit with those who run them down, rather rebuke them. If not, there is no amount of prayer from him that will work for you, whether he is aware of what you have done or not.
- 4. Believe in the word of the man of God. Believe in your pastor.**

King Jehoshaphat of Judah believed the word of the LORD in the mouth of His prophet and acted upon it immediately by appointing a choir to lead the soldiers towards the battle front. The result was that God set ambush against the enemies and defeated them without Judah fighting.

2 Chron 20:20

20 Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

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Even Jesus Christ could not perform many miracles in His own home town and among His own people because of their unbelief. They looked down on Him. They refused to see Him as the Son of God that He is; rather they chose to look at Him as the carpenter's son who grew up with and among them. If Jesus could not perform miracles because they did not believe He is the messenger of God for their deliverance, no man of God can. It takes faith in the gift of God to make the miracle power of God manifest.

Mark 6:1-6

6:1 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! 3 Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

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Elijah was sent to the widow of Zarephat, and she received him with all her heart and she was sustained by the power of God throughout the period of the famine.

1 Kings 17:7-16

7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 9 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

12 "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread-only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it-and die."

13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: `The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'"

15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. NIV

The widow of an old prophet who was about to lose her two sons to a creditor believed and acted on the instruction of Elisha the prophet and she got many jars of oil from a small bottle, she sold them and got enough money to settle her husband's debts and enough to live on afterwards.

2 Kings 4:1-7

4:1 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." 2 Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil." 3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." 5 She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

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Naaman almost went back home without his healing from leprosy because of his pride and dissatisfaction on how Elisha treated him. He had his own idea of how Elisha should conduct his deliverance and healing, but that did not happen. Later he heeded the counsel of his servants and obeyed and washed in the river Jordan seven times as he was instructed and he got healed. Faith is demonstrated in obedience to the instructions given by the messenger of God.

2 Kings 5:1-16

5:1 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

2 Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. 5 "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. 6 The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. Please accept now a gift from your servant."

16 The prophet answered, "As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing." And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

NIV

As the people believed in Paul the Apostle, his handkerchief and apron became instruments of miracles, healings and deliverances. When they were used in faith it produced miracles just as miracles happened each time he laid his hands on people. The secret is faith in the messenger and the sender of the messenger.

Acts 19:11-12

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

NIV

Peter's shadow also produced healings, deliverances and miracles as the people believed and looked expectantly at him to receive. Only those who believed and expected to receive received. That is the way miracles happen. It has to be received by faith. They were not expecting Peter to pray or lay hands on them, but that his shadow may fall on them. They believed strongly that God will heal and deliver them when the shadow falls on them.

Acts 5:12-16

12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. 13 No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. 14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. 15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

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5. Encourage your pastors by working with them to serve you better and fulfill your assignment.

6. Pray for them regularly.

Eph 6:19-20

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

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7. Give to them, and minister to their need. Don't wait for them to ask, for they may never ask you.

Gal 6:6

6 Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

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Phil 4:14-19

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

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