

Cultivate Gratitude!

I want to stir you up. I want to give you the Master Key to Possess Your Promised Land.

You are far richer than you realize!

I. You Have Been Robbed and May Not Even Know It!

If you knew that **someone** had **stolen** your **identity**, broken into all your **accounts**, and replaced them with **worthless counterfeits**, **what would you do??!!**

If this also has the effect of robbing your children, grandchildren and future generations of the fabulous wealth that had been yours, **WHAT WOULD YOU DO??!!**

The Abundant Life IS Available to You!

John 10.9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Περισσός — Pertaining to that which is exceptional in the sense of being more than what is expected — ‘exceptional, outstanding, remarkable, unusual. Pertaining to a quantity so abundant as to be considerably more than what one would expect or anticipate. causing a decided or distinct advantage.

II. You Were Created for the GOOD LIFE!

To Receive, but also to be a Source of Hope, a Light shining in the Darkness!

All of Creation is Available, and WAITING to Deliver to you and Through You the GOOD that is locked up in it.

A. The GOOD Creation

The Universe is created by **10 utterances**, or *omers*, each introduced by the Hebrew phrase, *Va Yomer Elohim...*” translated, “And the Lord said...”

Gen 1.3a וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים

Whatever God spoke, came into existence! This is the first thing we observe about speech. **The Word is creative!**

Here is a vital question: Is it only the direct, divinely uttered Word that creates, or does human speech also “image” God’s speech and create conditions and realities within the Universe, or Creation?

Six times during the Creation account, we are told that God saw what He had spoken and it was **TOV**, translated “Good.”

Gen 1.4a וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאֹר כִּי־טוֹב

When the human had been created, God surveyed all that He had made and it was **MEOD TOV**, translated “very good,” but with the possible implication that it was **exceedingly or excessively good**.

VERY GOOD describes the conditions of **Eden**, which can be translated “enjoyment” or “delight.” It is Paradise.

SHALOM — the condition of completeness and wholeness. Nothing is missing, nothing is broken, everything is just as it was intended to be.

B. The GOOD Plan!

[Jer 29.11 NKJV](#) 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**.

On top of the GOOD UNIVERSE, when God thinks about **you**, he **experiences** you. The word is *YADAH*, it is the experiential knowledge of having **interactive knowledge**.

His “thoughts,” or *MACHASHAVOT*, are actually **plans**, part of a great story line, **a plot with a purpose!** He is the master story teller, He is the Word of the Father, and He has written you into the Script.

All his plans for you are SHALOM, they are complete, uninjured, friendly, nothing missing, nothing broken. They **are not RA’AH**, that is, they are not inferior, harmful, diseased or bad.

Out of his plans of SHALOM, He gives you both a **future** to look forward to and a **hope** that things will turn out very well in the end.

[Titus 2.13 NKJV](#) looking for **the blessed hope** and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

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שלום

[TWOT](#) “Peace,” in this case, means much more than mere absence of war. Rather, completeness, wholeness, harmony,

fulfillment, are closer to the meaning. Implicit in שְׁלוֹם is the idea of **unimpaired relationships** with others and fulfillment in one's undertakings.

NIDOTTE Peace, friendship, happiness, well-being, prosperity, health, luck, kindness, salvation., uninjured, safe, complete, peaceable.

Peace is the result of restored righteousness and cannot be achieved while one is persisting in sin and evil. Jesus Christ became our righteousness!

Isa 32.17 And the **effect of righteousness** will be **peace**, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

Eph 2.13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For **he himself is our peace**, ...

D. Why the WORLD is a Mess!

If God is so good, and all He made is good, and all His plans and story lines are SHALOM and not EVIL, **why is life so painful? Why do good people suffer? Why? Why? Why?** This was Job's question wasn't it?

1 John 5.19 We know that we are from God, and **the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**

NKJV lies *under the sway of*

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

So there it is! **The entire *kosmos*, or system, has been downgraded, or degraded from SHALOM into EVIL, that which is inferior, diseased, and harmful.**

The world we see, hear, and taste around us **is not** the system our Heavenly Father intended, it has been high jacked, devalued, even counterfeited and given back to us as “the real world.” We will even hear people say, “Hey, I don’t know where you get that stuff, but I live in the **real** world.”

Here is the TENSION we walk in:

We perceive that **we are FROM God.**

We perceive that the **Son of God** has **arrived** and is **present.**

He has given us a way of perceiving, **DIANOIA**, (NOUS – the organ of the soul that perceives God. **METANOIA** – a transformation of the **NOUS** so that it can think the thoughts of God) so that we can **KNOW EXPERIENTIALLY** (*GINOSKO*) Him who is **TRUE** (REAL, GENUINE – NOT COUNTERFEIT).

We are **IN THE GENUINE ONE.** He is the GENUINE CREATOR, REDEEMER, LOVER, TRINITY, and this is the endless LIFE.

Last thought, **BEWARE OF DISTRACTIONS** (IDOLS). Which can be negativity, needless complaining, etc.

In fact, complaining and **crying needlessly** is a form of idolatry, a false deity, a reinforcing of the fallen KOSMOS and....

Will keep us in EXILE and WILDERNESS. To get back into the PROMISED LAND we need an entry point.

III. The WAY Forward!! (Unlimited Access)

To get back into the PROMISED LAND we need an ENTRY POINT! How or where is the ENTRY POINT?

Ps 100.4 Enter his **gates with thanksgiving,**
and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

5 For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

A gate takes you into a different realm, jurisdiction, or atmosphere... a different reality.

Gates are entry points into **a structure, a kosmos.**

We **enter** HIS gates with a simple act, **THANKSGIVING!**

No one is complaining, or crying needlessly in Heaven.

No one is complaining that Moses and Aaron failed in their first attempt to confront Pharaoh.

No one is asking if there weren't enough graves in Egypt, or missing the watermelons, the onions, the fish.

No one is thinking that they were led into the wilderness to die.

No one is believing the bad report of the ten spies and ignoring the minority report that says "We are able.."

Thanksgiving acknowledges that YHWH is good, and that all the suffering, disaster and evil of this present age is a temporary illusion.

Will this be TOO HARD, TOO COSTLY, TAKE TOO MUCH TIME??

What is it costing you to be stolen from, lied to, kept as a slave and a prisoner?

How much time are you wasting feeling sorry for yourself, questioning God's goodness, wondering if He's forgotten you?

This is the BEST THING to which you've ever applied yourself!

IV. Recovery and Restoration

You can change your future and the future of your children, in fact, the future of the WHOLE of CREATION!

God said and then God saw. We say before we see!

The WILL of God!

A. What is NOT God's Will

One thing IS NOT the will of God, that you should fall apart, be aimless and leave no inheritance or impact on the world around you.

2 Pet 3.9 ESV The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should **reach repentance**.

B. The Will and Testament of God! (The FULL INHERITANCE!)

1 Thess 5.16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for **this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you**.

(4.3 For this is ***the will of God***, your **sanctification**: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;)

23 Now may the **God of peace** himself **sanctify you completely**, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is **faithful**; he will **surely do it**.

C. Giving Thanks Opens Up the Mysteries of God

The EUCHARIST εὐχαριστέω εὖ + χάρις to recognize the good, or benefit received.

Luke 22.19 And he took bread, and when he had **given thanks**, he **broke** it and **gave** it to them, saying, “**This is my body**, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Thanksgiving transforms the ordinary into the supernatural! It opens up the mysteries of another realm. It is the GATEWAY into God’s gifts, purposes and intentions!

All that I have is yours! All that you have is mine!

2 Cor 3.17 ESV Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where** the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**.

FREEDOM is the capacity to live with purpose, to grow, to inherit. Sons inherit, slaves survive.

V. What to Do? Set off a Gratitude Explosion!

Repentance!

(In the will of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I'm changing the lense through which I see and interpret the world around me and within me.)

Thanksgiving! No whining, no complaining, no needless tears!

(I'm not perfect, I'm just cooperating with the Holy Spirit to become aware of complaining, unwarranted sadness, needless tears.)

I will speak, release, and realize (REAL - ize) a GOOD OVERFLOWING LIFE!

[Rom 15.13 NIV](#) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.