

SEVEN GOLDEN KEYS TO PROSPERING UNDER A MAN OF GOD

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1. Believe in him as a messenger of God for your deliverance and prosperity in every area of your life.

Matt 10:1-16

10:1 He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 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.

NIV

- Believe in him and in his vision, purpose or assignment.
- If you do not believe in a man, you can't follow him.
- If you do not believe in a vision, you can't follow the vision.
- Hold him in high regard.
- Esteem him as a messenger and agent of God to you.
- Respect the anointing he carries.
- The anointing you respect, you attract.
- The anointing you respect works for you.
- Though you grew up with him, or a relation of his or class mate or colleague at one time or the other, you are not equal in anointing. It is the anointing that makes the difference. It is the anointing that sets him above you in spiritual authority.
- If you don't believe in him and in his assignment, the grace and anointing he carries will not work for you.

Matt 10:11-15

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.

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- If you believe in him you are believing in the one who sent him – Jesus Christ.

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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ANALYSIS:

1. When you receive a messenger of God, you receive God who sent him because he is a delegate, ambassador, spokesman and legal representative of the kingdom of heaven.
2. When you reject a messenger of God, you reject God who sent him.
3. When you refuse a messenger of God all the grace and anointing he carries will not work for you or in your favour. In some cases, it will work against you.
 - Your destiny is tied to your relationship with your pastor.
 - Your prosperity in a church is the result of your attitude, faith and relationship with your pastor.

2. **Believe the word of the Lord in his mouth and practice every teaching and principle of God revealed to you through him.**

2 Chron 20:20

20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

KJV

Matt 9:29

29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

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John 13:20

20 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

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John 14:15-24

15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with

you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. NIV

3. Pray regularly for him, his family and ministry work.

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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Matt 26:31

31 Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

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- Love your pastor and pray for him, his family and team.

4. Be open to him and let him minister to every area of your life without reservation.

Acts 16:14-15

14 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

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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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5. Provide for his, family and ministry needs regularly.

2 Kings 4:8-5:1

8 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. 9 She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. 10 Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

11 One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. 12 He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him. 13 Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?'"

She replied, "I have a home among my own people."

14 "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked.

Gehazi said, "Well, she has no son and her husband is old."

15 Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. 16 "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms."

"No, my lord," she objected. "Don't mislead your servant, O man of God!"

17 But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

18 The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. 19 "My head! My head!" he said to his father.

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. 21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.

22 She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."

23 "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath."

"It's all right," she said.

24 She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite! 26 Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'"

"Everything is all right," she said.

27 When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why."

28 "Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes?'"

29 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

30 But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.

31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened."

32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. 33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. 34 Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out upon him, the boy's body grew warm. 35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out upon him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." 37 She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

38 Elisha returned to Gilgal and there was a famine in that region. While the company of the prophets was meeting with him, he said to his servant, "Put on the large pot and cook some stew for these men."

39 One of them went out into the fields to gather herbs and found a wild vine. He gathered some of its gourds and filled the fold of his cloak. When he returned, he cut them up into the pot of stew, though no one knew what they were. 40 The stew was poured out for the men, but as they began to eat it, they cried out, "O man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it.

41 Elisha said, "Get some flour." He put it into the pot and said, "Serve it to the people to eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

42 A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said.

43 "How can I set this before a hundred men?" his servant asked.

But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some left over.'" 44 Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.

NIV

2 Kings 8:1-6

8:1 Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Go away with your family and stay for a while wherever you can, because the LORD has decreed a famine in the land that will last seven years." 2 The woman proceeded to do as the man of God said. She and her family went away and stayed in the land of the Philistines seven years.

3 At the end of the seven years she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to the king to beg for her house and land. 4 The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, "Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done." 5 Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to beg the king for her house and land.

Gehazi said, "This is the woman, my lord the king, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life." 6 The king asked the woman about it, and she told him.

*Then he assigned an official to her case and said to him, "Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now."
NIV*

- Provide for his needs and never withhold your finances from his ministry.
- Whatever good you do for him, his family or ministry, stop telling people about it for it will deny you of your reward.
- Always remember that the fact that you are supporting him and his ministry financially does not mean he owes you or you own him or you can control him. The only thing he owes you is to love you, pray for you and minister to you as he is led. He must rebuke you of your sins and wrong doing without looking back for that is his job. Accept it and you will remain blessed by God.

Gal 6:6

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

6. Never speak against him especially behind his back, and never challenge his authority.

- Do not become too familiar with the man of God to the point that you do not have respect for him anymore.
- Do not be critical of him, leave him to God his boss to judge and punish him when and where necessary. Miriam and Aaron tried it and God became angry with them.

1 Cor 4:1-5

4:1 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

NIV

Rom 14:4

4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

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- Never run down your pastor or any messenger of God, it will bring curses and deny you many needed blessings and favour.

- Speak good of him in private and in public. Defend him if you have to. Never be a party to where he is being run down so you don't carry a curse.
- Many Christians are not progressing and enjoying the favour of God as they should because of they are badmouthing their pastor and leaders, disrespect for the man God appointed to lift them up and help them succeed in life and refusal to submit to him.
- Do not be critical of your pastor. God knows his weaknesses, yet he appointed and anointed him. He knows he will change and become better. Leave him to God who called him. Do not play the role of God.

7. Render service under his ministry in total obedience and submission.

- i. Submit to your Pastor's instruction and don't rebel against it.
 - Sometimes in submitting, it may be very inconveniencing and stressful, but you still submit.
 - It is not everything God tells us to do that is convenient and easy.
 - Following leadership requires the sacrifice of your time and energy.
- ii. Obedience is the proof of faith and love, therefore obey your pastor's instruction without hesitation.
 - It is a sign of unquestionable confidence in the leader.
 - Serve in obedience, humility and loyalty.
- iii. Loyalty is vital in this kind of relationship.
 - If you are not willing to be loyal, then you are not willing to follow your Pastor and prosper under him.

Ex 24:13

13 And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.

KJV

2 Tim 2:2

2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

NIV

CONCLUSION

- Receive every messenger of God and not only your pastor and send them on their way happy – support them in every way you can.
- Receive the messenger of God and you will be happy you did and the grace he carries will always work for you and prosperity will be your portion.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. Expectation is the mentality or attitude for receiving.**
- 2. Expectation provokes manifestation.**
- 3. Expectation is positioning oneself to receive the miracle desired.**

4. Love is the greatest weapon in the universe. Where all else fails, love always wins.
5. Love is so powerful that the one who experiences it is always more productive than the unloved.
6. Love brings out the best in a man.
7. A loving environment is a good environment for creativity and productivity.
8. Love makes a man happy, and when he is happy, he is energetic. And when a man is happy, he lives a healthy life.
9. Wisdom is better than physical strength.
10. Foresight and planning is very important for survival and success.
11. If you get carried away by today and fail to look into tomorrow, you may find yourself in serious trouble.
12. Failure to plan for tomorrow is invitation to crisis.
13. Preparation for tomorrow is laying foundation for a successful tomorrow.
14. If you fail to sow today, you will have nothing to reap tomorrow.
15. If you don't sow the right seed in the season for sowing you will reap confusion and sorrow tomorrow.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. Some people are bad news. Avoid them.
2. Associate with the right people – Heavenly minded people.
3. Take time to know your friend to determine the extent of your relationship
4. Always pray that God will unmask every person that seeks relationship with you.
5. To be intimate with someone you do not know is like dinning with the devil, and anything can happen. Prayerfully seek to understand the person before you get intimate.
6. Your friends can enhance your public image or mar it. Seek company with those who will enhance it.
7. You will always move toward anyone who increases you and away from anyone who decreases you. You are created with a desire to increase. Decrease is unnatural.
8. Never allow what people say about you to change your opinion of yourself. What you think of yourself is more important than what people think about you. People's opinion should not determine your opinion of yourself.
9. Aloneness creates vulnerability.
10. God will never give you someone that will replace his presence in your life.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. **Holiness is possible if you will think holy thoughts.**
2. **Those that live according to the sinful nature do so because they set their minds (think thoughts) on what that nature desires. (Rom. 8:5) Those who live in the spirit do so because they set their minds on the things that gratify the Holy Spirit.**
3. **You are unholy and sinful because you entertain unholy and sinful thoughts.**
4. **You are what you are what you think.**
5. **You are filled with bitterness because you think angry and bitter thoughts.**
6. **Happiness, joy, sorrow, pain and sadness are moods influenced and determined by your thoughts**
7. **Your habits and character are all reflections of your thoughts.**
8. **Your life is a reflection of your thoughts.**
9. **Think right to live right. Think holy to be Holy. Think love to be a lover. Think mercy to be merciful. Think positive to live a positive life. You are what you think.**