

WISDOM FOR EXPANSION (PART 2)

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GIVE YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS

1. Seed sowing precedes harvest.
2. Giving provokes God to bless a man. When a man is blessed, he is empowered to succeed and expand.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38 NIV)

“Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 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; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 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. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:14-19 NIV)

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Cor 9:6-15 NIV)

“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell. He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who

searches for it. Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. "(Prov 11:24-28 NIV)

3. Giving guarantees open heavens. And when the heavens open, anointing, wisdom, ideas and favour flow.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Mal 3:10 NIV)

4. Giving is the covenant way to increase.
5. Consistent giving makes room for abundance.
6. When giving becomes your lifestyle, the fruit of giving becomes visible.

WHOM TO GIVE

1. To God

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty." (Mal 3:8-12 NIV)

2. Men of God

"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor." (Gal 6:6 NIV)

Read 1Kings 17:7-16.

3. The needy

"He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses." (Prov 28:27 NIV)

"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered." (Prov 21:13 NIV)

WHAT TO GIVE

1. **Your tithe** – 10% of your income (salary, allowances, gifts and profits).

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house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty." (Mal 3:8-12 NIV)

- 2. First fruit offering** – first salary, first increase in salary and allowance and first profit from a business or trade.

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." (Prov 3:9-10 NIV)

- 3. Offerings of thanksgiving**

"Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you." (Ex 20:24 NIV)

"All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do." (Ex 35:29 NIV)

"You must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and oil, or the firstborn of your herds and flocks, or whatever you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts." (Deut 12:16-17 NIV)

- 4. Kingdom investment or ministry project financing.**

"Then King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God-gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble-all of these in large quantities. Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, 5 for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?" Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron. Any who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the LORD in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly." (1 Chron 29:1-9 NIV)

Finance church buildings, publications and tract ministry, outreach programmes, missionaries and mission work. Money spent on the work of God is properly spent and will always bring back a reward.

HOW TO GIVE

1. Give willingly

“For the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?” Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly.” (1 Chron 29:5-6 NIV)

2. Give wholeheartedly

“The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.” (1 Chron 29:9 NIV)

3. Give cheerfully

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7-8 NIV)

4. Give with a heart filled with thanksgiving and gratitude

“David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, “Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, requirements and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.” Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the LORD your God.” So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed low and fell prostrate before the LORD and the king.” (1 Chron 29:10-20 NIV)

5. Give in faith expecting a harvest

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38 NIV)

LIVE GODLY TO PLEASE GOD

1. When a man's ways please the LORD he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him (Prov. 16:7). When your enemies are at peace with you, whatever you lay your hands on prospers.

2. The pursuit of righteousness produces prosperity and honour.

"He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor." (Prov 21:21 NIV)

3. Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth, honour and life.

"Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honour and life." (Prov 22:4 NIV)

4. On your way to the top treat others nicely because you don't know when and where you will meet them and need their help. God always fights for the oppressed. He hates oppression and exploitation.

"Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them." (Prov 22:22-23 NIV)

BE THE BEST

1. A skilled man will always stand before the great.

"Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men." (Prov 22:29 NIV)

"If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success." (Eccl 10:10 NAS)

2. Skill leads to promotion.

3. Skill will make you to be sought after.

"They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted." (Isa 62:12 NIV)

4. Skill makes the job less tedious and interesting.

5. The more skillful you are the more expansion you experience.

CONCLUSION

God's desire for you is to increase you continually. He wants you to experience expansion. This is only possible if you are constantly walking in the principles of God that will enable Him work it out in your life. Settle down therefore to put to use the wisdom outlined in this publication, and it will be well with you. Your life is in your hands. Your future lies with what you do from now on.

SUCCESS TITBITS

1. **Your tongue is your life.**
2. **The words of your mouth will always return back to you.**
3. **When a man's ways please the Lord he makes his enemies to be at peace with him. (Proverbs 16:7)**
4. **Success is not a gift but a result.**
5. **Faithfulness guarantees promotion and excellence.**
6. **The diligent hands always become great and successful.**
7. **Those who know how to give up end up a celebrity.**
8. **The secret of success lies in your attitude to your assignment.**
9. **Challenges only scare the weak, but bring out the best in the strong who dares to challenge the challenge.**
10. **Faith in the heart while the mind is focused on God and his word guarantees victory over every challenge of life.**
11. **You can't be against leadership and expect to reap the blessings promised leadership.**
12. **The life of every man is in phases and in seasons. Understand this and peace will fill your heart.**
13. **Opportunities are tied to the seasons of a man's life.**
14. **The only time you have is now. Use it. Get busy and use it wisely.**
15. **The only problem with seasons is that they come to pass. The evil season you are going through now will come to pass.**
16. **Since no one can bind nor alter seasons, no one can stop you when your time to rise to the top comes.**

RENEWING THE MIND

1. **Your mind is your power house.**
2. **A mental block against God and his word is suicidal. Open up your mind and accept his counsel on all subjects and you will be happy you did.**
3. **A positive attitude enables a man to break new and higher grounds. A negative attitude makes one to rot in a place with the spirit of complaining and despair ruling.**
4. **You need to break loose from your negative mentality and you will shine like God meant you to shine.**

5. **Let not your mind be a cage and prison, but a spring pad for your flight to glory.**
6. **Small minds doubt God. Great minds believe God and his word.**
7. **The picture you have in your mind determines the direction of your life.**
8. **Demon consciousness does not increase your chances of victory but builds fear in you. God consciousness opens you up for the outflow of God's power in you.**
9. **What you dwell your mind on, you attract to yourself.**
10. **You are who you are by reason of the thoughts you have thought over the years. Your life will always be patterned after the kind of thoughts that you think.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. **Your life is a result of the inputs from many associates.**
2. **No relationship leaves you the same. It either makes you better or worse.**
3. **Loneliness is the absence of a true and positive close companion.**
4. **If you are not influencing your associates, they are influencing you.**
5. **Every good relationship in your life is supposed to solve a problem and meet a need. Check yours out.**
6. **Real love works with understanding. And no relationship can survive without it.**
7. **Any one who does not know who he is cannot find the right associates that fit him perfectly.**
8. **Perfecting your personality is a key to successful relationship.**
9. **Learning how to communicate effectively is essential to sustaining a good relationship.**
10. **Humility is a key to forgiveness which is the healing balm of relationships.**