

**ILLUSTRATION** Today we're going to begin a new series titled **Amazing Promises**. One scholar did a study and counted over 8,000 different promises of God in the Bible.

Now, God's promises are like a divine insurance policy. In an insurance policy, when you know what's covered, then you don't sweat it when that circumstance happens in your life.

On the other hand, if you don't know what's covered in the insurance policy, you worry. One of the problems that we have today, is people don't know the promises of God, so they spend a lot of time worrying.

Each week we're going to look at a different set of God's promises to you.

Now, I want to begin this series by explaining three fundamental facts, about the promises of God.

**1** GOD WANTS ME TO BUILD MY LIFE ON HIS PROMISES.

God doesn't want you to live a life built on petty rules. He wants you to live a life built on great promises.

**2** GOD MAKES TWO KINDS OF PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE: CONDITIONAL AND UNCONDITIONAL.

The unconditional promises, there are no strings attached. No matter what you do, when God promises something unconditionally, it's going to happen.

God also makes conditional promises, and these promises are based on your obedience. There's a premise to every promise that's conditional.

**③ GOD MAKES PROMISES FOR US FOR TWO DIFFERENT REASONS.**

**TO TEACH US TO ① TRUST HIM IN DIFFICULT TIMES AND TO ② MAKE US MORE LIKE HIMSELF.**

The Bible says in Psalm 119:50, *When I am hurting, I find comfort in your promise that lead to life.*

If everything went great in your life, you wouldn't need the promises of God. Psalm 119:114 says, *You are my defender and protector; I put my hope in your promise.*

**① God gives us promises to help us trust Him and get us through the tough times in life.**

**② God gives us promises to make us more like Him.**

The Bible says that God, in 2 Peter 1:4, *God made great and marvelous promises, so His nature would become part of us.*

The more you trust in God's promises, the more it's going to change your life.

Can you guess what subject in the Bible God makes more promises about, than anything else? It may surprise you that God makes more promises in the Bible about generosity or giving than anything else.

Why does God make more promises about being generous and being giving? There's a couple of reasons.

**①First, because God is generous, and He wants us to become like Him.**

In John 1:16, it says, *From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.*

**②Second reason God wants us to learn generosity is because giving is hard.** Because it challenges our selfishness. Everything you have in life, is because of the generosity of God and He wants us to become like Him.

To kick off this series on God's amazing promises, we're going to start with the most frequent promises in the Bible about generosity.

Let me give you nine rewards that God promises to you and me, if we learn to be generous with our money, right?

❶ GOD PROMISES GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN TO ME, when I'm generous.

Psalm 112:5 says, *Good will come to those who are generous...*

Proverbs 22:9, *Generous people will be blessed, because they share their food with the poor.*

God promises that good things will happen to me, when I'm generous.

❷ GOD PROMISES MY CHILDREN WILL BE BLESSED, if I learn how to give like God gives.

Psalm 37:26 says, *They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.*

When you learn to be generous, and give the way God gives, that blessing not only blesses you, but it gets passed onto the next generation.

God will bless your kids, if you are generous.

**③ GOD PROMISES HE WILL BLESS MY WORK AND MY BUSINESS**, if I learn to be generous.

Proverbs 3:9 says, *Honor the Lord, by giving Him the first part of all your income*, We honor God by giving Him the first part of our income, that's called tithing.

Here's the promise, *and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines.*

Let's put this in a cultural context. In the Bible times, everybody was a farmer. When you looked inside a person's barn, that represented their business. It represented their investments, their livelihood.

What God is saying here, is if you learn to be generous, He will bless your business.

Proverbs 11:25 says, *A generous man will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

The person who is generous, will profit and be blessed in what he does.

Deuteronomy 15:10 says, *Give freely and spontaneously. Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this, triggers God, your God's, blessing in everything you do, all your work and ventures.*

If you're generous with your money, you're not a stingy heart. Good will come to you. Your kids will be blessed. Your work, your career, your job will be blessed. Generosity triggers God's blessing on your job.

#### ④ GOD PROMISES I WILL BE HAPPIER.

Jesus said Acts 20:35, Luke is talking here, and he says, *Remember that our Lord Jesus said, “More blessings come from giving than from receiving.”*

If you learn to give generously, God promises you'll be happier. Your business, family, children, and you get blessed.

#### ⑤ GOD PROMISES MY INFLUENCE WILL INCREASE.

Proverbs 11:24 says, *The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.*

If you want your world to get larger, learn to be generous. If you want your world to get smaller, and harder and harder, build walls around it, then just be a stingy person.

The Bible says the more generous you are, the larger and larger your world will get.

**⑥ GOD PROMISES I WILL END UP WITH MORE.**

Now, we don't give to get. We actually give to be a blessing, but the truth is you can't out-give God.

God says, "Let's see who can out-give the other person. You give to me, and I'll give to you. You give to other people, and I'll give to you."

Luke 6:38, these are the words of Jesus Himself. *“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.*

*The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”*

What's that talking about? Well, if you're getting grain, and people are pouring grain in your sack. You've paid for a whole sack, you're going to shake it like this.

Then you're going to press it down, so you can get the maximum amount of grain or coins, or anything else into that sack.

God wants to give you so much, you have to press it down and shake it together to make more room, because God wants to give you more than your sack can hold.

Jesus summarizes it this way. The way you give to others, is the way God will give to you.

God is waiting for me to be generous. He wants me to prime the pump. Why? Because He wants me to learn to be like Him. I can't be like Christ, without giving. God so loved the world that He gave.

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. You spell love, G-I-V-E.

Give, and it'll be given to you, and the way you give to others is the way God will give to you. That's a promise. If you're generous, God will give you more than you can handle.

Proverbs 11:24 says, *Some people give much but get back even more. Others don't give what they should and end up poor.*

He's saying you are determining how much He can bless your life.

Proverbs 19:17 says, *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.*

Giving is an investment. That when you try to give it away, God says He's going to pay you back.

When you're generous to the poor, it's like lending to the Lord and God will pay you back.

One translation says, *And God pays great interest on your loan.* It's like loaning to the Lord. You're not really giving that money away, because God is going to pay you back with interest. Giving is an investment.

## ⑦ GOD PROMISES TO MEET ALL MY NEEDS.

If you'll put God first in your money, and if you'll learn to be generous, open-handed, openhearted, He will meet all your needs.

The whole reason I'm teaching this message, is because I love you. I want you to have the good that comes from giving.

I know the good that comes from giving. I've been doing it all my adult life. I've been blessed all my life, because I've learned the good that comes from giving.

God is not going to let you to out-give Him.

The Bible says in Philippians 4:17 and 19, *“I want you to have the good that comes from giving. My God will use His wonderful riches in Christ Jesus, to give you everything you need.”*

Jesus will make sure you get everything you need. Now, notice He didn't say, **“I'll give you all you greed.”** He says, **“I'll give you everything you need.”** All of your needs will be met.

He will give you everything you need, if you learn to be generous.

Proverbs 28:27 says, *Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.*

If you want to lack nothing in your life, emotionally, physically, spiritually, mentally, then you need to learn how to give to the poor. You can do that through your church.

We help the poor all the time. We have The WeCare Ministry. He who gives to the poor, will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to their needs, will receive curses.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 says, *You must each decide in your heart how much to give.*

In other words, nobody could tell you what to give. What's generous for you, is your decision based on how much income you have.

He says, *And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."*

If you ever feel pressured by anybody including me on giving, don't do it. Why? Because you don't get any credit for it. You don't get any blessing out of it. God doesn't want stingy, grouchy givers.

God wants people who give cheerfully. That Greek word, there is the word, **hilaros**. It means hilariously, I enjoy it.

Don't give reluctantly. Don't give under pressure, because God loves a cheerful giver.

Now, that's the premise. Here's the promise. *And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*

God is guaranteeing He will meet your needs.

## ⑧ GOD PROMISES HE WILL MULTIPLY WHAT I GIVE HIM.

He'll take what I give Him, and He will multiply it and make it go even further.

The story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. He took 5 loaves of bread and two fish, and He fed 5,000 people with it. He took it, He broke it. He blessed it and He multiplied it.

Whatever you need more of, give it to God. You need more time? Give your time to God. You need more money? Give your money to God. Put Him first in your money.

You need more energy? Give your first energy to God, and He will multiply it.

Every time you're generous, every time you give to God or to other people in need, it's like planting a seed.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 says, *For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.*

*Yes, 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.*

Giving is not a debt I owe. It's a seed I sow. God doesn't need your money. Then why does God want to teach me giving? To teach me to trust Him, and so I become more like Him and to become more generous.

Now, when you plant a seed, do you get one seed back? No, you get a whole plant, with a lot of fruit. There's a multiplication of seed. No one has ever planted one seed and got back one seed.

If I take a kernel of corn, and plant that corn in the ground. I don't get one kernel of corn back. I get literally hundreds of kernels on that corn.

This is the principle of multiplication. He says that when you give to people, if you take your money and use it to help others, He'll multiply it, so that when it comes back, it's multiplied.

You don't get one seed back when you plant it, you get a hundred or a thousand seeds out of that one blessing.

God gives you money for you to use for good. Money is a tool.

Any money I just spend on myself, it's gone. Any money I use for good, is actually building an investment and it's multiplying in heaven. When you plant a seed, you reap a harvest.

Now, God lets you decide the size of your harvest. It just all depends on how much seed you plant.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 9:6, *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

God allows you to decide. You get to decide how much God blesses your life. How? By your giving. The size of the harvest is determined by the size of sowing.

God leaves it up to you. If you have little faith, then you get a little result. If you have a lot of faith, you get a lot of results. If you sow extravagantly, you get an extravagant result back. Now, in planting seed and waiting for the harvest, the harvest is never immediate.

Seeds take time to grow. You plant in one season, and you harvest in another season. It's not instant. This is true in your generosity and your giving.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 says, *Be generous, and, someday you will be rewarded.*

There's always a time delay, between sowing and reaping. Why is there always that delay? Because God wants you to trust Him. If you saw immediate results every time you gave, there'd be no faith needed?

See, you can give by reason, or you can give by revelation. When you give by reason, you look at your bank account and go, **"What can I afford to give?"**

You don't even have to be a believer. You don't have to be a Christian. It takes no faith to give by reason.

To give by revelation, you just go, **"God, how much do You want to give through me?"** This is a test of faith.

**⑨ GOD PROMISES MY GIVING IS STORED UP IN HEAVEN.**

1 Timothy 6:18-19 says, *Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need,*

*always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the only safe investment for eternity!*

You'll be storing up real treasure for yourself. When you give to God or you give to somebody in need, you're storing up treasure for yourself.

God has set up a bank account for you in heaven. God says you are storing up treasure for yourself in that bank account. How do you do that? By giving it away.

How do we know that God has a bank account for you in heaven? Because Jesus mentioned it five times. Jesus uses the phrase, "**Store up treasure in heaven,**" five times.

Luke 16:9, Jesus says, *Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends.*

He's talking about eternal friends. Make friends in heaven, *Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.*

What does that mean? It means when you invest in people who are going there. If you use money to help people come to Christ, you're actually making an investment in eternity.

When you invest in other people, when you help people come to Christ, they're going to go to heaven. When you get to heaven, can you imagine a bunch of people coming up to you and saying, **"Thank you! I'm here because of you."**

People will say to you, "I'm your friend for eternity. Thank you for caring for me." You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.

The premise is this. If I put God first in my money, by tithing 10 percent back to Him, the first 10 percent goes back to God, and I start learning to be generous with my money with others.

Investing it in good things, and helping people come to Christ, helping people grow. Then I can count on God to do these nine things.

So really it just comes down to this. Do I believe these promises?

Now, why would you believe God and trust Him enough to save you, but you wouldn't believe and trust Him enough for all the other things He's promised? That doesn't make sense.

If you're not tithing the first part of your income back to God, that's where you need to start with generosity.

The first part of everything you make belongs to God. The tithe is His, it's holy to Him.

You're not to use God's part of the income He gives you, on yourself. You can use the other 90 percent, but if you use His part on yourself, you're cheating Him.

Malachi 3:8-12 says, this is God talking, *8“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In tithes and offerings.”*

*You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.*

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

The rebuke was, **"You're not tithing."** The reward is, **"Test me. Try it, you'll like it."** See if He'll throw open the floodgates of heaven, pour out so much blessing that there will not be enough room for you to store it.

*I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty.*

*“Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.*

Now, why is tithing so important to your spiritual growth?  
Because it unlocks all these promises we've looked at.

**PRAYER** Now you pray. God, I want these promises in my life. I want good things to happen to me. I want my children to be blessed. I want my work or business to be blessed. I want to be happier.

Lord, I want my influence to increase. I want to end up with more than I've got.

Lord, I want to trust you to meet all my needs. I want to believe that you will multiply what I give you.

Today I commit or recommit, to giving the first 10 percent back to you. I'm going to trust your promises. I'm going to believe your word, and I know that is pleasing to you.

If you've never invited Jesus into your heart, Jesus is the answer to all our promises. Say, **“Jesus Christ, come into my heart and life, and fill me with your love. I want to follow you the rest of my life.”**

We humbly pray this prayer together, in your name. Amen.

**THE END**