



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

You Will Abound

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Reading: Elijah and the Widow (1 K 17:7-16)

(Video: Superbook)

“For the Lord, the God of Israel, says “the jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry (1K 17:14).

Elijah stood on God’s promise.

The Lord is telling us today: we will not run out. God always sends someone to help you with your problem, and provides for whatever you need. He sends someone as your Elijah.

Two Principles that pave the way for blessings in our lives:

1. **GENEROSITY** – willingness to give

1.1 You have no excuse not to give.

- Sometimes, you are blinded to the blessings, which you already have. You are more blessed than you think you are. Do not compare what you have with what others have.
- God will ask only for what you have. Share what you have now. Eventually, an Elijah will come and more will be given to you.
- “Don’t postpone your giving for better days” (Francis Kong, Trainer, Speaker and Author). Do not wait for a salary increase, or for business to be better. Be generous now, with whatever you have now.

1.2 Give first because life will find a way to repay you.

- That’s how the universe works. When you give, something good or better, it will come back to you. The fastest way to succeed is to help others to succeed.
- In business, It is service or product first; then, the profits will follow. However, it should be serve first and money will follow.
- Give and gifts will be given to you, a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing (Lk 6:38).

- Share your blessings and bring others also to success. (Angel’s Burger example.)

1.3. If you need more, you have to give more.

- You have to put value to whatever you do. You have to put effort and time (Example: Gawad Kalinga). The recipients have to contribute by working on building the houses themselves)
- Beware the sickness of materialism; the only antidote to materialism is giving regularly.
- God created us to give (Acts 20:35).
- “I shovel money out and God shovels it back; but God has a bigger shovel.” (Robert Gilmore Le Tourneau). He served both God and humanity by setting aside 90% of his salary and company profits for God, and lived on the other 10%.

2. GRATITUDE: Thankfulness or gratefulness. From the Latin word “gratus” - pleasing, thankful, a feeling of appreciation felt by or a similar positive response shown by the recipient of kindness, gifts, help or other types of generosity, towards the giver of such gifts.

2.1 Having an abundance mindset (Jn 10:10; Ps 23:1)

- Author, Stephen Covey coined the idea of abundance mentality/mindset. A person believes there are enough resources and successes to share with others. He contrasts it with scarcity or poverty mindset, or the belief that If someone else wins, that means the other loses. Look for the Win-win situation.

2.2 A grateful person attracts abundance and blessings (Sis Lulu). A grateful person is a holy person, because you see the Lord in every situation, whether good or bad.

Sign of Poverty Mindset: Blaming others.

- Stop blaming others for your life situation. You need to counteract and do something to rise above, whatever situation you are in. Your life today is a product of the choices YOU make. You always have a choice. There is no such thing as “no choice” (Sis Lulu). Though you do not choose, it is still a choice.

Examples of “Rags to Riches” Stories: Socorro Ramos – National Book Store, Tony Tan Caktiong – Jollibee, Lucio Tan – Asia Brewery, Allied Bank, PAL, Henry Sy – SM Prime Holdings, Mariano Que – Mercury Drugstore

Therefore, whatever you are today, you can make a new direction for your life.

What are the Sources of Poverty Mindset:

- 1) **Psychology: I am poor, so I act poor.**
Act like a child of God, with the confidence of a child of God, who is an heir to the riches of God.
- 2) **Theology: How do you see God? Do you think God wants us to be poor? NO! How do you see rich people? Do you begrudge them their wealth? We should be happy they are rich, and pray that you will be rich, too.**
- 3) **Economy: concept of limited resources.**
However, you have infinite blessings from God. You are swimming in the ocean of blessings. Hence, you need to harvest our blessings.

Abundance Mindset or Gratitude Mindset

- 1) Every moment is a blessing, therefore, be grateful. Family, friends, acquaintances are your blessings. Your health is a blessing. Being able to help others is a blessing (1 Thess 5:18, Ps 34: 9). In any situation, there is a blessing, you have to recognize it.
- 2) Your abundance is not limited to what you have. You are surrounded by the universe of wealth. “Blessings are chasing after me.”

Conclusion

GENEROSITY & GRATITUDE pave the way for blessings in one’s life.

Example: A farmer sold his land to search for diamonds. He searched for 10 years but never found it. But, the buyer of his land eventually found diamonds on his land (true story behind the De Beers Diamonds from South Africa).

Reflection: Where are your diamonds? Everyone is gifted. Everyone has treasures that God can use to bless others. Hone the diamonds in your life. Make it shine and bless others.

Be GENEROUS, and Be GRATEFUL.

You are already standing on your blessings. Be a blessing to others. Enjoy and share your blessings

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