

**How Fathers (or Anyone)
Can Experience God's Very Best Blessings
For Themselves and Family**

If you will learn to deny yourself and crucify the things in your life that are not of Christ and walk in His Spirit, you will experience God's very best blessings for you and your family in this life!

- I. Some of the Great Fathers of the Bible
- A. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph Son of Jacob, David, Joseph Father of Jesus and others because they honored God their families were successful.

- B. The **Generational Covenant Promise** of God:

(NKJV) Dt 7:9 "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

- C. Jesus said:
Mark 14:24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. 25 Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

(NKJV) Jn 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

1. By honoring Christ there is a promise of the blessing of the Holy Spirit to guide a man to the ways of prosperity and success and to bless the man's generations after him for his sake.

(NKJV) Is 30:21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

2. God said to Isaac
(NKJV) Ge 26:24 And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."

- a. Abraham also was able to save Lot out of a city that was to be destroyed
 - (1) Had he continued to pray and ask he could have saved everyone in the City
 - 3. God said to Hezekiah
(NKJV) 2 Ki 20:5 “Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. 6 And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.” ’ ’ ”
 - a. God will bless a man’s generations if he is faithful to him.
 - 4. God is a God who desires to bless exceedingly but cannot without the willing acceptance of man.
 - a. The man must signify his wiliness by submitting to allow God to lead his life.
Isa 1:19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;
- D. Jesus said he was willing to bless:
(NKJV) Jn 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
- E. But to get the blessings of true success and prosperity in this life
(NKJV) Mt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
- F. *We shall review this scripture promise today to show that if a father (or anyone) will do as he says, he will find success and prosperity for his life and then according to the word of God (Dt 7:9), for his whole household and his generations.*
 - 1. Remember Paul and Silas proof of family salvation
(NKJV) Ac 16:30 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”
 - 2. Remember Rahab’s family was saved
(NKJV) Jos 6:25 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father’s household, and all that she had. So she dwells in

Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Again the Scripture text for today:

(NKJV) Mt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

II. If anyone desires to come after Me,

- A. To come after Christ, means to follow him and do the things that he did.
(NKJV) Jn 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.
 - 1. God has greater plans for us than we can ever imagine.
(NKJV) Je 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
 - 2. Greater than we can ever think or imagine
(NKJV) Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
 - a. Our ability to experience life is directly related to the power of God that works within us.
 - b. If we want to experience God's best, we need more of God's power.
 - (1) Then we can speak to the mountains and they will be moved

**WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. EACH ONE OF US WILL SHINE
ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WE ALLOW TO FLOW THROUGH US.**

- B. Our ability to do more than we can imagine is due to the fact that Christ has made us new creations. He has made it available for us now to be just like him – children of God.
 - 1. We have the power of the Holy Spirit within us. He will give us the victory over every obstacle in our pathway.
(NKJV) Jn 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(NKJV) 2 Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2. This is made possible by us being born again. By us simply accepting Christ we receive the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us.
 - a. Accepting Christ gives us a far greater potential to do things in life than we ever could conceive and achieve by ourselves.
- C. It is clear God intends for us to live life as Christ did but this requires a sacrifice. Just as Christ had to sacrifice himself, we *must also sacrifice ourselves to live the life he wants us to live.*
 1. We sacrifice not for the forgiveness of sin,s because Christ sacrificed himself for that, but we sacrifice ourselves for the abundance that Christ promised.
 2. God has promised all throughout his word that if we adhered to his will, he will see that we prosper in all that we endeavor to do.
 - a. He will fight our battles for us.
- D. If you want to live a successful and prosperous life, it does not come by the things you do for yourself. It comes by the things you do for Christ.

A SUCCESSFUL LIFE IS NOT DETERMINED BY WHAT YOU DO FOR YOURSELF BUT BY WHAT YOU DO FOR CHRIST

- E. The Scripture makes this plain.
(NKJV) Mt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
 1. To put the kingdom first one must then...

III. let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me

- A. **deny himself - meaning**
 1. disregard himself
 2. disown himself
 3. forsake himself
 4. renounce himself
 5. subdue himself
 6. reject himself
 7. refuse himself
 8. restrain himself
 9. disclaim himself
- B. This means we must be willing to put our interest aside to do what Christ says for us to do.
- C. Notice, this is not about not doing something. Not doing this thing or that thing. This is about **denying ourselves**. This is about not focusing on us.
 1. We are to no longer think about what we want. We are to no longer talk about what we think of how we feel.
 - a. It doesn't matter what we feel or what we think.
 - b. **What matters is what Christ says.**
 2. We are insignificant. His will must take precedent in our life!

TO LIVE A SUCCESSFUL AND PROSPEROUS LIFE WE MUST MAKE THE WILL OF GOD OUR PRIORITY IN LIFE!

3. Then, if we learn to put Christ first (we will remember his interest is our best interest) we will experience the very best that life has to offer.
 - a. Christ will cause this to come to pass.
- D. The Christian is to deny himself daily. He is to exalt the things of Christ more than the things he desires daily.

(NKJV) Lk 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

 1. Daily means not just on Sundays!
 2. Further we are told to meditate on the word day in and day out.
 - a. such commitment to the word promises us everything we do shall prosper
 3. If we make God's work important in our life he will make the things that we consider important, important in his life
- E. Notice this again he was talking to his disciples. (vs 24)
 1. These are the ones that had already accepted him.
 - a. This means that after we have accepted Christ, if we want to experience the very best God has to offer, we also must then learn to deny ourselves to be able to truly follow him.
 - b. No man can serve two masters! We cannot look out for ourselves and look out for God's best at the same time.
 2. Too often people join churches and say they have accepted Christ but they have not denied themselves. There is no way they can follow after him living for self and expect to experience what Christ wants them to experience.
 - a. How many people do you know that have left churches because they are unhappy? Many need to consider the fact that Christ has put them in that place for a mission.
 - b. Church is not just for your blessing. It is for you to be a blessing.

IF YOU WANT A BLESSING IN CHURCH BRING A BLESSING!

- c. Remember to get to the promised land they had to go to the desert first.
- d. Difficult times don't mean God is not in it.

IV. take up his cross

- A. We all have different vices in life. We all have different things that Satan has sought to ensnare us with. We are to take up the cross daily and crucify those things
 1. Those things of the flesh that we so constantly give life to that are against the will of God.

(NKJV) Ga 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

(NKJV) Ro 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. This is to be a daily activity. Every day the flesh cries out to all of us for attention. We must put our flesh and its will to death.
3. We must do this so that we made show ourselves mature and able to possess and operate in the inheritance promised to us by Christ.

V. follow Me

A. We must then make the effort to follow Christ. We must seek to be led by the Holy Spirit.

1. We must make it our desire could do more than just know about Christ. We must truly desire to know Christ

**WE MUST NOT JUST WANT TO KNOW ABOUT GOD
BUT WE MUST MAKE IT OUR DESIRE TO KNOW GOD**

2. There are a lot of people that know about God, but they don't know God!
 - a. they can read their Bible and talk about Scripture
 - b. they may go to church
 - c. they may work on the usher board, sing in the choir, be well-recognized as a leader in the church but still they don't know God.
3. God told us to do more than just you know about him. He told us to seek him!
 - a. A person may have been saved many years but still he has not sought the face of God.
 - b. Tso many have been praying for the hand of God and not the presence of God. They want to treat God like a Santa Claus.
 - (1) He is there to serve them and not them to serve him
4. Paul tells us what made him so successful!
(NKJV) Php 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death
 - a. God rewarded him with tremendous blessings as well as persecutions. But God delivered him through them all!

**TO TRULY KNOW GOD, A PERSON MUST DENY HIMSELF AND
MEDITATE UPON HIS WORD TO EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE OF GOD.**

5. to truly know Christ we must learn to meditate on his word.

VI. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it

- A. Just accepting Christ will get you saved eternally but to be able to experience success here you must be willing to lose whatever is before him in this life.
 1. We are not naturally willing to give up self and trust God. In order to fully deny self our minds must be renewed. We must begin to see God as the only way we can live in this life.

**ACCEPTING CHRIST GETS YOU SAVED BUT
TO BE TRULY SUCCESSFUL AND PROSPEROUS
YOU MUST BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MINDS**

- B. Paul tells us the same thing in Romans 12:2 but before this he tells us we must present our bodies as a living sacrifice. We must be willing to sacrifice and to serve for the cause of Christ.
 1. Then will be able to see progressively the perfect will of God being done in our lives.
- C. You must be willing to sacrifice the things you desire in your life to experience the abundance of the things Christ wants you to have
- D. Whatever you give up for Christ you will gain back in things that are much more valuable.

(NKJV) Mk 10:29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

**TO GET THE BEST FROM GOD, WE MUST BE WILLING TO GIVE UP THE BEST
FROM THE WORLD**

1. Remember Abraham?
- E. We must be willing to let go of our status as recognized by the world and embrace our position as defined by the word.
 1. You may be called a teacher, Doctor, lawyer, mechanic, analyst or whatever title the world desires to give you, but you must be willing to give it up, in order to be fully what Christ wants you to be.
 2. You cannot hold on to the world and please God.
 3. God will not accept any other thing in front of him.
- F. The promise of God is if we want to experience the abundance he has promised we must be willing to lose our life and then he tells us...

VII. but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

- A. Christ tells us that if we give up our status in the world we will find the life he wants us to have.

1. What type of life does God want us to have?
2. Don't let the world's charms deceive you
(NKJV) Mt 19:30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

B. We must be willing to give up our privileges in the world to let him give us the privileges he has promised from his word to give us.

1. We were not created for our own glory, we were created for the glory of God

**WE WERE NOT CREATED FOR OUR OWN GLORY
WE WERE CREATED FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**

C. God has given us all a work to do. That work will mean we have to go out of our way in order to do what he desires. To work for Christ means a sacrifice on our part.

1. But if we make that sacrifice... Paul told Timothy
(NKJV) 2 Ti 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

2. God will reward us for the work we do for him!

D. He told us to seek first his kingdom and everything else we needed would be given to us.

E. We spend too much time seeking the pleasures of the world. We turn away from the work of the Lord because of the sacrifices it takes. In this we are rejecting the cross that Christ has called us to. As a result, we will never experience the abundance Christ wants us to experience.

1. We sell out the best blessings that God can provide for us for the cheap counterfeits of the world. Why?
 - a. This is what Esau did. He sold his birthright for a bowl of porridge.
2. It is so sad that so many of us are missing out on God's best because we are holding on to the empty things of the world.

F. So many of us instead of finding a church we can serve in we are seeking a church that will serve us.

1. We want the route of least resistance. We want to be catered to. We want people to do for us. We are not willing to put forth much effort to build God's kingdom.
 - a. Truly it is good where there is much work to be done because in such a place there is great reward to be received.

**IF GOD HAS PLACED YOU WHERE THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE
REJOICE AND BE GLAD FOR THERE IS GREAT REWARD TO BE RECEIVED!**

2. We want a church that's paid for so that we don't have to sacrifice too much to show our love of God.
 3. We want a place where there are many workers so that we do not feel obligated to serve.
 4. Christ says we must be willing to sacrifice ourselves if we intend to find the true life he wants us to experience in this life.
- G. Some people are not willing to make the sacrifice to serve him. They ignore the gifts God has given them and the work he has set before them because it will mean they will have to give up too many pleasures of the world.
1. Listen, we will be judged according to the works we do for God.
(NKJV) Mt 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.
 - a. Every Christian will receive a reward in eternity and rewards also in this life for the work he does for Christ. Remember:
(NKJV) Mk 10:29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.
 - b. Also every man's work will be tested
(NKJV) 1 Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
(1)
- H. How long my brother will you ignore the gifts God has given you and the work he has set before you because of the sacrifice you have to make to serve him. The Blessings for serving God is too much to ignore!
(NKJV) Jn 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."
- (NKJV) Jn 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.**
- I. Christ says: **but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

1. The person who lets go of things in this life, his privileges, money, fame, prestige, honor for Christ's sake will find life much more rewarding.

THE PERSON WHO FORSAKES THINGS IN THIS LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST WILL FIND LIFE MUCH MORE REWARDING

2. A person who holds on to the benefits of this life and the things he has in this life will lose his life completely and eternally.
- J. Your sacrifices for Christ can assure that your strength equals your days and that you will live long and prosper.
- VIII. Summary
- If you will learn to deny yourself and crucify the things in your life that are not of Christ and walk in His Spirit, you will experience God's very best blessings for you and your family in this life!***

IX. Finally, why run after the world?

26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

- A. All the stuff you can gain from this world is not worth your losing eternity with God!
1. Stuff in this world will not last. Everything in this world passes away!
 - a. Nothing in this world can give you joy forever!
 - b. Why would you reach out for things of the world and you never experienced the joy?
(NKJV) Pr 10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.
 2. You show your willingness to live with God through your sacrifice for God.
 - a. Again, remember Abraham?
 - b. Remember Joseph?
 - c. remember Moses?
 - d. remember Daniel?
 - e. remember Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD ARE NOT WORTH YOU LOSING YOUR ETERNITY!

- X. **Make a commitment today to start denying yourself by crucifying those things in your life that are not pleasing to God and follow Christ. This simple thing will mean you will experience God's best blessings in the here and now!**