

# Bountiful 2

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Does God want me to live a “Bountiful Life” outside of my spiritual life?

**Proverbs 10:22** – It’s the Lord’s blessing that brings wealth and never does it bring trouble as well.

**Proverbs 8:18-21** – I hold wealth and honor, position and good fortune; what I yield is better than the best of gold, what I bring in is better than rare silver. <sup>20</sup> I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment. <sup>21</sup> That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance or that I may endow my friends with wealth and fill their treasuries.

**Deuteronomy 7:14** – You shall be blessed above all people...

**Deuteronomy 28:11-13** – And the Lord shall make you plenteous in goods...<sup>12</sup> The Lord shall open unto you his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto your land in his season and to bless all the work of your hand and you shall lend unto many nations and you shalt not borrow. <sup>13</sup> And the Lord shall make you the head and not the tail and you shall be above only and you shall not be beneath, If you will listen to and obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day to observe and to do them.

**Deuteronomy 29:9** – Keep therefore the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all you do.

**Isaiah 48:17** – Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God which teaches you to profit, which leads you by the way that you should go.

Does money guarantee a “Bountiful Life?”

**Ecclesiastes 5:10** – If you love money, you will never be satisfied; if you long to be rich, you will never get all you want. It is useless.

God’s blessings and wealth are an outcome, and should not be our pursuit!

We should be seeking to “Honor God’s Plan” for our lives, and understand the fulfillment of that plan includes his blessing upon our lives and that blessing abounding toward others.

Example: Family with marriage restored, and are now marriage mentors.

### **3 Motives Behind Living a Bountiful Life**

1. It is the Nature of God and I am born of God.
2. It is how I can bless others.
3. It is how God has chosen to bless me.

## 1. It Is the Nature of God and I Am Born of God

**Ephesians 5:1-2** – Follow God's example in everything you do just as a much loved child imitates his father. <sup>2</sup> Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, for Christ's love for you was like sweet perfume to him.

**John 3:16-17** – For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

## 2. It Is How I Can Bless Others

**II Corinthians 8:1-7** – Now I want to tell you, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done for the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times [persecuted to poverty], their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. <sup>4</sup> They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord and to us for whatever directions God might give them. <sup>6</sup> So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to complete your share in this ministry of giving. <sup>7</sup> Since you excel in so many ways — you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us — now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.

The Christians in Jerusalem were experiencing tremendous persecution, but the churches in Macedonia who were in the same position, gave to meet the need of others.

They placed God First, Others Second, and Themselves Last.

When we live in this order, we are positioned for God to be our Provider.

Most Christians live and die and never live this way and experience the hand of God in their everyday lives.

## 3. It Is How God Has Chosen to Bless Me

**Psalms 35:27** – Let them shout for joy and be glad that favor my righteous cause: yes, let them say continually, let the Lord be magnified, which has pleasure in the prosperity of His servants.

**Galatians 6:7** – Don't be under any illusion: You cannot make a fool out of God! A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows or gives!

Are you a sower and a giver?

**Philippians 4:15-19** – Now you Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church with the exemption of yourselves, had anything to do with me as far as giving and receiving. <sup>16</sup> For even in Thessalonica ye sent more than once to relieve my wants and needs. <sup>17</sup> It's not your money that I am anxious for, but I seek fruit that may abound to your account or I seek and am eager for the fruit which increases to your credit—the harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account. <sup>18</sup> But I have all which I require and more than I require. I am fully supplied. <sup>19</sup> But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We honor God by expecting a harvest of blessing.

**Luke 6:38** – Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom or lap. For with the same measure that you give with, it shall be measured or given back to you again.

Our giving, not our needs determine the measure of our blessing.

**II Corinthians 9:5-11** – This is my reason then for urging the brothers to visit you before I come myself, so that they can get your promised gift ready in good time. So that your gift may be a real act of grace and spontaneity and not money that has been squeezed out of you or given under pressure. <sup>6</sup> Remember this: He who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously and that blessing may come to someone, will also reap generously and with blessings or Scanty sowing, scanty harvest: Plentiful sowing, plentiful harvest. <sup>7</sup> Let everyone give as his heart tells him. Not grudgingly or of necessity or under compulsion; for God loves, takes pleasure in, prizes above other things and is unwilling to abandon or to do without a cheerful, joyous, prompt-to-do-it giver, whose heart is in his giving <sup>8</sup> And God is able to give you an overflowing measure of all good gifts, that all your wants of every kind may be supplied at all times and you may give of your abundance to every good work. <sup>9</sup> The scriptures say of such a man, "He scatters his gifts to the poor, his deeds of charity go on forever." <sup>10</sup> And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread for eating, will supply you with seed and multiply it, and will increase the crop of your charities or giving... <sup>11</sup> the more you are enriched by God, the more scope there will be for your generous giving. Your gifts administered through us, will cause many to thank God.

**Now is the Time to Act:**

**Ecclesiastes 11:1,4** – Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. <sup>4</sup> He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap or if you wait for perfect conditions you will never get anything done.

We must move toward obedience in some measure.

“I can’t afford to tithe or give,” is the same as saying, “I can’t afford to trust and obey God.”

Who is on the other side of God’s blessing in your life?

Every step of obedience that Michelle and I took had you on the other side!