

# Delight and the Freedom From Lack

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice (jump) and be glad (cheer) in it! [slide 1]

## I. God Rejoices in Our Freedom

### A. He Delights in Your Success — Dances When You are Set Free

Zeph 3:17 The LORD your God is **in your midst**, [sl 2]  
a **mighty** one who will **save**;  
he will **rejoice**<sup>1</sup> over you with gladness;



(happy song)  
he will **quiet\* you by his love;** \***renew**  
he will **exult**<sup>2</sup> over you with loud singing. (festival)

### B. The Blessing Potential of a Renewed Mind

He **renews** our MINDS with his AFFECTION (kiss of love)!

Rom 12.2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed**  
by the **renewal**<sup>3</sup> of your mind<sup>4</sup>, that **by testing** you may discern  
what is the will of God, what is good & acceptable & perfect.

### C. Divine Affections Develop a Prosperous Soul

Ps 1:1 **Blessed** is the man who walks not in the counsel  
of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor  
sits in the seat of scoffers; (degrees of departure -  
counsel, way, seat) [slide 3]



<sup>1</sup> Heb. SUS - שׂוֹשׁ to rejoice, to be glad (prop. to leap, to spring.)

<sup>2</sup> Heb. GIYL - prop. a circle dance, to leap for joy

<sup>3</sup> anakainosis— return to the new, superior, unheard of

<sup>4</sup> nous - the organ of perception, sometimes translated “heart”

- 2 but his **delight** is in the **law of the LORD**, and on his **law** he **meditates** day and night. (**torah** - direction, instruction, law [like gravity – **attraction** proportional to mass, inversely to distance])
- 3 He **is** like a tree (a complex living system that joins earth and sky) planted by streams of water that yields its **fruit** (attractive, nutritious, and bearing seed) **in its season**, and its **leaf** does not **with-er**. In **all** that he **does**, he **prosper**s.
- 3 John 2 NAS Beloved, I pray that **in all respects** you may **prosper** and be in good health, just as **your soul prospers**. [slide 4]

Prosper — Go in a good way. It's a stewardship.

It's a **wholesome way of thinking, feeling, deciding** about life, health, money, ... It bears the IMAGE of our Father!

## D. We are invited to collaborate with our Father

**Righteousness is RELATIONSHIP - Father makes us SONS**

The **Essence of Sin is Separation** from our Father's goodness!

**The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want!**

**He invites us to partner, to participate with Him regarding the future of your life, your family, and the world you live in.**

**My Complaint** – “Just enough... where is the More than Enough?)

*If we could instruct the future how to treat us, how we would want to live, what we would hope for our children, **would we do it?***

## II. 7 First Fruits Principles – (**Tithe after** the Harvest)

1. (Given at the Beginning) – **Sanctifies** the Whole - our life and all we love. [slide 5]

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.

**Holy** - outside the natural, separate from the ordinary, pure

The Gospel — Power of God for salvation for everyone who believes

For in it, the righteousness of God is revealed.

2. **A Pattern not Law - Honor the Lord with the First and the Best — and He honors us** [slide 6]

Heb 11:4 Abel **faith** —> **a voice**

Acts 10:4 Cornelius

3. **Generosity is an Indicator of Grace and Love** [slide 7]

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.**

*Grace flows from Joy*

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

**God isn't after our money, he's after our hearts.** Giving will **transform** our hearts.

Matt. 6:21 For **where** your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.

4. We Give **According to What We Have.** We give part of ourselves— **our offerings take us beyond our present circumstances.** **FEAR NOT!** [slide 8]

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.**



**Elijah & the Widow** 1 Kgs 17:12 ... I do not have bread

- 1Kings 17:8 Then the **word of the LORD** came to him, 9 “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, *I have commanded a widow there to feed you.*”
- 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a **widow** was there **gathering sticks**. And he called to her and said, “*Bring me a little water* in a vessel, that I may drink.” 11 And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “**Bring me a morsel of bread** in your hand.”
- 12 And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, **I have nothing baked**, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may **eat it and die.**”

We may think we have nothing, but we actually do. Our **last** can be a **new FIRST**

- 13 And Elijah said to her, “**Do not fear**; go and do as you have said. But **first** make me a **little\* cake of it** and bring it to me, and **afterward#** make something for yourself and your son. [slide 9]
- \*micro (LXX) #after **incarnating the prophetic WORD**

- 14 For **thus says the LORD**, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be **spent**,\* and the jug of **oil** shall not be **empty**,# **until** the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’”

\* *reach its full end* # *lack (Ps 23.1)*. [sl 10 **unending > no lack**]

- 15 And she went and did as Elijah said. And **she** and **he** and **her household** ate for many days. 16 The jar of flour was not **spent**,\* neither did the jug of oil become **empty**,# **according to the word of the LORD** that he spoke by Elijah. [slide 11]



Sometimes we aren't aware of the capacity to INCREASE

## Jesus & the Widow

- Mark 12:41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and **watched** .... Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a **poor widow** ...



## 5. In Giving We Plant **Seeds of Blessing.** [slide 12]

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: **whoever sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and **whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.** [slide 13]

The seed we sow **roots our heart in the soil of God's love—**



**SEED** - carrying all the instructions needed for increase. A seed **alive** is packed with limitless potential.

Seeds are God's **blueprint for the future.** Apple seed. Sequoia [slide 14]



a. **Our children.** The **Creator Himself became a seed** and **broke** the slavery of death and **released** the power of an endless life! Gen. 3:15

b. **Our Words,** containing a potential future. **Every word contains in a future reality in an immature form:** CO CREATING

Mark 4:11 ... "To you has been given **the secret of the kingdom of God...**  
14 The sower **sows the word.** ...

c. **Our Offerings** Each contains a future reality in an immature form.

2 Cor 9:7 Each one must **give** as he has **decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **For the Joy!**

## 6. The Harvest is **PROPORTIONAL.** [slide 15]

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

If you give, you will **always get back more.**

This is the **BENEFIT** of giving, not the **MOTIVE.**

## 7. Our Giving **Releases God's Creative Ability** [slide 16]

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*.

**TESTIMONY** — 1977 starving ... increased our giving...change began to overtake us. 1984 house w/o debt...

**Mustard Seed** has all the instructions. A **sequoia** seed...

SOWING gives God an opportunity to work through us!

Partner with God - He's rejoicing over you and will renew you with His affection — for a PURPOSE

**STUCK? FRUSTRATED? Release God to Work!**

#### IV. 4 Keys to First Fruits:

1. Cyclical —Annual basis
2. In Faith – a stretch to that which is beyond our ability.
3. Sacrificial – what moves you, often moves God.  
2 Sam 24:24 ...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing."
4. Focused — prioritize the areas you are sowing into 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, **consecrating the dreams** for our lives; **the promises** of God we treasure in our hearts.

#### V. Instructions for First Fruits Offering

1. Pray for God's Direction (desire discipline delight) **Pray for hearing hearts.**
2. Have a Target, or ask **what Gates are held by the enemy?**

3. Set an amount, or ask for one.
4. Write a check, use Push Pay, Credit Card or make a pledge (next two months). **No Fear — Refunds for 2 weeks!**
5. Bring it on First Fruits Sunday

**Phil 4:19 NKJ** And my God shall supply all your need **according to His riches** in glory by Christ Jesus.

There are **NO LIMITS** on the effects of a **SMALL CHANGE** in our thinking and behavior.

**Jar not spent (continuous provision); Jug not empty (no lack)**

**Gen 22:16 NKJ** and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, **because you have done this thing**, and have not withheld ..., your only son—

- 17 **blessing... bless you, multiplying... multiply;** your descendants ...stars... sand; and ... **possess the gate** of their enemies.
- 18 **In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because **you** have **obeyed** My **voice**."