



**HOW to COOPERATE
with HEAVEN on EARTH**

***The POWER KEYS
to Your PROMOTION***

Michael Billings

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Billings ministries

Live as if Heaven's on Earth!
JOHN 10:10

How to Cooperate with Heaven On Earth

THE POWER KEYS TO PROMOTION

*by
Michael Billings*

How to Cooperate with Heaven on Earth

Power Keys to Your Promotion

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With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord...

EPHESIANS 6:7 & 8

THE PROMOTION PRINCIPLE 1

Stewardship in Action

True promotion comes only from God. *Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another [PSALM 75].* ISAIAH 48: *I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit (LIT. ASCEND TO THE TOP).*

Promotion from God includes healing in the body, peace for the soul, provision for living, seed for giving, a position at work and increase at your business. It is a satisfying marriage, relationships that bless and a wonderful church family. It is everything that actually makes today better than yesterday.

Promotion is progressive. Bible examples of this are: *◊thirty, sixty and a hundredfold ◊good, acceptable and perfect ◊the blade, ear and full corn in the ear; ◊precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little ◊walk and not faint, run and not be weary to mount up with wings like eagles...* Although it seems to come suddenly onto someone's life, it is, in reality, simply the last step across the finish line. It is an unseen force that has been working a long time on the inside.

For example, we know that every tree spends its entire existence for only one purpose: to produce fruit. The seed may seem like it just popped out in one day, but in reality, it took everything the tree had to make it happen. It stretched all Winter preparing a great root system to get ready for the day. In the Spring, it began forming sap, branches, leaves and buds behind the scenes. Everything about it was ramping up for a big day. Finally,

the fruit suddenly appears. The tree knows that it didn't just happen. It was a great end to many small efforts. So it is with increase from God.

Jesus addressed the process of cooperation with heaven in MATTHEW 25, *Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make you master over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord [V 21].*

Promotion always comes from doing something for someone else just as you would do it for yourself. This is different than working just hard enough to keep your job. Releasing excellence is involved. Motive is very important. Patience is required. It begins with whatever the Lord has given into your life (*A FEW THINGS*). Your faith is on the line. You are absolutely in charge of it all. It is for Him, even if it is done unto others. He will judge what, how and why you do it and the reward will be just.

Worldly promotion comes by worldly ways: *◊first come, first served ◊dog eat dog ◊early bird gets the worm ◊get all you can, can all you get and sit on the can.* Self is the focus. Getting ahead by competition and comparison is the means. It's all that almost everyone has ever known. But Jesus on the inside changes it all. Everything! He is your Lord and has paid every price to give you days of Heaven on earth. Now, **DECIDE** to cooperate with HIS Heaven in YOUR world. That decision will be your place of power.

THE PROMOTION PRINCIPLE 2

Power for *really* Living in Life

The experience of being filled with the Holy Ghost with all that God IS and all that God HAS is absolutely necessary to completely fulfill your assigned stewardship. This gift of the Holy Ghost is your connection to revelation from heaven that gives you access to SEE promotion like it really is, and WANT it with pure motives and desires. It is the power you need to walk in all of God's blessings. The New Birth is so easy to receive. After acknowledging that you are indeed a hopelessly lost sinner who cannot predict or control your own future in any way, call on God. Simply ask Jesus to regenerate and change you and to set you free from the old man you have been. Invite Him to be your Savior and truly rule as Lord and King of your life [*...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved* [ROMANS 10:9]. He always does. Now you're born again! Yea God!

Is there more? You don't need more to go to heaven, but everyone surely does in order to live well on this planet! How will it come? Exactly like the new birth did. Simply ask Jesus to give you the EVERYTHING MORE you need in Him to be victorious in this new life that He has promised. Want it. Ask for it. Believe you receive Him. Then, He will baptize, or flood you with the Holy Ghost! It's so simple.

Yet some people miss it by trying to earn this Grace. They hesitate to ask until they

can prove they're really worthy of this Gift. No, you are already born again and so you're already approved of God! It's natural to cooperate with Heaven when you have its power.

The following 21 Power Keys are like building blocks. Each one can be cemented into your life to pursue and hold onto God's promotion. Every brick in a wall is important. It holds its own place for strength and beauty. But, it also gives support to every other brick in the building. Individual bricks are not, in themselves, seemingly too important, until they are missing. Each one of these Bible principles are valuable like that too. You should make ALL of them foundation stones for a great life. They each contain a reward, an increase and a promotion within themselves that will burst forth like fresh fruit on a great tree in precisely the right season.

As your promotion suddenly pops open into your life, you must always give glory to the Lord Jesus for it all.

NOT THIS: ...and when ...all that thou hast is multiplied; ...and thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God which brought thee forth ...and thou say in thine heart, my power hath gotten me this wealth...

BUT THIS: ...thou shalt remember the LORD thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth...

DEUTERONOMY 8:13b & 14a & 17 & 18a

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

1 LIVE in the LOVE of GOD

► *...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* ROMANS 8:38 & 39

► [GOD'S] *love never fails (never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end)*...1st CORINTHIANS 13:8 AMPLIFIED

► *God is love...* 1st JOHN 4:16

When you love God and live in the love of God, promotion is always in your path.

Every other way will eventually fail, but God's love never quits. It never relinquishes the victory, which is your promotion. It reminds you that circumstances, people, and situations really don't have any power over you or the promotion Jesus has purchased for you. You will never have God's best if you continually are adjusting to what men think about you. That's the way that promotion comes from the world, and it's always inferior.

In the world ye shall have tribulation, Jesus said to his disciples. He agreed that life can be tough. It can seem like there is no end but pain, disappointment and hopelessness. But THEN He said, *but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world* [JOHN 16:33]. God is love and Love has already won in your world. Your wrestle is not with people or even situations themselves, but simply to resist the temptation to live even one thought lower than where Love created

you to flourish. ... *that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.* EPHESIANS 3:17–19

Unforgiveness, hatred, and prejudice is refusing to live in and release the very love of God that has set you free, into others. It limits and binds everyone from fulfilling Love's plan. When you experience Love's Goodness, you want to give it away. Giving it makes it come

back to you again, over and over. Christians are able to let God forgive and restore them even when they mess up their own lives. God's love forgave you once and for all over 2,000 years ago. Love is IN love with you! You are saturated with love. Let it change your mind as well. Transformation, pro-

motion and increase are already there.

The love walk is in the excellent realm of living. Whatever your beginning place in life, God's love will always lead you up higher. It cannot fail and it never comes up short or too late. Love people and yourself like God loves you. Love. And do it without requiring a response that you can measure. God's love is a seed that you plant. It always produces a harvest. Whether now or later, but somewhere, some way, and in somebody's life. Your reward is in the planting and watering of the love-seed. The Glory is only His.



2 FEAR and REVERENCE GOD

► *He honoureth them that fear the Lord.*
PSALM 15:4

► *The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivered them. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.* PSALM 34:7 & 9

► *He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children.* PSALM 115:13 & 14

► *Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.* 1st PETER 2:17

► *...and I saw an angel... saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him...* REVELATION 14:6a & 7a

The FEAR of the Lord is not being afraid of Him. The fear spoken of in these Scriptures is one of AWE, and deep REVERENCE. It is the highest form of RESPECT. It is worship. It is Lordship. It is measuring you and Him.

This respect steers every priority. It sets every goal. It guides every plan. It tempers every intention and action. An awe of God prunes wayward imaginations. It shuts down rebellion and sin. It also arrests rudeness and selfish callousness towards people. Stubbornness is always far from the man walking in the fear of the Lord. This honor for Him, His will, His Word and His Spirit overwhelms everything that shines on earth. It dulls the sparkle of the world's things. It shuts down

everything contrary to God's system of promotion. It is on earth as it is in heaven. *For ye are bought with a price be not ye the servants of men* [1st CORINTHIANS 7:23]. When you fear God, you are fearless before the devil and all men. It is the measure of honor and authority. *If God be for us, who can be against us?* [ROMANS 8:31]. Where does faith come from? IS IT NOT a confidence, an assurance, a persuasion and a conviction that God is SO REAL to you that you are unafraid of all else? What is satan going to do again with Jesus, your Lord, who SO defeated him in front of his home crowd? How is another man going to threaten you, God's man? How will he approach the woman of righteousness totally immersed in an awe of Him? *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you* [JAMES 4:7 & 8].

...the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding [JOB 28:28]. The kingdom of Heaven is based on identification. You must know who your heavenly Father is, who the devil is, and who you are, in Christ. This begins with choosing, in your will, to let God be, in your heart, exactly who He says He is. No more and no less and no different. Next, is to decide to believe what He has said about satan, angels, demons and you in the Bible. Only then, is your real life settled.

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

3 MEDITATE GOD'S WORD

► *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make they way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* JOSHUA 1:8

► *...his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water... and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.* PSALM 1:2 & 3

► *...give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.*
1ST TIMOTHY 4:13 & 15

Meditation is simply a word for the digestion process of the mind. The concept for it comes from terms dealing with cattle chewing their cud. All cattle can take in huge amounts of forage in a short period of time. When its stomach is full of grass, the cow may then quit eating and relax. Then, by process, it forces that raw food back to its mouth so that its teeth can break it down. There, it RECHEWS or MEDITATES its food over and over until it is able to be completely assimilated into its system.

In the thought realm, meditation deals with examining read or heard words and the thoughts they produce. The mind visits again this raw data that it has received. Meditating is by musing about them and squeezing these thoughts from

many angles and perspectives over and again until the revelation is processed for an application. It is called feeding on the Word. It is for strength, understanding and wisdom. Success is already built into the Word of God. The casual observer and scanner that listens only on the edge tends to forget what he has received. He doesn't get the deep and meaty aspects of what has been given. He is a surface miner and can't get much reward from the Word's wealth for success. He has not transferred

it from black ink on BIBLE PAGES into his UNDERSTANDING.

You can read the Bible and yet still need increase in an area of life. If you can't hear someone teach the Word on a needy subject or can't read the answer from a book, what can you do?

You can meditate the Word that has already been deposited in your heart by visiting it again. Stop being so busy in your surface mind [THAT SENSORY BUZZING SOUL-MODE]. STOP, so that you can truly bring back what was already said to you by God. Meditate what you have heard. Listen to it again with the purpose of changing your thinking and outlook.

Meditation injects you with the benefits of God's grace. It is the engine that CONVERTS the spiritual fuel in the Word into genuine power. **WHATEVER YOU MEDITATE UNTO BELIEVING THAT YOU CAN BE, CAN DO AND CAN HAVE~ FROM YOUR INWARD MAN~WILL ALWAYS BE TRANSFORMED INTO TANGIBLE PROMOTION~IN THE OUTWARD MAN.**

WHATEVER
YOU
MEDITATE
will
SHOW UP
in
YOUR LIFE

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

4 DO the WORD

► *He is the way of life that keepeth instruction.* PROVERBS 10:17

► [JESUS]: *Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man...*

MATTHEW 7:24

► [JESUS]: *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love.* JOHN 15:10a

► *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:9

► *Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.* JAMES 1:22

You can't get God's promotion by substituting anything that you would RATHER do, for something God is LEADING you to do. Personal sacrifice or good works in one realm cannot be exchanged for obedience in another. You must follow through in what you already KNOW TO DO before you will be able to receive more instructions about your next step.

When Jesus said to *be doers of the Word and not hearers only*, he was ministering to your future. The word *doeth them* [MATTHEW 7:24] means to construct, form, fashion and build. That means that just hearing the Word is not enough to get it done. Acting on the Word fashions and forms it into your spirit. There, it is available to be constructed into your future. Jesus said that doers of the Word have the benefits of that Word operating in their lives.

God agrees with faith [WHAT YOU BELIEVE] that is given form by a corresponding action [YOUR CONVICTION]. The faith God responds to is His TRUTH inside your born again heart. You might have an opinion on what to do based on reasoning or experience. But acting on God's Word is the only standard accepted by Him for promotion. You must be doers of THAT Word even if you have to disobey ALL else [ACTS 5:29].

What if someone felt that they had received a vision of an angel appearing and speaking words of instruction to them? Actually, it would not be as impressive or as reliable as the black ink on white paper in your Bible. Indeed, a physical visitation from heaven would be amazing! But even something THAT IMPRESSIVE

would not stand as the final word for direction in your future. Every still small voice you HEAR from within and each leading you FEEL must be completely aligned with God's written Word. If it doesn't line up, your revelation for a new direction is suspect.

Obedience produces miracles. It always positions your life for the supernatural. When you have been *good and faithful over* [DOING] *a few things*, God will open doors and windows of greater opportunities for you. Transition will be involved. Change is required. But being a doer of the Word will get you past every obstacle and delay hindering your promotion. To bring Glory to the Lord is the reason you have been put upon the earth. Make it your whole life for all of your life.

LOVE
the
WORD!
to OBEY
the
WORD!

5 LIVE by FAITH

► *The just shall live by faith*
ROMANS 1:17b

► [JESUS]: *Have faith in God. ...I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*
MARK 11:22b & 23

► *We, having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed and therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore speak. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...*
2nd CORINTHIANS 2:14

► *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.* 1st JOHN 5:4

Faith is not so much an event or episode as it is something that you live. Little faith is faith that can only imitate and mimic. Peter was encouraged to walk on the water because he saw Jesus doing it. He was bold to copy what he saw. The Lord Jesus commanded them in the story of the good Samaritan, *go and do thou likewise*.

Great faith is faith that initiates. It is stirred-up faith. The centurion wouldn't ask Jesus to come all the way to his home to heal his servant even though others had. Instead, he told Jesus to simply *speak the Word only* and it would happen. This had never been asked before! Jesus commended this great

DARE
TO STEP
ACROSS
THE
FAITH
LINE!

faith. Faith knows what God will do and so makes plans for that. Anyone that claims to be IN faith that isn't doing anything BY faith hasn't pulled the DOING trigger yet. Faith takes risks. It does hard things. It grows by acting on what God has said.

Simply operating by sight, by fact, by experience and analysis is natural human faith. But it will never position you in the right place at the right time for the God-kind of promotion. Why? It's of the soul realm. It is dependent on your reasoning and the disposition of others to cooperate. It'll never produce what is necessary to win the God-kind of promotion. Your circumstances change only if you shift your trust to God. That grows by feeding on His Word until you can *live by the faith of the Son of God* [GALATIANS 2:20].

Somebody said, *Dare to step across the faith line! It's an irreversible decision to do the Word of God—to take a stand of faith. It's a line you draw when you need God to do the impossible in your life.*

Faith lives above the mediocrity of ordinary and average. When you worry and always hesitate, you aren't living by faith. It's YOUR faith, not the faith of OTHERS that opens the door to YOUR promotion. When Jesus said, *we will go to the other side* [LUKE 8], He was speaking into your life too. So, get into the boat and tell yourself, *by faith, I win!* It won't be different than that.

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

6 (really) PRAISE the LORD and BE (very) THANKFUL

► *The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength in whom I trust; my buckler and the horn of my salvation and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.* PSALM 18: 1–3

► *Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.* PSALM 22:3

► *Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

1st THESSALONIANS 5:16–18

The benefits of praising and thanking God are vast. Whenever you give thanks, you limit the limiter; the demoter. The devil always believes that you will blame God when bad things happen TO you or AROUND you. At the very least, he assumes that you'll be so frustrated and consumed over trouble that HE brought that you will fail to praise the Lord.

Give thanks and praise to God IN all things, not FOR all things. There are two sources for all things. Everything good comes from God [JAMES 1:17]. Everything destructive is from the devil [JOHN 10:10]. In tough times, your head gives you trouble about giving God His due. So, always praise from your inward man.

Praise and thanksgiving were put into every created thing. *Deep calleth unto deep* [PSALM 42:7]. It's inside of you right now. It's waiting on you to release it unto God. It's His right to have praise. He is always worthy of all honor and glory from all creatures. And, it is your

privilege to lead in it. Giving praise is part of who you are and what is in you to do for your Father.

...when Jesus was come nigh, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen...and some of the Pharisees from among them said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.
[LUKE 19:37 & 39 & 40].



And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth forever and ever...
[REVELATION 4:8 & 9]

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord [PSALM 150:6]. Praise is expected of every man but not limited to every thing that has breath (*stones can cry out*). Praise is required of creation. But only man offers it out of his will and by faith. *...therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name* [HEBREWS 13:15]. Raising your hands is also a part of true praise. *In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God...* [1st TIMOTHY 2:8a NLT]. Every part of man wants to be engaged to praise and thank Jesus, who is King and Lord of all. So open your mouth and be glad to do it.

7 PRAY PRAYERS THAT GOD CAN *always* ANSWER

► *[JESUS]: And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.* JOHN 14:13 & 14

► *[JESUS]: If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.* JOHN 15:7

► *The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].* JAMES 5:16b AMPLIFIED

► *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.* 1st JOHN 5:14 & 15

God your Father wants His children to come to Him in believing and expectant prayer. He ALONE wants to be the answer and end to all of their needs and desires. He wants ALL of your prayers to produce for you~every time. He always has the best answer for every situation. Therefore, He wants you to be able to pray prayers that line up with Heaven. The Word and prayer is designed to reveal to you everything on earth that was bundled into your salvation package when you got born again.

Praying begins with knowing the will of God. You will never be denied any request that is in God's good plan for your life. JOHN 15:7: *If ye abide in me [BORN AGAIN] and my words abide in*

you [SCRIPTURE] ye shall ask what ye will, then it shall be done...[BECAUSE IT IS HIS WORD TO YOU]. The New Testament is God's will for your life. Praying God's own Word is one way to make a request that God can always answer.

The Word of God [BIBLE] can overcome the pressures of this life for you. How? Consider a Scripture that declares a promise of increase or blessing, like 1st PETER 2:24. It records the work Jesus did to pay for your salvation and healing. It ends with, *by his stripes, YE WERE*

healed. It tells you that it is God's will to always heal you. So, you can pray that Scripture toward yourself. God will hear you because you are declaring, by faith, His Word and known will for your life. Use the first person [I, ME, WE or US] pronoun and

PRAYER
ALWAYS BEGINS
& ENDS
KNOWING THIS:

THIS IS
the will
of God!

receive the Word as a now reality of WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU HAVE and WHAT YOU CAN DO. This is praying in NOW Faith. So, one prayer confession that would activate heaven is: *by his stripes I AM healed.*

...and we know that all things work together for good... [ROMANS 8:28]. How? *...the Spirit helpeth us... for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered [V26].* Praying IN the Spirit is praying out the plan of God. It is praying out mysteries. It goes into the unseen and unknown [AT LEAST TO YOU, THAT IS] realm and straightens things out. It is prayer God can always answer.

8 TITHE and BRING OFFERINGS

► *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house and prove me now ...if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord...MALACHI 3:10 & 11*

► *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 2nd CORINTHIANS 8:9*

► *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. 2nd CORINTHIANS 9:7 & 8*

Tithing is stewardship in action. Jesus said that for any steward [A MANAGER RESPONSIBLE FOR ANOTHER'S PROPERTY] that can be faithful over a *few* things, that his master would make him ruler over *much*. He owns everything in the earth. You are in charge of it for Him.

How much are a *few things*? God requires no pre-set money amount to be brought by any man, whether great or small. But, so that both the beggar and the baron honor God with just measure, equal faith and right expectation, He has set a mark. The Bible tells you to worship God by a percentage of the increase that

you gain. But what is 10% to God? Men ask, *can we start with a smaller part and maybe work up to the tenth?* Nobody knows for sure why that rate would be perfectly right for all men at EVERY level and SEASON of their financial lives, including ALL GENERATIONS, even FOREVER. No doubt that the Creator who programmed your heart when He formed you set a 10% benchmark. It is the right amount that is stirring enough to be worship and glory unto Him, yet not stagger you in your soul to faint.

TITHING
IS
ALWAYS
LORDSHIP

Tithing is always a Lordship issue. When a man tithes 10% of his increase, in faith, God's accounting system enters that amount as more. It is as if he had brought EVERY single item and penny out of his total belongings and laid ALL at the throne of God. God sees it by faith. He marks the tither as one that is holding back nothing at all [EVEN AS ABRAHAM RAISED THE KNIFE TO ISAAC]. Your Father receives your tithe as if you were giving Him EVERYTHING YOU HAVE in order to affirm His Lordship over EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE. It therefore legally empowers HIM to give you EVERYTHING HE HAS, holding nothing back. He accounts the ACT of man's TITHING as releasing the Father to be the Lord, Provider, Protector and Security of his life *according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus* [PHILIPPIANS 4:19]. He will bless by that. So, tithing isn't a money issue at all, but of lordship. So, the tither says of his tithe, *there's plenty more where that came from!*

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

9 FIND GOD'S WISDOM

► [GOD, to SOLOMON, AFTER ASKING HIM FOR ONE THING: HIS WISDOM] ...and I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honor.

1st KINGS 3:13

► Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

PROVERBS 3:13–18

► Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor.

PROVERBS 4:7–9 & 16

► The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. PROVERBS 9:10

► But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom...

1st CORINTHIANS 1:30

► If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally,

and upbraideth not; and it shall be given to you. JAMES 1:5

► The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. JAMES 3:17

Wisdom is an amazing multiplier. But two things about wisdom qualify the promotion she brings. FIRST, she must be sought without any regard to her rewards of long life, riches and honor. She herself is the reward. Everything else she brings is the overflow from the exponential multiplication of her increase.

SECONDLY, humility, (like the request Solomon made when asked what he wanted from God) must be a total focus. The wisdom from above will guide

you to what you really want and need. There is a subtle temptation that comes to forget HOW these marvelous blessings come. Never believe that it was YOUR knowledge and YOUR skill alone that maneuvered them into your life.

The Wisdom of God will put you into the path of increasingly more and richer revelation for your life's calling and journey. It will reset your priorities to respect what God respects and to treat common whatever He little regards [MATTHEW 6:33]. Wisdom leads a man to only major on the majors of the kingdom of Heaven. By that, you will minor on everything else. Promotion is in these things. So, find it!

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

WISDOM
IS
THE
AMAZING
MULTIPLIER

10 THINK BIG

► *Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless? ... And [GOD] brought him forth abroad, and said, look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them; and he said unto him, so shall thy seed be.* GENESIS 15:2a & 5

► *As he [EVERY MAN] thinketh in his heart, so is he...* PROVERBS 23:7

► *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.* ISAIAH 55:8 & 9

► *Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us....* EPHESIANS 3:20

► *Prepare your minds for action, be self-controlled....* 1st PETER 1:13 NIV

► *Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.* ROMANS 12:2

► *The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.* 2nd CORINTHIANS 10:4 & 5

Man's worldly thinking is small, negative, destructive, stale, limited, fruitless, short term and absolutely self-serving. God's thinking is big, positive, invigorating, unlimited, fresh, fruitful,

eternal, everyone-minded and absolutely giving in its perspective. God's thinking is far above mans! If you want to have God's WAYS in your life, you must have God's THOUGHTS. You have to think like He thinks in order to have His promotion. His ways come from His thinking. You won't get promoted beyond the way you think!

Peter exhorts believers to *prepare*, or to *set your mind for action*. That only means that you can. Abram needed to think like God in order to produce the will of God on the earth. He really needed to think BIG! Hearing God's Word on his particular situation and seeing the stars as a point of revelation did it. At that

BIG

instant, he set his mind for BIG action, unlimited promotion and mighty increase. He no longer dealt with IF God would do it, even if he didn't know HOW or WHEN He WOULD do it. His mind was hooked up. The brakes were off. Faith would have no limitation. Promotion was unhindered.

Man's mind tries to project the possibilities of tomorrow based on the experience of yesterday. His thinking is rutted, following basically the same pattern to get the same kind of result for every opportunity he gets. God thinks higher. He never allows the past to influence today's plans. You can do that too. Paul [IN PHILIPPIANS] instructs, *forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before* [3:13]. You can do it.

That always includes taking control of your mind. The devil wants to snuff out your promotion. He loves it when you have a setback. Failure is not being knocked down. Nobody drowns from falling into water. People drown when they won't get up after falling into water. A failure is anyone that believes life is too hard and there is no use in getting back up. But Christians get up! That's WHAT THEY do. They are created to reload. They set their mind for action to finish their race, now.

Follow this progression: [1]: LITTLE, NARROW THOUGHTS give place to [2]: DESTRUCTIVE IMAGINATIONS. These must be dealt with by *casting them down*. Otherwise they'll challenge the core of your promotion. They will resist change, limit big thinking, and tempt you to meditate pridefully. Left unchecked, they will produce [3]: STRONGHOLDS. Embedded Strongholds are what influence the WAY YOU ACT. These include preferences, habits, indifference to Holy Spirit and resistance to His change [*as a man thinks, so is he*]. Strongholds are any area in your mind that is truly occupied by the enemy. It steals the victory right out of your life in several areas, including promotion and increase.

So, how you think—your thoughts, mind-sets, imaginations and intolerance to strongholds all produce a path to walk. It is toward triumph or defeat in life.

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues [BORDERS, BOUNDARIES AND LIMITS] *of life* [PROVERBS 4:23]. You have a part to play

if you're going to cooperate with God's BIG PLAN for your life. And this is it: GUARD what you SEE, HEAR and THINK.

Many thoughts are born of the senses, which for most folks, are always on and unfiltered. Thoughts come into your mind from every sensory opening by many streams. Every one of them is seeking a place to grow.

Other thoughts originate from repetitive downloads. Familiar environments such as relationships, habits and activities feed your soul. Other thoughts are sent from the devil to act as benign carriers of worthless information. They are idle and unemployed. They seek to neutralize your timing and boldness. They try to tear up the structure of your thinking. You must bring them all to judgment. That means making each of them produce agreement with your faith—or leave.

Praying in the Holy Ghost takes the limits off of a life of narrow and worldly experiences. Living out of the past guarantees a passive future. Praying in the Spirit, which is outside of your mind, is a

major tool in building a satisfying and uncomplicated life. It attracts revelation. It formats possibility thinking. It stirs you up to see and seize the next step in His plan. Plus, you'll fend off all the mindless wanderings in your thought life that gives place to the flesh and the devil.

Thinking Big is not automatic. But it is a necessary key to accessing the blueprints and strategies for your future. Blessing, increase and promotion depend on it.

**WHATEVER
YOU'RE
THINKING
BELIEVE IT
& SAY IT
BETTER &
BIGGER!**

11 PUT ON a GOOD REPUTATION

► *[JESUS]: Ye are the salt of the earth... Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

MATTHEW 5:13 & 14a & 16

► *Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.* ROMANS 12:17 & 18 & 21

► *So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble.* 1ST CORINTHIANS 8:13 NLT

► *You say, I am allowed to do anything—but not everything is beneficial. Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.* 1ST CORINTHIANS 10:23b & 24 NLT

► *...that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye have lack of nothing.* 1ST THESSALONIANS 4:12

► *...if a man desire the office... he must have a good report of them which are without.* 1ST TIMOTHY 3:1 & 7

► *....godliness is profitable unto all things...* 1ST TIMOTHY 4:8b

True promotion is not receiving the blessings of the Lord by any means. Promotion is real increase to you ONLY if it ALSO impacts those watching while you walk out your faith journey. Your promotion can eventually become theirs as well if they will *follow you as you follow Christ*. A testimony shining

through your life is always God's way of saying, *I want to do it again!*

Two major reputation changers are WHO and WHERE. [PROVERBS 28:7b]...*he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father*. Once you are born again on the inside, you'll want things to be different for your outward life. You'll rethink the friends you want to keep, the places you want to go and all the things that were fun. Will anyone

know you're changed if you look, act and talk like you did before? Claiming to be new, but living no differently will confuse those hoping you're for real. They are always watching you. Always. Reputation will tell your story. Besides, compared to what God has prepared for you to enjoy, the world has nothing even close to offer. Jesus brought you an earth TO heaven promise. But He also gave you His heaven ON earth package too. He will not let you be embarrassed, ashamed or disappointed. So, go for it! Put Him on.

The proof? Not your big plans or little excuses. It's your right-now, in-the-fire, where-people-live, on-this-earth, walk-through-life. This takes a while to prove out to folks, but it's a very powerful witness. The spiritual YOU can put on Christ. Do it in such a way that inspires others to leave their old, empty and tired lives to ask for what makes you shine. And, if you do fall short in your faith journey, simply repent of it from your heart [1ST JOHN 1:9]. This makes it right before God forever. You can live your life honestly in the Lord Jesus and be known to have a good and Christ-like reputation.

**People
are
Always
Watching
You!**

12 HONOR the MAN and WOMAN of GOD

►[KING] Saul took three thousand chosen ... and went to seek David and his men. And he came ...where was a cave; and Saul went in...: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. And the men of David said unto him, Behold, the day of which the lord said unto thee, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe... and it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way. And he [Saul] said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the Lord had delivered me into thine hand, thou killest me not. And I know well that thou shalt surely be king...

1st SAMUEL 24:2-7 & 17 & 18 & 20a

►Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. Do what is right, and they will honor you. ...give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

ROMANS 13:1 & 3b & 7b NLT

►Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

1st TIMOTHY 5:17

God is the head of ALL authority because He IS all authority. He's the SOURCE of ALL power. Yet, God never works His power apart from His authority. So, even

God WON'T do anything just because He's God and He's ALL Powerful. He has set self-imposed legal boundaries. He has made Himself accountable before all beings in, under and above the earth by listing every one of them in His Word. He has limited His own power in advance in order to be subject to His own Word, which He

promised to keep forever. He has made His Word equal to Himself. The Word of God is His and your absolute authority in all things. He has sworn both HIS, and YOUR future, to be governed by what He has already said in His Word. He cannot lie. He will never change His mind. He will always do everything according to the principles and laws that you can access by simply reading the Bible.

In Genesis, before Adam committed high treason by violating God's commandments, God had already put him and all of his future children in charge of the whole world. Adam eventually gave up that very personal rulership to the devil himself. But 4,000 years later, Jesus regained man's rightful authority that Adam had lost. In every day of every millennium, God proved He would not change HOW He had set up man's rightful position of authority, even

THERE IS
NO
AUTHORITY
THAT
DOES NOT
COME FROM
HEAVEN

when it seemed that His plan for man would fail unless He did. He never deviated from His Word. Therefore, today and forever, you can trust, honor and submit to all men because you can put total trust in the Lord. He has proven that He HAS and WILL take care of you if you let Him continue to rule you by His Word through His Spirit. *If God be for us, who can be against us?* [ROMANS 8:31b]. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you* [JAMES 4:7]. You need not fear what men, or devils can do to you.

Competition is unnecessary among believers except to out-love one another. It is unholy. In God's kingdom it is always sin. The favor of God inside you by the new birth will go before you and make a way for what is yours. Any office of authority that God has assigned for you to hold will present itself if you do not abort it by dishonor. You should never strive for anything that God has promised to you in His Word. No one can lawfully steal your position from you. No devil can legally divert it from your life. If you trust God and continue to submit to His men and women in authority, you will always get ALL that He has reckoned to you. You must receive it by faith, refusing to resort to manipulation or control. Then, follow the leading of the Holy Ghost and REST IN IT day by day. This is done by praying for and submitting to even those who despitefully use you and by blessing those that curse you [LUKE 6:27]. As you do, THEN God can give place for them to change or turn. Your circumstances will

<p>Honor Flows when <i>Competition</i> and <i>Comparison</i> are taken OUT of the Way!</p>

align so that you can still come to your rightful place. Either way, you are positioned.

No matter how unworthy or unqualified a particular man has become to hold his office, there must remain honor for the OFFICE that he is in. Man did not create the office. God did. It is HIS responsibility to judge it, not yours. Even those that SHOULD stand in the office that an unrighteous man holds [AS DAVID WITH SAUL] should not attempt to remove the man in that place of

authority. Undermining him and setting him up to fail [SEE 1st SAMUEL 24:1–10] is not God's way. He will not promote the man who has unlawfully usurped the office held by another. His kingdom has no place for rebellion, no matter how seemingly justified. But, the Lord WILL honor THE MAN who submits to the authority of that

POSITION. To do that, he should respect the OFFICE over him by genuine support. THEN God can either change the man taking advantage of his authority or remove him from it. Deliverance will come, and it will be great in its outcome.

You can always honor the man and woman of God outwardly because you choose to align your heart inwardly. Nothing less will be good enough. Refuse strife, no matter how justified it seems. Tale-bearing is from the pit of hell even when it is absolutely verifiable truth. God won't reward it. Tolerating any of it jeopardizes your own promotion. The way UP is DOWN!

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

13 SPEAK WORDS of INCREASE

► *A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth...* PROVERBS 13:2a

► *The lips of the wise shall preserve them.* PROVERBS 14:3

► *A wholesome tongue is a tree of life.* PROVERBS 15:4

► *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.* PROVERBS 18:21

► *[JESUS]: Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth good things and an evil [UNBELIEVING] man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth evil things. For by thy words thou shalt be justified...* MATTHEW 12:34b & 35 & 37

There is no doubt that wrong words in the mouth of a faithful man are like a hole in the pocket of a man just paid. Both intend to enjoy something wonderful, but lose it all as they go their way. Words create and enforce every part of your future. Heaven's faith-filled words of increase, abundance and its stewardship to release life attract blessings like a magnet. They open windows of opportunity. They sensitize you to see them, and walk through them when they open before you. The Word of God is your promotion. Believing is not enough, although it is always essential. Speaking God's words birth your promotion. It aligns your life. It ensures nothing can derail the increase that is already coming your way.

**CHANGE
YOUR
WORLD
BELIEVE
& SPEAK
THE
*SAME THING***

Truth is greater than facts. It is a fact that gravity never releases its grip. The power of thrust and lift on a jet doesn't eliminate gravity, but simply overwhelms it. When the jet generates enough speed, it activates lift to rise up from the earth, despite the law of gravity. The plane takes off. It enjoys a higher law. But the moment those engines hesitate; gravity always and instantly retakes control. So it is with your words.

Speaking words of life, power and increase from a faith-filled heart causes your life to supersede the facts of your present situation. You will rise above it all. But the switch of faith has to stay on. The flow of faith-filled words must continue in order to maintain your

speed, your life of faith. The basis of the promotion principle is this:

*BELIEVE AND SPEAK
THE SAME THING.*

The devil has a legal right to your very own words. He will steal promotion from you if given any edge or advantage, even if it is only a loophole in the small print of your mouth. Sure, you know what you really meant when you said those things about your present situations and the way the future looks in humor and emphasis. Everyone laughed and so later you did it again and again and again.... But, if your spirit is utterly dependent on the words it hears you speak in order to live victoriously, why load it with a brick when you can throw it a lifeline?

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

14 LIVE HUMBLY

►[JESUS]: *For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

LUKE 14:11

►*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.* JAMES 4:6

►*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

1st PETER 5:6 & 7

How do you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God? Humility comes by *casting all of your care* [OF PROMOTING SELF] upon Him. It takes faith to believe God's Word about how special you ALREADY ARE when you feel so overwhelmed with today's needs and failures. *And others seem to be doing so well*, you say. But humility can rest, knowing that it is God that always promotes when you loosen your grip off of life's steering wheel. *When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him* [PROVERBS 16:7]. When you only meditate about what GOD thinks of you and will do anything to please Him; you become willing to do some care-casting!

It is never a sure thing when other folks have control of your future. Competition and comparison drive some to try to OBTAIN what God has already given. STOP the RACE! You've already won. Take your prize.

Humble people can speak the truth in love about God, themselves and others. They can look you in the eye and tell you

that they have absolutely been made *the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus* [2nd CORINTHIANS 5:21]. They can boldly tell folks without any pride at all that they are blessed: *their need is always supplied and by His stripes, they were healed.* It may well contradict every feeling and fact of their life at that moment. But it is true according to the Word and will of God for them.

That bothers some folks. *THE TRUTH IS:* It is very humbling to BE what HE has MADE YOU and NOTHING LESS. It is even more so to have the boldness to believe it and tell others in order to set them free. True humility!

The Lord is in the business of building folks up. But people seem to be in the business of pushing them low. Don't get these mixed up. Live life God's way. He DOES NOT *straighten you out by resisting you in order to put you in YOUR place.* No, He gives you His Word for truth and Holy Spirit for power. He lets YOU choose ONE life—yours or His. *It is the goodness of God that leadeth [all men] to repentance [LIT. change your mind]* [ROMANS 2:4].

Humility lets people help you. You should expect God to send help, to help. After all, you're called to help others attain their promotion in the Lord. Everyone needs help. Living humbly lets God promote you and exalt you to the exact position of His highest design and need in His kingdom. There is no limit in Him.

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

HUMILITY
lets the
CREATOR
direct the
ASSIGNMENTS
of the
CREATION

15 SOW GOOD THINGS

► *The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends: the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.* JOB 42:10

► *Whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord...* EPHESIANS 6:8

► *...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* GALATIANS 6:7

► *I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.* 1st CORINTHIANS 3:6

A vegetable or fruit seed can be used for two things. You can eat the seed for food or you can plant it. Eating it ends the potential of that seed. It has a benefit, but it is limited to whatever nutrition that seed could give when it was on the dinner plate. On the other hand, if you plant that seed, you have ended its short-term benefit. That's tough when you're hungry. However, seeds always produce many other seeds that can also be eaten or planted again for a harvest.

A seed is unique. If it is eaten for food, its total value can be measured. But if that same seed is planted, its small size becomes irrelevant because of its unique and amazing ability. Although it may appear to be dry and dead in the ground, it quickly comes to life and begins to process the available nutrients in the soil wherever it is planted. Its value cannot be calculated. Fruit and vegetable seeds rise up from dirt, which is a substance that cannot be eaten for food in ANY way. But a SEED put into that same INEDIBLE ground, CONVERTS the unprofitable soil. It transforms the useless into precious

food and new seeds that will nourish and protect the future. It's amazing how powerfully every seed always works this way in every kind of soil. Dirt is everywhere, and a man could starve with it literally stacked up around him—until he puts a seed into it. Suddenly, his little seed changes everything. His potential was hidden, but always there. His understanding of the soil empowered him to sow his seed to release his future.

your
SEED
UNCOVERS
your
POTENTIAL

...he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; ...and God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work...[2nd CORINTHIANS 9:6b & 7a & 8]. Spiritual seeds work the same way. These seeds include anything you have or can serve that is planted into somebody or a group of people. You can sit on your life's couch and eat up your seeds of money, giftings, time and influence. Yummy! Or, you can get up and release them all into the ground of the lives of the people around you. By doing that, you'll have a harvest that was not available to you by any other thing you could do. Your planted seed will transform things around you that had given you no future. Your increase is not based on what you DON'T have to give, but on what you already DO have to give. Everyone has something in their life that is a worthy seed. Planting it changes your world.

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day

16 WAIT on the LORD

► *Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee...* PSALM 37:34

► *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and shall walk, and not faint.* ISAIAH 40:31

► *I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.* MICAH 7:7

► *[JESUS]: Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* MATTHEW 6: 31–33

► *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord...* ACTS 3:19

This waiting on the Lord is not like a board game where opponents give each other some time before they make their move. Waiting on the Lord is shutting off all those things in life that you give yourself to in your routine and schedule. This waiting is to discover the move He has already designed and made for you.

Waiting on the Lord is ministering to Him, giving yourself over to His lordship and majesty. It is you stirring up wherever that He is. The time and focus that you give towards this seems to only

give back more and more, multiplied over and over to you.

Coming into His Presence everyday is priceless. It gives place to exalt Him over that day; to affirm that Jesus is king of all. It makes a place to know the WHO, HOW and WHAT that is already attempting to come into your life that will require all of your attention. It brings His perspective into the strategies of daily living and puts an end to the unknown and fearsome.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ... [2nd CORINTHIANS 10:5]. Waiting on Him is satisfying the true reason for being on earth and in His service. It is to soak in and enjoy His total presence. It is to reapply His identity, His calling & His

KEEP CALM and WAIT upon the LORD

ways.

Promotion that comes from the Lord has to come from a waiting in His Presence. There is SO much around you demanding your time and attention. Everyone and everything seems SO important. Each postures itself as urgent. *Come to us, they say. The opportunity will be gone later. Make your decision. Give us your commitment. Join up with us now.*

Yet, when you wait on the Lord, you'll see and seize the greater life that was exclusively and uniquely prepared just for you before you were a thought to your mother and even before the foundation of the world. Amazing. So, wait on Him.

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

17 WORK HARD and DO HARD THINGS

► *Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made five other talents.*

MATTHEW 25:16

► *The labourer is worthy of his hire.*

LUKE 10:7

► *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

► *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

COLOSSIANS 3:23 & 24

A great promotion key might be a surprise to many because it is so common to every age, generation, gender and culture: **WORK Hard! TAKE Risks! DO Hard Things!** The kingdom of God is not a place where the spiritual don't work. Promotion comes to the diligent! The steward that traded his master's talents actually did business and worked hard to do hard things. He was accounted as a good and faithful servant, who was then made ruler over much.

LOW EXPECTATIONS! That's the stereotype that the world has of both the modern **CHURCH** and **AMERICAN YOUTH**. When they **SEE** or **HEAR** either, they begin to think: **BIG TALK → LITTLE DO → NEEDS MONEY → OH NO!**

If it's true anywhere, make it a lie about you! There are all kinds of Christians and young people. But the price Jesus paid purchased the 100%-in variety! You're born again and refathered from above!

What Jesus did at your regeneration was explosive. The old man that you were was annihilated and the new man in Christ you became was dropped in. You are now the very wisest, most powerful and always-so-amazing entity on the planet! Yet, so many believers are refusing to step back from their comfort zones in order to engage supernatural faith [**SAY, RISK**] to live a salty life. Therefore, nobody, including the church itself, expects most Christians to have **PASSION, PURPOSE** or **POWER**. They are perceived as just regular worldly folks that just happen to go to church, and like almost everyone else they know, care only about themselves.

Work Hard to do Hard Things! Live on the wild side [**SUPER-NATURAL, THAT IS**]. Take faith risks. God will back you up! When life gives you an opportunity to go faith's way instead of the safe and easy, but there's nothing's-going-to-change, way **→→→** then **STEP**

OUT of the boat. Be like Peter rather than just peeking over the edge of it like the eleven. Walk on that water of the unlikely or even impossible. When you're on fire with God, it affects everything. Start something hard! Work on it hard. Finish a hard thing. Then go do it again.

Let's smell some real smoke. Let's have some real heat coming from your fire!

Keep Doing

the Hard Thing

Until

the Hard Thing becomes the Easy Thing

~then Repeat

Expect God to Surprise You
with His **GOODNESS** Every Day!

18 BE HAPPY *even* in PERSECUTION

► *[JESUS]: Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*
MATTHEW 5:11 & 12

► *And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*
MARK 10:29 & 30

► *[JESUS]: In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
JOHN 16:33

► *I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. I am become a fool in glorying...* 2nd
CORINTHIANS 12:10 & 11

► *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.* JAMES 1:2 & 3

► *If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you.*
1st PETER 4:14

The persecution that believers endure is only for the Word's sake. When you are shunned because you are obnoxious, silly, overbearing or disagreeable, there is no reward. That's carnal. You should grow up! But, the darkness in sinners and on carnal Christians should be irritated by the brightness shining from your life. Check your Light! It exposes their past, their right now and their ungodly plans. Real persecution back to you is the result. Ouch! But even enduring it can help you if you have a right attitude. Look in. See if you can find any measure of truth in the criticism and deal with it. But understand, you NEVER NEED persecution in order to be purified from sin. Condemnation and its friend, accusation spews from the devil. Holy Spirit conviction and God's Word are all you need to live above and dominate every facet of hell.

Fix your hope on what Jesus has done and said to you. It's enough. That's your life. All of it.

The devil
will try to
DRAW YOU
into a
FIGHT
that the
LORD
JESUS
has
ALREADY
WON!
STEP BACK!

You must know that satan will try to distract you by drawing you into a fight that Jesus has already won for you. The reward of enduring persecution is staying IN CHRIST no matter how the atmosphere turns. There, promotion cannot be stolen or diminished in any way!

19 BE READY

► *David and all Israel went to Jerusalem where the Jebusites were. Now he said, whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain and Joab went up and became chief.*

1st CHRONICLES 11:4 & 6

► *Let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

1st THESSALONIANS 5:6

► *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist stedfast in the faith.* 1st PETER 5:8 & 9

When Joseph [GENESIS 39] was falsely accused in his stewardship to his master, he was sent to the king's dungeon. He endured there for years, having no natural hope of release. He was tempted to give up, blame others, develop a bad attitude and to turn from God. Yet he stayed ready. He never relaxed his grip on his promotion because he had welcomed God's plan to be imprinted on his heart. What is sent from God may be diverted by a man, but it never quits coming at you. He refused to get bitter but chose to get better. He refused every offense. In just one day he went from the pit to the palace. His Ready was Ready.

David was ready when the lion and the bear came to devour his flock. Later, when he went to serve his brothers in battle he looked out and saw what every soldier had seen for weeks—the boasts of Goliath. While everyone looked around for a champion to slay the giant, David looked within. While every other man

took up a defensive position for the worst to come, David took the offensive position and went out to meet the challenge before it came to him. The opportunity for God's promotion came to him, and when it did, he was on standby, he was with God—he was ready.

There's a real devil that is against every believer. He's the tester. He sifts men like wheat that are not ready. But he's nothing to God's man and woman, if they're watching. God has prepared promotion in this hour for His generals and captains. He will look past a thousand to promote one who is prepared and waiting for the windows of opportunity to swing wide open. And when they do, he won't hesitate. He won't flinch or reconsider. He's ready.

IS
YOUR
READY,
READY?

Ready in the Word. Ready in prayer. Ready in giving. Ready in service. Ready in wisdom. Ready in relationships. Ready in honor. Ready in priorities. Ready in consecration. Ready in bold words. Ready for harvest. Ready for revival. Ready to get others get ready.

Of the twelve spies recorded in NUMBERS 13, only two *set their minds for action* in the day. It, like most promotions today, came in an unexpected way. They were surprised by the test that would judge them. Ten eventually perished. Their unbelieving report caused millions of other promotion candidates to also faint in their day and miss the victory that was hidden in the transition. Though others are not and may never be, you can be and so must be, ready! It is your everything.

20 FIND YOUR PASTOR

► *And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

JEREMIAH 3:15

► *And he gave ...pastors... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.* EPHESIANS 4:11 & 12 & 14

► *But when he [JESUS] saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.* MATTHEW 9:36

So many Christians outwardly seem to have everything under control in their lives. And truly, they may doing well according to a worldly standard. But the truth is, if they have no pastor, no spiritual father, no man or woman of God that Holy Spirit can use to really help, then they *are fainting... and are scattered abroad*. They are limited, especially in the day when anything in their lives becomes intersected with a crisis.

Hardly any animal in nature is more dependent on another type of creation to thrive as a sheep is to its shepherd. Their very existence is truly amazing. Yet, the Bible teaches us that, as confident and successful as they may seem to be in their own SHEEP WORLD, all Christians,

in reality, are just as dependent for support to prosper as these.

You must find your pastor. You don't just need a preacher. Not everyone that preaches is a pastor. And if believers are as sheep, then they each need someone who is as a shepherd. There will always be many life's blueprints that cannot be built out without a connection to God's man: your pastor.

All believers are priests unto God. Nobody needs any other PERSON to be a bridge or connector for their personal salvation and sonship. Jesus is the only Savior. But in the GOVERNMENT of HIS KINGDOM, He has ordained offices [PASTORS] and stations [CHURCHES] that mirror the culture of the natural family. These enable you to fulfill your calling to advance His kingdom.

Why do any Christians minimize or even reject this major Bible key to promotion and increase? Could it be they are afraid of having anyone IN their life that tells them what to do WITH their life? Do they assume that Christian leaders operate by the same motives and intentions as the ungodly? Do they believe God cannot send SOMEONE that is GOOD to help?

The Bible teaches that God deposits a gift or a grace of PASTOR into certain people that transforms them. You can now understand this concept by seeing it in the family. After couples begin having children, changes in both a husband's and wife's motivations and goals begin to appear. A grace has come on them for this new time. They are changed. Pastors are somewhat like these parents, in

TRUE SHEEP NEED A TRUE SHEPHERD

God's family. Pastors don't cease being people with natural needs and desires. But this impartation inside them is similar to what parents also possess to give selflessly to others that can never repay. They love and give because they do it as unto the Lord. They seek to please Him by serving His people.

Of course, you must understand that nobody is perfect and there is not an exemption for church leaders from the devil, the flesh and the world. And everyone has missed it, and for some, not a little. If you judge at all, consider their heart and their own dependency on the Lord Himself as you find and connect to your pastor.

Many Christians have resisted finding their pastor because it requires them to be in a church. And truthfully, everyone, from the least to the greatest, has a story to tell about churchy people going weird. Many believers have really seen some chips fly in their look at folks attempting to have a spiritual life. Everyone has been surprised and amazed at who did what in the church over the years, and seemingly and amazingly, often in the name of God. Over time, it is a major temptation to write everyone in church totally off. You could give up on ever joining the family of God because someone you know about, missed it.

But, the truth is—personal failures, yours and others, have nothing to do with what God wants to do FOR you and THROUGH you. Many have failed and even walked away while possessing a genuine gift from heaven to serve in the ministry. But you can't sabotage your own calling because of it. And, you can't malign

others who, even though they have endured great personal sacrifice, continue to serve the Lord. They faithfully minister to His flock with honor and by love. There remains millions of honest, sincerely gifted and called-of-God men and women all over the earth and in your city who continue to give their best to pull us each and all along. They're always ready to give up their own lives. They do so literally and by daily service, for Jesus and His Kingdom. That's why it's such a worthy search to find your pastor.

Some would ask, *isn't having Jesus enough? Why do we need a man that is weak and like us to help guide our lives? Jesus is so perfect. He's already our Great Shepherd. He's the Supreme Commander of the whole body of Christ. Why can't we just follow Him alone?*

DON'T MISS
YOUR
CALLING
BECAUSE
SOMEONE
MESSED UP
THEIRS

A good question! You already work with a parallel of this that you can understand. In America, the President of the United States is the Commander-in-Chief of all the armed forces. He is over every enlisted person in the military. Yet and strangely enough, few report directly to him. Military personnel are commanded to unflinchingly obey the ranking person set over them, even if it is only by one stripe. Certainly, the president sets the general course for every branch of service, and his plan is carried out by everyone under his authority doing their assigned part. But the President doesn't actually train them, coordinate their daily schedules or promote them when they do well. Yet, when all those things are accomplished, it is all done as unto

the President himself. No matter how far removed each one may seem to be from him, it goes to his credit. It would be insurrection to refuse to obey the orders of one's commanding officer on a military base or post. The argument that a soldier who does not obey his superior is justified because he is submitted ONLY to his President, is not heaven's view.

Likewise, you also, in the body of Christ, as it is in the military, are absolutely subject to your Supreme Commander, the Lord Jesus Christ. His Word [THE BIBLE], is His standing and ongoing command to you. Holy Spirit within you teaches you how to obey His assignments. They are non-negotiable.

But, you, like each one in the military, are assigned BY Him to a unit called the local church. He gives charge of you to the chief officer there, the under-shepherd [PASTOR], to carry out many joint operations that don't always require or even allow your full understanding or input. You already operate in this principle in the parenting of children. Each child is as important as any adult. But, he must totally trust his parents to lead him according to the best plan for the whole family.

Two is better than one, the Bible teaches. You can't just read the Bible and live unto yourself. You must flow with others to carry out the great plans of the Head of the Church for ALL of the kingdom.

It is the Goodness of God that has prepared a pastor for you. Jesus wants you to have a shepherd over you that will help you grow up in Him. Your local shepherd can greatly encourage you about your unique place in the kingdom

of God. He will warn you about the wiles of the devil and the weaknesses of the flesh. He will feed you the Word of God to make your family strong. He will lead you into right doctrine to enable you to walk by faith above all of the world's traps. He will encourage and train you to do the work of the ministry to build up the body of Christ. He will equip you to handle spiritual tools and all of your many weapons to win in life. He will help protect you by girding you with his faith as you develop and exercise your own.

Holy Spirit will lead you to your pastor. He will guide you to one who is full of Bible faith and love. The Spirit of God may use people and events to help you in your search, but YOU must personally FIND YOUR PASTOR.

The Holy Ghost will always confirm God's will in this assignment if you let Him. And, should the Lord ever reassign you to another pastor and church family, He will do it in such a way that peace and joy is leading. There have been way too many good church members who unassigned or reassigned

HELP
FOLKS
NAVIGATE
THEIR
FAITH

themselves for reasons that only the devil and the flesh approved. The Head of the church is not leading when an offended believer deserts his position without order or honor. How you leave anything is how you will enter the next. It could change your whole life.

Everyone is called to maintain morale and trust in the ranks. Always use your influence to encourage others that attempt to be unspiritual (ie, *when they don't get their way*). Challenge them to tough it out in their souls and walk by

faith. Winning is only a real victory when gained in the Lord's battles. Pass this!

Because the gift and office of pastor is so valuable, you must determine to treat it with honor and respect. Your pastor is a man, and any good man MIGHT help you. But this office he's in is OF God. He WILL help you. You must relate to your man and woman of God with regard and temperance, just as you would a police officer, judge or governor. If your pastor is your shepherd, then you are personally responsible to bring honor to him and his family. If he does need correction, you must allow God to administrate it HIS WAY. Be only a joy to your pastor.

How do you DRAW from your pastor? By hearing his voice. [JOHN 10:3-5]. How do learn to recognize your under-shepherd's voice? By coming into a Biblical relationship with him, including joining and committing to the local CHURCH. Your access and draw is not by constant personal contact with the MAN, but by seeking the GREAT SHEPHERD, your Lord Jesus. Put a demand on the Lord first for your situations. Ask HIM what to do with every aspect of your life. The Lord WILL speak to you and often it will be THROUGH your pastor. Jesus will deal with him to answer the things that you have requested of the Lord Jesus. There are many ways to be led of the Lord. One is hearing the Lord through the voice of your pastor. It will be supernatural because it's based on the wisdom of the Word of the Lord.

Everyone needs family—EVERYONE was created with something that fits IN it and requires something FROM it. You have

been reborn INTO family. It is the local church and today is the time to find and join your local spiritual family.

And Family has fathers and mothers.

Where are all the spiritual fathers? The truth is: there are PLENTY of spiritual fathers, but FEW spiritual sons. You CAN'T HAVE a true father in the faith UNTIL you learn to BECOME a SON in the faith. Don't wait on someone to discover you. Align yourself to learn and grow under someone that you are drawn to hear and see. Pay attention to what they say and do. Support them. Help them. Pray for them. Become a son to them in any way that you can. THEN, these spiritual fathers and mothers will become a flow back to you. These people can become dear to you even though you may never even meet them or know them on a personal basis. But their ministry, by books, audio, video and by attending their meetings will spiritually connect you. God will lead you into such a close fit that He will strengthen you in specific, unique, special and enduring ways, all IN ADDITION to having a pastor, a home church and your spiritual family life.

A major and indispensable key to promotion then, without exception, is for you to find and connect to your pastor.

GOD'S
KINGDOM
IS
MORE FUN
THAN
YOU KNOW:
GET
CONNECTED
ENJOY
~HIS LIFE~

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

21 PURSUE HIS PRESENCE

► *One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.* PSALM 27:4

► *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ...*

ACTS 3:19 & 20a

► *But ye have an unction [AN OINTING] from the Holy One, and ye know all things.* 1ST JOHN 2:20

Live from your strength! It is HIS Presence! Access the amazing attributes and help of the Holy Spirit from within [STUDY verse 19 of 1ST CORINTHIANS 6] you every minute. *For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee...* [HEBREWS 13:5b]. You're never alone!

His Presence also comes into places, rooms, and into atmospheres where He is welcomed and earnestly desired. Preparing an habitation for the Presence of God begins with an invitation of necessity. Then, the natural is suddenly lost to the supernatural. It is enabling and empowering. It is help that always does. It is comfort, relief, revelation, fullness, an answer, peace and rest. It is deliverance, rescue and healing. His Presence is measured from your inward man. But your mind is also aware of an amazing knowing of His immeasurable

love and willingness to help. Everything is subject to change here.

The impossible becomes possible in the Presence of the Lord. Plans from heaven are revealed when He comes. Darkness lifts and in the light everything becomes clear and suddenly His will is essential.

Levels of His Presence are as necessary and addictive for your spiritual well-being as a caffeine fix is to having a good day is for a dedicated coffee drinker. He is waiting to be invited into your life, to come upon you for fullness and increase. He has come to help you win every battle in His Presence, without striving or competing.

He is as easily drawn to surround and empower your space and circumstances with His Goodness as air is willing to be breathed.

Dependence upon Him is expected. It is His ultimate goal and always the foundation of the visitation. He does not come only to bring you an experience, but by His coming, freshness and strength becomes your experience. As you learn to inhale and exhale Him, you discover that you are expecting and wanting more of Him! You don't want anything to change. He always does a wonderful work and everything is increased and better because He came.

Host the Presence of God. For yourself. For Others. For the Nation. Not as a matter of duty or insurance, but as a matter of life and living.

Expect God to Surprise You
with His GOODNESS Every Day!

REFRESHING
SHALL COME
FROM
the PRESENCE
of THE LORD,

AND

HE
SHALL SEND
JESUS

Michael Billings

The Lord called Michael to teach His Word to the body of Christ in 1980. He was a cotton and peanut farmer in West Texas when the desire, calling and anointing came on him to encourage and empower those looking for a way of living in God that actually answered life. He so loved farming, but suddenly everything changed.

Making Strong Believers that are Stalwart, Resilient and Fierce has always been his theme. Principles and Patterns has always been his heart. Seeing the Big Picture to dominate the limitations of a seemingly-impossible life is his passion.

Michael has authored many teaching series in audio, video, on-line and book formats. His messages are faith-based, success-oriented and in the tempo of living as if heaven's on earth.

He has hosted and led an energetic home group [1980-1981] in Seagraves Texas, pioneered a church in Seminole, Texas [1982-1996], traveled the nation as an itinerant teacher [1996-1998] and is currently the founding pastor [1997-2021] of River Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

For more information on this and other resources, please contact the ministry office or find its website at:

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RiverChurchAlabama.org

Billings ministries

Live as if Heaven's on Earth!

JOHN 10:10

Notes—*How I Will Cooperate With Heaven*