

Taking the Limits Off God 3

February 15, 2015 | mediaatvictory.com

Luke 13:34 – "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! The city that murders the prophets. The city that stones those sent to help her. How often I have wanted to gather your children together even as a hen protects her brood under her wings, but you wouldn't let me.

TLB

Will we "let him" do this in our lives today?

Psalm 91 describes living under an open heaven.

Psalm 91:1-14 – He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." ³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. ⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, ⁶ Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. ⁸ Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. ⁹ Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, ¹⁰ No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; ¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. ¹² In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. ¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. ¹⁴ Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. ¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation." **NKJV**

- You "set your love upon Him" by keeping Him first.
- God must be first.

Colossians 1:17-18 – And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. **KJV**

God has chosen the act of giving to be the primary manner in which we keep him first!

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:3-5 – In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. **NIV**

- The Course of Time vs. Firstborn

Galatians 6:7 – Do not be deceived, deluded or misled; God will not allow Himself to be sneered at (scorned, disdained, or mocked by mere pretensions or professions, or by His precepts being set aside.) [He inevitably deludes himself who attempts to delude God.] For whatever a man sows or gives, that and that only is what he will reap or a man's life depends entirely upon what he gives.

Giving in any capacity is a grace and not a work you do to earn an open heaven.

II Corinthians 8:6-7 – So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷ 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. **NIV**

2 Ways to Respond to Grace of Giving

1. A Grieved Heart
 - Example: Cokers in GA
2. A Cheerful Heart
 - Example: James at Walmart

We may have to start with “grieving,” but will end “cheerful” when we embrace the “grace of giving.”

The “grace of giving” applies in every area of our lives.

Psalms 126:5-6 – Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. ⁶ They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest. **NLT**

- Example: Illinois Couple

Deuteronomy 15:10 – You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. **NKJV**

All your works are blessed, not just your finances.

There is an outcome defined in scripture regarding the grace of giving!

II Corinthians 9:6-8 – [Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings. ⁷ Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful, joyful giver [whose heart is in his giving]. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]. **AMP**

All grace abounding is living under an open heaven.

What is your “next step”?