

Trust and Abundance

I. Things We Know and Don't

A. God *Plans* to Prosper You

Jer 29:11 NIV 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.†**

B. Jesus Came to Give Us an Abundant Life

John 10:10b I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**.

The Thief came to steal and to kill and to destroy abundance

The Thief operates by deception and makes people on guard, fearful, suspicious.

C. Religious Words with Practical Meanings

1. Salvation ~ Freedom
2. Grace ~ Gift of Ability or Capacity
3. Faith ~ Trust

So let's look at a key Passage:

Eph 2:4 But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the **great love** with which he **loved us**, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us **alive together with Christ**—by **grace** you have been **saved**— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the **immeasurable riches of his grace** in **kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus. 8 For **by grace you have been saved** through **faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is **the gift of God**, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God gives us the opportunity for **FREEDOM** by the ultimate **GIFT** - His Ability (new nature). The **GIFT** is accessed through **TRUST**

D. How We Treat Others is How We Treat God.

Matt 25.40 'Truly, I say to you, as **you did it to one of the least of these** my brothers, **you did it to me.**'

1 John 4:7 **Beloved**, let us **love one another**, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**

John 15.12 This is My commandment, that you **love one another** as I have loved you.

E. Trust is a Key that Releases Unlimited Abundance

Heb 11.6 ESV And without **faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would **draw near** to God **must believe** that **he exists** and that **he rewards** those who seek him.

John 1:12 But to all who did **receive** him, who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to **become children of God**,

II. Love is Abundant Life

A. Love Initiates – **TRANSFORMS!**

1 John 4.19 NKJ **We love** Him because **He first loved** us.

Love is **simultaneous giving** and **receiving** of honor, affirmation, affection, joy, pleasure. It is the Divine Nature. It's ABUNDANT LIFE.

B. Being *In Love* Opens Up Infinite Possibilities

1 John 4.16 Whoever **lives in love** lives **in God** and **God in him**.

Luke 1.37 AMP For with God **nothing is ever impossible** and no word from God shall be without power *or* impossible of fulfillment.

We can be loved but not benefit from love unless we **receive** it. When we receive it, it grows and radiates in us and loves the Giver back.

C. How to Catch the Thief who steals your opportunities

Love One Another... To the Least of These

Jesus is RELEASING A REVOLUTION, Keys that will CONQUER ROME, REPLACE LEGALISM and BUILD a NEW CIVILIZATION!

1. **Notice the FLOW** in your heart (Keep your heart)

Luke 6:37 **“Judge not**, and you will not be judged;
condemn not, and you will not be condemned;
forgive, and you will be forgiven;
38 **give**, and it will be given to you.

Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Simple Instructions for Releasing Abundance (Opportunities)
2 No No’s and **2 Do Do’s**

Judge Not - as soon as I pass judgment, “he is bad” I am alienated & the other is alienated.

Condemn Not - don't write people off. Now NO Potential

Forgive - Removes toxicity. Total Forgiveness = Total Detox

Give - Take the Initiative with Generosity.

And it will be GIVEN to YOU.

Abundance is not how much we HAVE but how much we
GIVE

If God Can Get Blessing THROUGH You, HE Can Get Blessing
TO You

“And it will be GIVEN to you.”

GRACE is the Gift of God’s Ability. Grace comes to the
Humble

2. Master the FLOW - Catch the Thief

GRACE - Gift of Ability **FAITH** - TRUST

Righteousness, Peace, Joy in the Holy Spirit

1. **No Keeping Score** - don't create covert contracts. You
poison the well. (We invited them, they didn't invite us
back)

2. **Eradicate Judgment – Cancel the handwriting against
others.**

It hijacks you and gives you **“crazy brain”**- stress, anxiety,
discontentment, anger, resentment.

We no longer see the overlapping opportunities.

To STOP Judgmental Opinions, – **Ask questions, seek to
understand** the other.

TRUST (faith) isn’t about how others feel about you, it’s about
how you make others feel about themselves.

“What do you think about?”

‘Wow, that's interesting. How did you come up with that?’

Don't judge. Serve the Lord with gladness

Keep it in the REALM of REASON or TRUTH, KEEP it out of the realm of EMOTIONS.

3. Accept – Find that spark of decency. Be honestly interested. (Proactive Forgiveness)

4. Validate – It's not about ME. It's about the OTHER. This requires growth. (Give generously)

Jaime Escalante, a Bolivian immigrant, taught mathematics at Garfield High School from 1974 to 1991. He transformed the entire concept of what disadvantaged students could do when offered the opportunity to excel. The movie, *Stand and Deliver*.

Mr. Escalante tells this story of a teacher who had two Johnny's in his class. One Johnny was an excellent student, a leader & role model. He worked diligently, participated in discussions and was helpful to those around him. He always had his homework done on time. Other Johnny was sullen, disheveled and unresponsive. He came in late, took his seat at the back & caused trouble. Never had his homework & often was missing his book. After a few weeks, on the night of the first PTA open house there was opportunity for parent-teacher interaction.

A large woman stayed after the others had left. She approached the teacher, introduced herself as Johnny's mother and asked how her son was doing. The teacher was delighted to meet her.

Assuming she was the mother of the "good Johnny," he sincerely shared his admiration for her son and made a point of what a great asset Johnny was to the class. He told her that he would love to have an entire classroom full of kids like her son.

The next day, the two Johnny's came to class. Something was different. The troubled Johnny came in on time and had his homework done. He was attentive through the entire class, raising his hand and participating in discussions.

Everyone in the class room noticed this sudden change in personality. When the class was dismissed, the second Johnny stayed behind. He approached the teacher. Speaking softly he said, "My mom told me what you said about me. I've never had a teacher before who wanted me in his class."

He became one of the best students the teacher ever had. A simple case of mistaken identity and a dose of unintended appreciation changed Johnny's life!

We are SAVED by GRACE (the GIFT of unearned ABILITY)
THROUGH FAITH (trusting and being trustworthy)

III. RELEASING ABUNDANCE

Will we GROW UP?

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head**, into Christ,

Will we SEE the Possibilities in those AROUND Us?

By Grace we are SAVED through Faith

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**.