

Missy Resurrection Testimony

The Walk of Love & Cheerful Generosity

I. The Basis of Abundant Life: We Have A Good Father!

A. Our Father Has Good Plans for Our Future

Jer 29:11 NIV For I know the **plans I have for you,**" declares the LORD, "plans to **prosper (SHALOM)** you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

3 John 2 NAS Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as **your soul prospers.**

It's a **wholesome way of thinking, feeling, deciding** about life, health, money, ... It reflects **Who** He Is and **How** He Is.

Beggar or King - mistaking an opportunity as a demand

B. He Gives Us Righteousness — Whole Relationship

Matt 6:33 But **seek** first the **kingdom** of God and His **righteousness,** and all these things shall be added to you. Rom 14:17

Good Relationship & Plans. The **Essence of Sin is Separation** from our Good Father! **Taking ourselves TOO seriously.** Trying to make it on our own. The **Orphan.**

C. His Pattern of LOVE AND BLESSING

Isa 51:1 NKJ "**Listen** to Me, you who **follow after righteousness,** You who **seek the LORD:**

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.

2 **Look** to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you;
For I called him alone,
And **blessed** him and **increased** him."

The **Blessing of God on Abraham's life reveals His heart toward us!**

Eph 1:3 ESV Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blesed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places,

II. GRACE & GIVING

1. Grace is the ABILITY of God given, not earned!

John 1:14 NKJV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,, **full of grace and truth....** **16** And of His fullness we have all **received**, and grace for grace.

2. Grace liberates us from every bondage!

Eph 2:8 NIV For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith** — and this **not from yourselves**, it is the **gift** of God — **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

3. There is a Grace of Generosity WANT IT?

2 Cor 8:7 NIV But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this **grace of giving**.

III. First Fruits Principles

A. Given at the Beginning (Tithe after the Harvest)

1. Through Firstfruits we **sanctify** our whole life and all we love.

Rom 11:16 NIV If the part of the dough offered as **firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy**; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

2. It's a **Pattern not Legalism** - We honor the King of Kings with the First and the Best — and He honors us

Heb 11:4 *By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice* than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And *by faith he still speaks*, even though he is dead.

3. Generosity Gives **Proof of Our Love**

2 Cor 8:8 I am not commanding you, but ***I want to test the sincerity of your love*** by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

B. All Giving Connects Us to the Beyond

4. We Give **According to What We Have**. In offerings give part of ourselves— our offerings **take us beyond** our present circumstances.

2 Cor 8:12 NIV For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to **what one has**, not according to **what he does not have**.

Mark 12:41–44 NKJV Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and **saw** (*theoreo-*) how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites... 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but **she** out of her poverty **put in all that she had**, her whole livelihood.”

Also found in *Luke 21*

Elijah & the Widow *1 Kings 17*

5. Giving is **Analogous to Planting Seeds**

2 Cor 9:6-7 NIV Remember this: Whoever **sows**...7 Each man should **give** what he has decided in his heart to **give**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

The seed we sow connects our lives to the soil of God’s love — and His Great and Precious Promises

You can’t eat dirt, yet all our food comes from dirt. The life in the seed can grow and capture the power of the Sun, transforming dirt and water into food, into clothing, into housing, into fuel !

Apple seed -- not just an apple, but a tree that gives for years and year!

6. PROPORTIONAL.

Luke 6:38 NKJV Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the **same measure** that you use, it will be **measured back** to you."

This is very personal. The same **measure** I use, is how it is measured back to me!

7. Releases God's Creative Ability

2 Cor 9:8 NKJ And **God is able** to make **all grace abound toward you**, that **you**, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance **for every good work**.

God works with what we **have!** **Don't let what you don't have overrule what you do have!** Mustard Seed

OUR TESTIMONY — 1977 starving ... increased our giving... change began to overtake us. By 1984 built a house w/o debt

Be thankful and begin to use what you do have!

IV. 4 Keys to First Fruits:

1. **Cyclical** — Annual basis or at the beginning of a new endeavor.
2. **In Faith** —
 - a) **Comfort**— you just do it, in the budget, etc.
 - b) **Faith**— responding to that which is beyond our ability. We increase our "measure"
 - c) **Presumption**— trying to manipulate God

3. **Sacrificial** — if it doesn't move you, it probably won't move God.
4. **Focused** — create a list of the areas you are sowing in for breakthrough.
 - a) **Reflects the godly passions of your heart**
 - b) **Based on God's Word.**
 - c) **Pray, Believe, Decree, Stand. You will reap if you don't faint. You have seed in the ground!**
 - d) **This is a time to sow, to consecrate the dreams for our lives and the promises of God we hold in our hearts.**

V. Conclusion

1. **Pray for God's Direction (desire discipline delight)**
Pray for hearing hearts.
1. **Have a Target, or Ask God for One (Gates held by the enemy)**
2. **Set an amount, or ask for one.**
3. **Write a check or a pledge (next two months)**
No Fear — Refunds for 2 weeks!
4. **Bring it Sunday, February 3**

Pray for Congregation:

**Hear the Word of the Lord Regarding Your Household,
Your Goals for 2013.**

Kingdom of God released. All the "added to" things.

PRAY FOR HEARING HEARTS
Healing the Orphan Heart