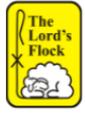


BLESSED TO INCREASE

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

God's divine will for us is a life filled with blessings. He assures us of expansion and abundance so that we can be channels of blessings to the people around us.

1. ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD.

- 1.1 God encourages us to pray and ask for great things from Him. Jabez did when he cried out to God to bless him (1 Chron. 4:9).
- 1.2 God gives us more when our motive is to do more for Him. Jabez dared to ask for a bigger territory, not for himself but for the people of Judah; thus, God granted his prayer (1 Chron. 4:10).
- 1.3 God expands our blessings when He sees that we are in harmony with His principles of faith, obedience and generosity; moreover, He gives more when we become vessels to bless others.

2. HOW CAN WE INVOKE GOD'S BLESSINGS?

- 2.1 Have a desire for enlargement (Psalm 37:4). Jabez sought to expand his territory for greater opportunities to serve and impact others.
- 2.2 Communicate with God. Be consistently committed to connect with God. Jabez earnestly prayed to God and God answered his desperate plea (1 Chron. 4:10).
- 2.3 Be a conduit of divine favours and grace. Jabez devoted his life for God. His purpose in seeking God's blessing was far larger than himself.

3. HOW DO WE BECOME CHANNELS OF BLESSINGS?

- 3.1 Be thankful always (Psalm 103:2). God blesses us more if we are grateful to Him (1 Thess. 5:17-18). Be like one of the 10 lepers who returned and thanked God after he was healed (Luke 17:11-17).
- 3.2 Do not complain (Phil 2:14). The antidote to a grumbling and complaining spirit is gratitude. Cultivating a grateful heart gives glory to God.

Consequently, He takes great delight in pouring His abounding grace and goodness.

- 3.3 Be responsible stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us: time, talents, treasures. We have to adhere to the biblical principle of accountability and faithful management of resources. We must nurture a culture of generosity and giving (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

Conclusion:

There is so much more that God wants to do to expand our life and fill it with the best. We must emulate Jabez who acknowledged that the God of Israel is the source of all blessings. Furthermore, as we align our prayers with God's precepts and trust Him, He will certainly multiply our resources, bless our efforts, and position us to be vessels of blessings to others. When we pursue God's purpose with faithfulness, obedience and generosity, He will increase us beyond our imagination.

Reflection: In what ways has God brought the supernatural increase in your life? How do you sustain it?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, increase our faith, trust, and gratitude as You prosper the works of our hands. May every barrier to the flow of your blessings be removed so that Your spirit of increase may find full expression in our lives for the glory of Your Name. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!*

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