

JULY 2008 Week 3 Teaching: *Don't Give Up....Give!*

Although it may not seem so, our lives are supposed to make sense. Good health, good relationships, a good job, a devoted spouse, and plenty of money in the bank are all entitlements of kingdom kids. These things are our birthright. If we are lacking to a significant degree in any of them we need to make it a priority to find out why, and then make it our business to apply corrective actions.

A mental state of confusion has sidetracked many people. It has caused them to get off a purposeful path and live beneath their privilege as children of God. They become impatient with His order and refuse to conquer what they don't understand. They acquiesce, and then finally retreat to their comfort zones. This is a dangerous course to take. It is the point where many fall off and never get back on; they simply give up! If ever you find yourself leaning in this direction, STOP! Re-assess, and re-group.

Part of the corrective actions of reassessing and regrouping is reminding yourself how uniquely individualized your purpose is. No one can do what you do the way you do it. That is the marvelous thing about God's plan. He builds our esteem and confidence this way. You see, it isn't possible for any one person to give us a roadmap of the path you and I must follow. It's an intimate walk between us and our Heavenly Father.

The intimacy in our relationship with God is predicated on our ability to practically apply His Word. Often, confusion seeps in when we think we've done that, but haven't—and because we haven't we are left with a feeling of immobility. Our indwelling Holy Spirit is constantly whispering God's directives...go left here....go right there...but we cannot see what God wants us to see or hear what He wants us to hear. Our ability to perceive is blocked.

Your responsibility is to get unblocked! God will not do this for you because He will never overstep your free-will. You must literally do those things that nurture the connection between your soul and spirit. Also remember, the deficiency does not exist within your indwelling Holy Spirit. Colossians 2:9,10 NLT says *"9 For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body, 10 and you are complete through your union with Christ..."* The indwelling Holy Spirit is the fullness of Jesus Christ within us. It lacks nothing. It is absolutely, unequivocally, and totally sufficient. It is a perfect gift. The deficit lies in our ability to receive its impetus.

We must decrease as the indwelling spirit of God increases. Nurturing your spirit means that YOU are growing IN the spirit--you are doing the internal work

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of reading His Word, communing with Him through prayer, and most importantly putting your baggage in check. Things like these decrease the agenda of your flesh and promote the one of your spirit, which is to guide you to more of the truth of God's Word.

GIVE

Giving equals receiving!!! That is one of God's immutable laws. It works with a mathematical precision. It works in every aspect of life, and it works whether or not you choose to believe or operate within it. Ultimately, some act of giving will get us unblocked.

1Peter 4:10 (NLT) admonishes *"God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you."* The ways in which we can give to others so that *"God's generosity"* can flow through us are too vast to number, but there are three fundamental areas that pretty much encompass this broad spectrum.

The first of those is in the area of tithing. The Lordship of Jesus Christ is one of the greatest lessons that hopefully you and I will learn in our lifetimes, and the act of tithing is the greatest teacher of that lesson.

It is wonderful to hear the proclamation ***"Jesus is Lord!"***, although few of us understand how far reaching and staggering that reality is. A "Lord" is someone to whom one would look up to and cherish. He is worthy of great reverence, respect, and honor. We would look to a Lord for instruction if we wanted to know how to do something in the very best way possible and with the greatest level of detail, because he would leave no detail undone and would do a quality job every single time.

Colossians 2:10 NLT says that Jesus Christ is *"...the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe."* He is LORD in the greatest sense of the word, and the fantastic thing about him is that he will steer us in the direction that guarantees our highest level of spiritual achievement, if we'll let him. Allowing him to be Lord over our circumstances means that we let go, remove our hands from the steering wheel, and allow Jesus Christ to do the steering.

It is our responsibility to position ourselves in the path of God's overflow, but we cannot do that if we are bent on controlling how we are to be blessed. To relinquish that control is a difficult thing for most of us to do. We want to tell God what color, what age, what height, how big, how small. He knows where we need to be and when we need to be there. He knows how to meet our needs while causing us to grow in faith and endurance as well. Trying to confine Him to our restraints shows our lack of faith and it also displays an unwillingness to grow beyond what we know.

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Tithing is for our benefit. For many of us, it is the only thing that we will ever do in our lifetimes to profoundly impact the kingdom of God. And we will think of every excuse in the world not to do it, for no other reason than our own lack of faith. Refusing to honor God this way conveys that we have assumed lordship over our purses, and we make our debtors co-conspirators in the deal. *"I can't pay my tithe, I owe too much money...I've got to keep a roof over my head and food on my table."* We hold on to our purses as if doing so will extend to us more than the heart of our Great Big Wonderful God! This attitude signals the heavens that our confidence in His ability to bless us is far less than what it should be.

We've gotta get off the gees. Tithing is a true demonstration of our faith. The statement it makes about our service and commitment to God is unmatched by anything we could do for anyone else.

Obedience is better than sacrifice. Malachi 3:10 KJV says *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it]."* Sure, we have to be mindful that we sow our financial seeds on good ground, but it isn't our charge to look over anyone's shoulder to make sure our seed grows; God will see to that.

Releasing control produces what feels to us to be a wilderness experience. The sense of not knowing what to do with ourselves brings a high level of discomfort, but our desires...our comfort level...our agendas are secondary to garnering a profound understanding of exactly whose in charge. As brilliant, witty, and attractive as you may be—you didn't die on the cross. You could not save yourself from death and darkness, and no matter what you do, you will not escape the consequences of failing to tithe.

Develop a tolerance for losing control for the sake of honoring our Lord. It is in this preparation stage that you will not only learn what it is to lean totally on God, but your faith will increase and you will have a greater insight to His matchless love. Don't give up and acquiesce to immobility. Don't give in to those periods of awkwardness. God is with you, and when you do what you are supposed to do you can have every faith that He will as well. GIVE in the way that He has ordained. It is the only way to move ourselves forward.

Stay with us next week as we cover another area of giving that will help us to get unblocked!

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JULY 2008 Week 3 Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Please forgive me for the things I have thought, felt, said, and done that were contrary to Your will, and hear me, O' God, as I make the desires of my heart known before Your throne. I know that You desire the absolute best for me at all times, and I know that you have set about a plan for me to walk in abundance and wholeness; so from this moment on, I relinquish my agenda for Yours. As I continue to learn things about myself that are blocking my blessings, help me to remain committed to the task of my own spiritual work by taking off the "old" and putting on the "new". I realize that love is the power that will create the life I desire. Please use Your vast and unlimited resources to consistently remind me of that. Help me to develop a more generous heart and to give in a way that honors Your gift to me. Thank you for blessing me and allowing me to be a blessing to others. I pray these things in the powerful and precious name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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**Scriptures link to
[New Living Translation.com](http://www.newlivingtranslation.com)**

WEEK 3 Scriptures:

Day 1: [Galatians 6:9-10](#)

Day 2: [Proverbs 4:26](#)

Day 3: [Ephesians 3:16, 17](#)

Day 4: [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

Day 5: [Ephesians 1:11-14](#)

Day 6: [Isaiah 55:10,11](#)

Day 7: [Philippians 1:6](#)

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