

MORE THAN ENOUGH – 4 of 4
Responsibility of Being Blessed
November 24, 2024

INTRODUCTION Today we are going to conclude our message series called **More Than Enough**. We're going to finish our study in 2 Corinthians 9, we'll start in a moment in verse 11.

The **GOOD NEWS** is **YOU'RE RICHER THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE.**

In fact, God's Word says in 2 Corinthians 9:8, *⁸And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ...*

¹¹Yes, you will be enriched in every way ...

I want to talk to you about the word enriched for a minute. This word **enriched** only appears in Scripture three times and each time it appears in the Book of Corinthians.

The Greek word is translated in different versions of the Bible. CEV - *"You'll be blessed in every way."* GWT - *"God will make you rich enough."* CEB - *"You'll be made rich in every way."*

You'll be enriched, blessed, rich, have everything that you need, and some left over. That's why I want to tell you you're richer than you think you are.

Most of us don't believe we're rich because we don't feel rich. And that's a challenge.

I'm very aware that some of you are significantly hurting right now. I know of some are facing a mountain of medical bills.

Some may be unemployed. Single parents are working two and three jobs just trying to make ends meet. So, I want to acknowledge there is real significant financial pain.

At the same time, I want to say just lovingly and truthfully, compared to most people in the world, the majority of us are doing pretty good.

The fact that we can go to the store that's got groceries is better than most of the world.

Compared to most of the rest of the world, when we drive a car, they're envious. Only about one in five of the people living today own a car. If you got here in a car, you're in the top 20% of people living today.

Some of us have two cars. Some of us drive our cars to a restaurant where someone else makes our food. And some of us drive by seven or eight or nine or ten different restaurants to get to our favorite one.

So, I want you to say this with me, **"God has blessed me with more than I need."**

If you feel uncomfortable saying, **"I am blessed by God,"** why do you think you're uncomfortable admitting that? I'll ask you this.

Where do all of your blessings come from? From God, right? In fact, when it comes to financial blessings and every other kind of blessing, they come from God.

And Scripture tells us this in Ecclesiastes 5:19, ***"Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God."***

So anything good that you have is actually a gift from God. So, if God does bless you financially, why would you apologize or be embarrassed by financial blessings.

If someone compliments your jacket, you tend to apologize for it, **"Oh, this ratty thing, I got it on sale. I got it at the Salvation Army."** If someone says we're blessed financially, we often feel embarrassed.

And the **BAD NEWS** is **YOU'RE RICHER THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE.**

It's actually bad news. Because most people want to be rich. But I want to remind you that it is a significant spiritual disadvantage to be distracted by the wealth of this world.

In fact, there was a rich young guy who came up to Jesus one time and said, **"Jesus, what do I need to do to inherit eternal life?"** And Jesus said, **"You need to obey the commands."**

The guy said, **"I've done all that, I've done all that."** And Jesus, knowing the condition of this guy's heart, looked at him and loved him and he said, **"There's one more thing you need to do."**

Jesus said, **"You need to go sell your possessions and then give the money to the poor."** Now, Jesus didn't tell this man to sell his possessions because the man **①had possessions.**

Jesus told him to sell his possessions because the possessions **②had him.** His heart was taken up by them, it was a spiritual distraction. And the man was very, very sad because he had great wealth.

In fact, we read the parable in Luke 18:24-25, ***²⁴Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"***

²⁵Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

It's actually a disadvantage spiritually to be distracted by the things of this world. And when you're rich, you never get to pray, **"Lord, give me today my daily bread."**

Because you already got a cabinet full of every kind of gluten-free, raisin-filled waffle, toast, bread that you could imagine. And the more that you have, the easier it is to put your trust in what you have instead of putting your trust in God.

So, if we're more blessed than we think we are, if God has blessed us with more than we need, why did God bless us?

The fundamental mistake many of us make is we tend to think whenever God gives us more, that it's actually for us.

In fact, Jesus told a parable about this very subject in Luke 12. He talked about a rich farmer that had a very good year. God had blessed the farmer with a bountiful crop. And so, the farmer said,

¹⁸"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain."

Our version of that is our closet is so full of clothes and yet we walk by, and we touch them all and what do we say? **"I've got nothing to wear."** Our garage becomes so full we can't drive our car into it, so we actually rent storage places to store all of our stuff.

And yet we think we're not rich, even though we can't keep all of our stuff in our closet and in our garage and we need an additional storage place.

¹⁹And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.""

²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

This is how it will be for anyone who thinks that everything is for them. And what's crazy about this story is that God wasn't angry with the man for being rich. He was a farmer.

God was the one who blessed him, right? God made him rich. He planted seed in God's ground and God sent the rain and the sun, God made him rich. God called him a fool because the guy thought it all belonged to him.

So, if we're going to be rich in a way that honors God, let's look at God's Word and apply what it says to our lives. This is our key text, we looked at the beginning of it, now we're going to look at the end.

2 Corinthians 9:11 says, *¹¹Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.*

Here's what's amazing. You're richer than you think you are. And the good news is you've been blessed by God so that you can always be generous. So, let's add to our statement.

"God has blessed me with more than I need, I'm rich. Now, because I have more, I will do more and give more."

So, how do you do more and how do you give more? And the answer is, we actually do it together. We do more and we give more together through the church.

And here's what's amazing, is nobody's ever going to feel like they're doing a ton. You're going to say, **"Hey, all I do is serve. All I do is smile at people and make them feel welcome. Hey, all I do is give a portion of what God trusted me. It's not even a lot, but I give it back to God through the local church."**

But as the church does our part, we actually make a difference in the world.

I want to **①ask you, ②inspire you** to give often and start with the church, start with the tithe. The first 10% goes back to God as an act of worship through the local church. And I'll tell you why I believe this.

Because Jesus said, **"I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."** If Jesus was building his church, I want to be a part of building what Jesus is building.

When we all do our little part through the church, God does big things all over the world through the church. That's why we are not spiritual consumers. We're spiritual contributors.

The church doesn't exist for us. We are the church, and we exist for the world. And one day you recognize it. My little small part is actually a very big part, because our church is big enough to impact the world and it's small enough to care for the one.

And Scripture says, **"You'll be enriched in every way."** Why? So you can be generous on every occasion.

So, I hope you see it as a responsibility that you're richer than you think you are. And the reason you are is so you can be generous on every occasion. And when you are, people around the world will thank God.

I really want to be blessed in a way that honors God. Jesus said in Luke 12:48, ***“To whom much is given, much shall be required.”*** What a privilege it is to be so blessed by God that we get to share with others! Let us pray.

Father, I thank you for what your Holy Spirit is doing in all of us. Help us to realize, God, just how good you are and just how blessed we are. And God, I do pray for those who are facing significant financial burdens.

God, I pray that you would meet those needs. And God, I pray for the rest of us who really are blessed, that we wouldn't see it as all just for us. But we would take a portion of it and use it in a way that honors you and blesses and meets the needs of others.

God, help us as a church to grow in irrational generosity because we know it's truly more blessed to give than to receive.

Today there are those of you you're not here by accident, it's not a coincidence. God is loving you because you need him. What are you going to do? Let him meet your need, receive his forgiveness, let him give you eternal life.

Today, say, **"Yes, I need Jesus. I need his forgiveness. I give my life to him. Yes, I give my life to him today."**

Heavenly Father, forgive all of my sins. Jesus, save me. Fill me with your Spirit, so I can know you and serve you. You have blessed me with more than I need. I am spiritually rich.

Because I have more, help me do more, and help me give more to show your love and share your grace. Thank you for new life. You have all of mine. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

THE END