

Week 3 Teaching:

A Bountiful Return On Your Spiritual Investment

The investment we make in the spiritual well-being of others is directly tied to the blessings we seek. For many that is a hard pill to swallow. They simply cannot fathom that they have the power within to strategically position themselves to be blessed. Consider those who have been waiting year after year for a breakthrough. Are we to believe that God is making them wait; that He would withhold a harvest that has been sowed, stewarded, and ripened?

It is impossible to assume responsibility for anything in the truest sense of the word, without also being held accountable for it. Only the immature would think that they can take possession of something without any indication of their aptitude to care for it. Most parents will endeavor to instill this lesson in the minds and hearts of their children, but as adults we continue to struggle with the fact that God holds us to an even greater standard of this principle.

John 15:16 NLT

You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

My dear Sisters-in-Christ, to whom much is given, much is required. There is no substitute for obedience and spiritual maturity. Through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, God set His plan in motion long ago. He appointed you and me to go and produce fruit; not the kind that is plucked one day and spoils the next, but the kind that remain. Our labor, our attentiveness to the seedling provides the optimal environment for its growth and endurance. We are to produce fruit that will have good seeds, so that it too will continue to do as we have done, which is to make a spiritual investment into someone else's life. Then, John 15:16 NLT tells us, we can ask for whatever we want and the Father will give it to us.

Why do you suppose that is? Why do you think that when you meet the condition of producing fruit that will last, God will then “...give you whatever you ask for, using my name”? God values our growth more than our desires; that is why. The measure of our spiritual stature is in part determined by the spiritual investment we make in the lives of others. People matter the most to God. Remember, it is not for us to set the standard for how to demonstrate a God kind of love. He set the standard, and it dictates that we share the good news of Jesus Christ with others, and that we help them stand tall on God's Word.

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A shift in the paradigm of our lives will occur when we begin to focus on the Will of God in this way. It represents a higher notch on our spiritual belt so to speak. It signifies to the heavens and everything below that our arms are no longer wrapped so tightly around the things of this world, but they are opened to receive the blessings we so earnestly seek.

The investment we make towards the spiritual growth and well-being of another reveals the true essence of God's love. It allows us to be beacons of light. And if we are diligent to the task, it will be a light that cannot be exploited by darkness. It is a light that illuminates our desire to be like Christ and to be responsible enough to handle the weight of our loftiest ambitions.

It may seem as though opportunities to witness the gospel are not readily available in our everyday circumstances, but that simply isn't the case. Opportunities to bless and to be blessed are never far from us. They are often right in front of our eyes. We miss them because our focus is somewhere else. Perhaps what's in front of us doesn't look like the blessing we've dreamt about. It doesn't wear the right clothes, or live in the best neighborhood, but you can be assured that this person will cause a bountiful return on your spiritual investment. He or she is the conduit whereby you can ask anything in the name of Jesus Christ and you will receive it.

Week 3 Prayer:

Most Gracious and Heavenly Father,
I humbly ask that You forgive me for the words I have spoken, thoughts I have thought, and deeds I have done that are contrary to Your Will. I humbly ask, Dear Father, that all those who are new to the Christian faith will be stewarded in their walk in Christ by a loving believer. That they will grow to stand firmly anchored in Your Word and will be beacons of light in this world. I thank You that as I become more and more the person You want me to be, that I will be a loving and useful Ambassador for Christ, and that I too will have the opportunity to speak a life-changing Word into someone's life. Please help me to open my eyes to the many opportunities to bear witness of Your grace through his death and resurrection. Help me to speak the good news of the gospel with confidence and authority. Thank You for forgiving my sins and for loving me in a way that teaches me how to love others. I pray this prayer in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Scriptures link to
[New Living Translation.com](http://NewLivingTranslation.com)

Scriptures:WEEK 3

Day 1: [Luke 17:6](#)

Day 2: [Matthew 18:14](#)

Day 3: [2 Peter 3:9](#)

Day 4: [1 Peter 2:21](#)

Day 5: [1 John 4:7-12](#)

Day 6: [2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#)

Day 7: [Matthew 6:20,21](#)

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