



TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

A LITTLE HEAVEN ON EARTH

Dear Partners and Friends,

God has a plan for your life! I'm sure you've heard it said before but it really is the truth! In that plan contains increase – supernatural increase because it comes from above. God's plan for increase has been deposited inside of each and every one of us. Failure is not an option. Lack and struggle were never part of God's plan! Remember this, "Jesus did not come that you might survive." He came that you might "enjoy life!" Let's be honest, it's hard to enjoy life when you don't know where your next meal is coming from or how you're going to make this month's mortgage payment or rent.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

There is one who takes pleasure in your lack, misery and pain. His name is satan – the eternally defeated one. His only interest is your defeat. His only way to strike at God is to strike at you. That is why he is ruthless and has no conscience.

"The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows.) I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His (own) life for the sheep."

John 10:10,11 (AMP)

"A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of. I am the Good Shepherd." The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary.

John 10:10-11 (Message)

Don't Settle for Survival!

How much our Heavenly Father and Lord really does love each and every one of us. He redeemed mankind from the hand of the enemy that we might enjoy a real life, eternal life, more and better life than we could ever dream of. This life, a victorious life, is your destiny; it's God ordained, planned and supported from the very beginning of time.

I looked up the word “abundantly” and in the Greek it actually means this: superabundant in quantity and superior in quality. Meaning: NO LACK AND NO JUNK! I don’t know how you feel about “hand-me-downs,” but I must admit, I’d rather be wearing my own shoes than someone else’s. I would rather be in a position to buy as opposed to always having to borrow. I’d rather be in a position where I’m able to give and to be a blessing than always looking for hand-outs and freebies. Wouldn’t you?

I was reading one day over in the book of Psalms and came across this scripture:

“O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.”

Psalm 34:7-10 (KJV)

Notice these 4 facts from God’s Word.

1. The man that comes to the Lord will taste of His goodness.
2. The man that trusts in Him will be blessed.
3. The man that fears the Lord has no want.
4. The man that seeks the Lord shall never lack any good thing.

It seems quite obvious to me that our Heavenly Father’s intention is to provide His goodness, blessing, abundance and every good thing to His children. If we will act on His Word of promise then we’ll begin to enjoy His provision.

Friend, I want to encourage you this month. In God there is no lack. In fact God has never lacked for any good thing. When He wanted praise, He created the angels. When He wanted fellowship, He created man. God lacks for no good thing and neither should you! God has only one thing in mind for His children and that is this: VICTORY! Victory in every area of their lives, spiritually, physically, emotionally, materially and financially. Victorious living, the abundant life and success is all part of God’s plan for you! After all, would you want any less for your children? If so, then you don’t deserve them.

“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Matthew 7:9-11 (NIV)

How much more? Not how much less, but more. That’s increase! God is not holding out on you friend. He’s pouring out His blessing upon your life daily. So, come and get it! You were born into an inheritance and called to receive a blessing!

“Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to the abundance of His kindness did beget us again to a living hope, through the rising again of Jesus Christ out of the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and unfading, reserved in the heavens for you.”

1 Peter 1:3-4 (YLT)

The expression, “did beget us again,” is referring to the new birth. In other words, according to the abundant kindness that came from God the Father and His Son, the new birth was possible. When you were born-again, you were born into an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled which is reserved for you.

“You were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”

1 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

God is calling you to come and receive! Picture this with me: Mom and Dad just returned home from doing some shopping one afternoon at Wal-Mart. Dad sticks his head out the back door and shouts to his children, “Come on in boys, I’ve got something for you!”

Though He was calling me so that I could receive, I still had to respond in order to enjoy my “inheritance.” This is where our faith comes into play. When we use our faith and take God at His Word, believing what He said to be true, the only thing left to do is to receive. By faith I receive what God has promised me. By faith I receive my portion of the inheritance. I thank you Lord that healing is mine! I thank you Lord that the abundant life is mine! I thank you Lord for meeting my every need!

There is a scripture over in the book of Psalms, which reveals to us how God thinks of His servant’s well-being. It states this:

“Let them shout for joy, and be glad that favor my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.”

Psalm 35:2 (KJV)

If this is how the Lord looks on His servant and is pleased when they prosper, what do you think is going through His mind when He looks down at His children? Could it be any less?

A child is a reflection of the parent. When we see a child that is abused and neglected, we’re not angry at the child but at the parent, and rightly so. If a child is lacking food, shelter and clothing and the parent is not providing for this, the child can be taken away from the parents and the parents prosecuted. Thank God we do have laws in the land that protect children.

What are we communicating to the world when Christians can barely get their needs met. So far in debt, discouragement, despair and want, that each week if not each day, is like a survival test. “Where will the money come from this time? Will it even come?” Friend, this is definitely not the abundant life that Jesus came to give us!

No One Listens to a Poor Man

Where there is lack, there is always struggle – trying to pay your bills; trying to make ends meet; trying to obey God. In this state it is pretty hard to bring pleasure to God let alone anyone else. Life becomes a survival – “Will we be able to make ends meet?” “How will we pay the bills?” With this type of “living” as we call it, God is never glorified and Christianity looks like a hoax. “If God really loved you, then why would he let your children go hungry?” “If God

really loved you, why can't He help you to get and keep a job?" The world laughs at our God, "Why we've never been to church in our life and we're extremely successful and financially set for life. Why would we need your God?" After all, nobody listens to a poor man.

"I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge sledge works against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man. So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded." (KJV – "His words are not heard.")

Ecclesiastes 9:13- 16 (NIV)

Days of Heaven Upon the Earth

There is another scripture I want to call your attention to over in the Old Testament. It's found in **Deuteronomy** chapter **11:1-21**. It gives us a picture of what our days should look like here on Earth. Let's look at a few of these verses.

"Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always...⁵ It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the desert until you arrived at this place...⁷ But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the Lord has done.⁸ Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,⁹ and so that you may live long in the land that the Lord swore to your forefathers to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey...¹² It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.¹³ So if you faithfully obey the command I am giving you today – to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul –¹⁴ then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.¹⁵ I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied...¹⁸ Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.²⁰ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers...as the days of Heaven upon the earth."

Deuteronomy 11 (NIV, KJV)

This is how our days on Earth are to be – as the days of Heaven upon the earth. Now begin to ask yourself, "How does it look up in Heaven? Would there be any sickness and disease? Pain and suffering? Lack and poverty? Despair or depression? Certainly not! If that is the case, then there does not need to be any of these disorders in our lives upon the earth.

I'm convinced if we continue to keep our eyes fixed upon God as our source of supply and love and obey His word, then we would experience increase, prosperity, health and success. Our days would be as days of Heaven upon the earth!

I was living in England at the time of this story I am about to share. It happened just after New Years as I walked into the local sweet shop just down the street from where I lived.

“Happy New Year Jim,” I said. “I believe this is going to be a great year, don’t you think?” Jim responded, “Well, with the economy the way it is, it looks like it’s going to be tough!” “Jim,” I said, “Who is your source of supply?” He responded, “My customers are.” “What,” I exclaimed! “God is your source, not your customers!” He definitely had that surprised or offended look about him. What amazed me was the fact that each time I would stop by the shop, Jim would always start talking about God. He believed he was a Christian because He went to church...sometimes. But when it came down to his source and supplier, unfortunately the enemy had deceived him.

One way that God reveals his personality and character to us is by His redemptive names. For instance He said to Moses, “I am Jehovah Rapha,” which means, “I am the Lord who healeth thee.” And to Moses, He said, “I am Jehovah Jireh,” which means, “I am the Lord your provider.”

Has our God changed? Has He stopped being the Lord our Healer and the Lord our Provider? Doesn’t the Word of God tell us that God remains the same, steadfast, faithful and true?

“For I am Jehovah, I have not changed.”

Malachi 3:6 (YLT)

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

Friend, God has planned for you to succeed and to prosper in all that you do! Let’s live up to the Father’s expectation and decide today to cooperate with His plan for our lives. No more martyr images of, “We don’t need any more Lord, we should make it through to next Friday on Pete’s paycheck alone if no other unexpected bills show up.” Or the classic, “I want to give God praise, we made it through another month. When it looked as though our gas and electric would be turned off, God made a way!” Let’s be honest, though it is a testimony for that individual of the faithfulness of God to them, it certainly communicates an entirely different message to the unbeliever. While you’re up there in front of the church crying, the unbelievers are asking themselves, “If God is so in love with His children, then why in the world would he let his children struggle right through to the end of another month, only to show up at the last minute? If this was my child and I had the wherewithal, this would never happen. This problem would not escalate to the end of the month but rather be taken care of immediately.”

Can you see that if we would simply stop trying to spiritualize everything and use some common sense, we would soon realize that survival is not Father’s best but rather abundance – more than enough and plenty left over.

I want to encourage you to get into the Word and allow the Word to get into you. Allow the Spirit of God to wash away all the lies and deception from the enemy, including past experiences, traditions of man and religion. Here's what will happen if you do:

- As your mind becomes renewed with God's word, you will begin to think God's thoughts.
- Once you begin to think God's thoughts, your whole outlook in life changes.
- You'll soon recognize where the enemy has slipped in and stolen from you.
- Faith begins to rise from within.
- You begin to exercise your God given authority in the Name of Jesus and command the devil to take his hands off of your money, off of your marriage, children and health.
- You'll begin to claim the promises of God as your very own because they are.
- You'll start to watch as circumstances begin to change, for the simple reason that they are subject to God's Word.
- You'll begin to rejoice both before and after as you witness the blessings of the Lord starting to flow in your life.
- You'll look back and realize how much the enemy has stolen from you in times past, much due to plain ignorance of God's Word and will begin to rejoice because those days are gone forever!

Your Friends and Partners,

Todd & Eva