**Truth Sowers Life Group**

September 16, 2012

**God’s Secret Kingdom – Part Five**

**Introduction:** “One simple declaration by Jesus revealed a law that will change the world: “Give and it will be given to you,,,” (Luke 6:38). These eight words will change your life, IF you choose to DO the Word of God! This law (of reciprocity) is so encompassing that Jesus used many illustrations to focus in on its truth. Pat Robertson – *The Secret Kingdom*, Page 103.

**1 Kings 17:8-24**

*8Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 9“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” 10So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” 11And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” 12So she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread,* ***only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar****; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son,* ***that we may eat it, and die****.” 13And Elijah said to her, “****Do not fear****; go and do as you have said, but* ***make me a small cake from it first****, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’” 15So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.*

*17Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. 18So she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?” 19And he said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. 20Then he cried out to the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?” 21And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.” 22Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. 23And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives!” 24Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.”*

The widow and her son needed a miracle. When you need a miracle, God will give you an instruction. Look what happened here, God gave her an instruction through Elijah and she received two miracles. What I am going to teach to you may be your instruction to bring your miracle!

**Luke 6:31**

*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*

This is where the world gets the “golden rule”, “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you!” This is the law of reciprocity! She gave to the prophet first and there was PLENTY left for her and her son!

**Luke 6**

*36Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.37Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:38Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over,* ***shall men give into your bosom****. For with the* ***same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again****.*

1. The Law of Reciprocity
   1. Just as the Newton’s third law of motion says “*To every action there* is always an *equal and opposite reaction*”, the law of reciprocity is a spiritual law that says, “Give and it will be given back to you”.
      1. Smile at someone and they will smile back.
      2. Be a friend to someone and they will be a friend back.
      3. This can even work in International relations (Marshall Plan in Japan after WWII).
   2. Law of Reciprocity
      1. The biggest lesson here is in the area of PROVISION. (That could mean your finances, relationships, your marriage, etc.).

**Illustration:** My first church was very troubled. The founding pastor had left a few months before I went there. He got into a lot of trouble. He ran up tremendous amounts of credit. He stole money from the people. He had an affair with a woman in the church. He assaulted his wife and left her for dead as he drove off in his new Porsche sports car. When I began to pastor the church, there was only a fraction of the people who used to attend. They were strapped with debt. Some of them gave more than they could really afford to but I missed God by not teaching on the Law of Reciprocity. My thought was, “God, how can I tell the people to give when they are already struggling enough?” I should have done just the opposite. **I should have taught this lesson over and over until they got it and encouraged them to GIVE! And as they gave, to EXPECT to receive!**

* 1. Not only should you give, you should **EXPECT to receive**.
  2. You might say, “Well I give but I don’t expect to get anything back!”
     1. **Nonsense!** You expect to get a paycheck when you work!
     2. Working is a part of the “Law of Reciprocity”.
        1. God says that a man should work

**2 Thessalonians 3:10**

*For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

* + - 1. You give, by working, then you receive, usually in the form of a paycheck.
      2. Many times, a job is the vehicle God uses to make provision for you and your family. But **God is NOT dependent ONLY on jobs**.
         1. You may be one of the many people that is unable to find work.
         2. God can and will provide without a job.

You should diligently seek work or whatever God is calling you to do.

Many people are not working because they are too stubborn to look outside their professional field.

It is easier to find a job when you have one.

Don’t be too proud to do a job that is “beneath you”.

Be faithful to that job and God will bless your faithfulness.

Put your heart and soul into your job. Work “as unto the Lord” and people in the company will notice your hard work.

The “law of reciprocity” will work in your job!

Treat others as you would want to be treated.

Give a little more than the people you work with.

Learn all you can about your company and the way it operates.

Put in a little more time than others.

Promote your company instead of yourself.

1. God wants you to give of yourself, your time, your love and your money
   1. The “Law of Reciprocity” is the **WAY** God has **MADE PROVISION FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!**
   2. God is “Jehovah Jireh”, God your provider.
   3. God is not going to rain money down on your head, especially if you sit on a stump all day crying about what you don’t have.
   4. Look again at **Luke 6:38**

*Give, and it* ***shall*** *be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over,* ***shall men give into your bosom****. For with the* ***same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again****.*

* + 1. Shall – the strongest word in the English language.
    2. **Why does God want you to give?**
       1. **Is God in danger of losing His house?**
       2. **Is He in danger of having His utilities shut off?**
    3. **God wants you to give so He can bless you!**
       1. Notice that He said “MEN” would give unto your bosoms.
       2. God is not a counterfeiter. He will not print money and put it in your account.
       3. He will cause money to start flowing your way as you give money.
       4. He will cause love to flow your way as you give love.
       5. He will cause friendships to flow your way as you become a friend.
       6. If you give a lot, you will receive a lot.
       7. If you give a little, you will receive a little.
  1. **Malachi 3**

*7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them.* ***Return unto me, and I will return unto*** *you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? 8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, 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. 11 And 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 of hosts. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.*

* + 1. I see Christians every day who love God but they are suffering financially.
       1. God hasn’t responded to their tears!
       2. God hasn’t responded to their pain!
       3. God hasn’t responded to their need!
       4. **BUT GOD WILL RESPOND TO THEIR FAITH!**
       5. If you will do what God says and then EXPECT Him to do what He says then He will have no choice but to do what He says!
    2. **What is the tithe?**

Tithe literally means ten percent of your annual income or produce.

**Prov 3:9, 10**

*Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

* + 1. God says “Tithes **AND** offerings”.
       1. **You decide** whether you tithe before or after taxes (gross or net) but remember you will receive in the proportion that you give.
       2. Some believe that offerings don’t start until after the tithe is paid.
       3. **Find your level of faith and operate there!**
    2. Make up your mind **to give SOMETHING** of your first fruits **above and before anything else is paid**.
       1. This is what Elijah told the widow to do – provide for him **FIRST** and then for her and her son.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-11**

*6But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make* ***all*** *grace abound toward you, that you, always having* ***all*** *sufficiency in* ***all*** *things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”[*[*a*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+9%3A6-11&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28966a)*] 10Now may[*[*b*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+9%3A6-11&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28967b)*] He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11while you are enriched in everything for* ***all*** *liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.*

**Illustration:** Lady that wrote a check each week at church for ten percent of her income and each week, each check bounced. Then she and the church were charged return check fees. God knew her heart but she was being foolish so I told her to stop paying her tithe. She needed to find an amount that she could pay, before anything else, and pay that. She needed to operate at her faith level.

* + 1. Not only have you robbed God, you have robbed yourself.
       1. **What does this mean? How can we ROB God?**
          1. We rob Him by not operating in faith and allowing his wonderful plan of provision to work for us!
          2. God does NOT need money.
          3. He wants to provide for us and He wants us to learn to walk in faith by giving.
       2. We are to take the tithe and offering to the storehouse (the storehouse is where we get fed).
       3. It costs money to have church buildings.
       4. It costs money to have full time ministers.
    2. Because you haven’t given your tithes and offerings you are cursed!
       1. Because you have tied God’s hands in His way of provision.
       2. You are cutting off the very source of tremendous blessing that God wants to give you.
       3. **You are damming up the rivers and streams of wealth that God wants to flow your way and the lake that dam has created is on someone else’s property!**
    3. There is more than just giving, you must also **EXPECT** God to do what He says.
       1. **PROVE God**, test Him, try it and see if He is telling the truth!
       2. If this doesn’t work, then salvation doesn’t work.

**Numbers 23:19**

*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

* + - 1. The “devourer” will be rebuked for your sake!
         1. **In what area of your life do you need the devourer to be rebuked?**
      2. The Devourer will NOT destroy the fruit of your ground.
         1. **In what area is your crop being destroyed?**
      3. **In what areas do you see your vine casting her fruit before her time?**
      4. As you follow this divine law
         1. Everyone will “call you blessed!”
         2. You will be a “delightsome” land. You will have blessings all around you!

1. As with all Biblical teachings we must stay grounded.
   1. **Matthew 5:45**

*That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

* 1. We have seen a worldwide economic depression.
     1. God will bless you through the “Law of Reciprocity”.
     2. That doesn’t mean, necessarily that you will be driving a Rolls Royce while everyone is riding a bicycle.
     3. All blessings are relative!
     4. What is a blessing to one may not be a blessing to others.
     5. BUT notice that people will **SEE** that you are blessed and **WILL CALL** you blessed!
  2. God wants us to get in the **habit of giving**, not just a one time thing.

**Ecclesiastes 11:1**

*Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.*

**Illustration:** During the great depression, things were so bad that many people who had once had normal lives, were forced to stand in soup lines to get food. There was a man who volunteered to serve soup and with each scoop of soup, he would ask the man receiving the soup, “Sir, tell me, before you lost everything were you in the habit of blessing God with your tithes and offerings?” The man said, not once did he meet a man in the soup line that had made a habit of following the law of reciprocity in his giving.

* 1. **Psalm 37:25**

*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

1. Cases where the Law of Reciprocity does not work.
   1. With renegades.
   2. Lawless, rogue nations run by renegades.

**Matthew 7:6**

*“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*

* 1. A recent example is Iraq.
     1. We gave them a precious gift by removing a tyrant.
     2. Instead of embracing that gift, they have destroyed one another cruelly.
  2. Look at Japan as an exact opposite.
     1. The Marshall Plan rebuilt Japan after World War II.
     2. Japan has become one of the world’s largest economies.
        1. Instead of making cheap goods, they make some of the world’s best goods now.
  3. Sow your seed in **GOOD GROUND**.

**Matthew 13:8**

*8But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

1. Find a local church where you are fed.

**Hebrews 10:25**

*Not neglecting--as some habitually do--to meet together, but encouraging one another, and doing this all the more since you can see the day of Christ approaching.*

* 1. Church doesn’t have to be a huge building. It can be in someone else’s living room, etc. (It is wherever people gather together to worship the Lord).
  2. Plant your seed **CONSISTENTLY** into that ministry.
  3. Give offerings where the Holy Spirit will lead you.
  4. Expect your seed to grow.
  5. Expect a harvest from that seed!

**Conclusion:** As you begin to understand and operate in the law of reciprocity, you will begin your understanding of kingdom principles! God has set in order, a way for our provision. This law will work on Earth just as it does in Heaven.

**Hebrews 11:6**

*But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].*

Jesus Christ is the Word of God! The author of Hebrews tells us that God is a “rewarder” of those who **seek out His Word**! We are even told in Malachi to test God to see if this law of reciprocity works. If it doesn’t work, then salvation won’t work. You see, Jesus gave and He receives back. He gave His life and we give back our lives as we accept Him as our Lord.

Find your level of faith. If you can’t believe right now to give ten percent of your income, then start with five percent, or two percent. Make a pledge to God that you will honor Him with your increase.

Stan Hudson, a good friend of mine, had a good job in the oilfield. At the same time, I had a job in the oilfield but made considerably less money than he did. Stan loved the Lord and was always telling people about Jesus. He was a shining light in the oil industry when there was so much darkness. One day he told me that he was making $50,000 a year but he needed to make $60,000 a year. He said he had prayed about it and by faith, increased his tithe from $5,000 per year to $6,000 per year. About three months after he made that pledge of faith and started sowing the extra seed, his employer raised his salary to $60,000 per year.

Again, find your level of faith. Be honest with God and yourself and give according to your faith! As you do, God has promised to give back to you in the proportion that you give to Him.