

# Principle of Increase

“American dream is a false vision”

You have a part to play in God’s increase in your life!

## God Blessed Man

**Ge 1:27-28** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful [*increase abundantly*] and multiply [*gather to yourself for increase*]; fill [*replenish, restock, refill or give back*] the earth and subdue [*conquer so as to bring it under your control*] it; have dominion [*authority, control dominance over*] over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

## Curse of the Ground causes man to work

**Ge 3:17-19** Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed [*invoke a curse, blight, nuisance*] is the ground for your sake; In toil [*hard labor*] you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

## God overrides the curse that man brought upon himself

**De 28:8** "The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

**Command** hwu tsavah, -to constitute, enjoin:--appoint, bid, issue a charge or order, give a command; send forth a messenger, put or set in order a way.

**Isa 1:19** If you are willing [*trust from your heart*] and obedient [*follow carefully my way*], You shall eat the good [*abundance*] of the land;

- Commandments means “authoritative prescriptions”

## David stored up for the temple & posterity

- Stored for the future
- Did this “as unto the Lord”
- Left something behind for others

**1Ch 22:14** Indeed I have taken much **trouble** to prepare for the house of the LORD one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them. {trouble: or, poverty }

**Trouble** -only, depression, i.e. misery: --afflicted(-ion), trouble. POVERTY – David DID WITHOUT !

## Jesus teaching on attitude towards riches

**Lu 12:13-21** Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" [*with respect to the law*]

15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's [*security in*] life does not consist in the **abundance** of the things he possesses."

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

17 "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

18 "So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, **and is not rich toward God.**"

**Covetousness** - pleonexia avarice, i.e. (by implication) fraudulency, extortion:--covetous(-ness) practices, greediness materialism.

## Points to Ponder:

- Man was already rich – blessed
- Man was selfish & covetous
- Double portion of inheritance went to the First Born (2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6)
- Abundance -Not talking about having wealth but the attitude that wealth would give him a fulfilled and safe life
- Saw his blessing from God as for himself only
- Trusted in wealth to making him secure rather than God - “RICH TOWARDS GOD”
- Right attitude of the heart is to “Bless others” & Bless the Kingdom of God

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## Three areas in which God will bless for increase (Notice we have a part to play)

1. Blessing the work of your hands
  2. Blessing your storehouse
  3. Blessing your giving
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### The Storehouse Principle works for everyone including non-Christians

**Mr 10:24** And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!

**Pr 30:8-9** Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches-Feed me with the food allotted to me; 9 Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.

### Trusting in riches limits God for the increase

**Ps 62:10** Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them.

**Mr 4:18-19** "Now these are the ones (seed) sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. [*Sowing always means expectation of a harvest*]

**1Ti 6:17-19** Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

### Unrighteous Mammon

**Lu 16:1-13** He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.

2 "So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'

3 "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.

4 'I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'

5 "So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

6 "And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'

7 "Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

8 "So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. [*use riches to make a way for themselves*]

9 "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.

10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful [trustworthy; proven] also in much; and he who is unjust [not trustworthy; treacherous] in what is least is unjust also in much.

11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon [*using money incorrectly*], who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"

13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

### The Currency of the kingdom is faithfulness (consistency)

- Commended the unjust stewards forethought – planning for his future
- Finances are the least way to apply our faith. This is the first milestone!
- Faithful in the small things leads to greater responsibility
- Faithfulness with money leads to responsibility charge in the kingdom
- Faithful with someone else's possessions leads to trustworthiness (stewardship)
- Faithfulness to apply God's Word produces increase and provides promotion in all areas of kingdom life

### Conforming to the world's thinking for increase will hinder the blessing of God in our lives

**Ro 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**Conformed** –*suschnatizw* - to be fashioned like, or conform to the same pattern--conform to, fashion ones self in the same manner as [lust that is in the world] Root word; schema or echo

**Prove** – to test as an assayer tests the quality of gold or precious metals

**Isa 48:17** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go

**You are the deciding factor for increase –God is always willing!**

**Isa 1:19** If you are willing [*from the heart*] and obedient [*follow through*], You shall eat the good of the land;

**1Sa 15:22** Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

**The economy of the Kingdom cannot be manipulated or controlled  
by natural forces, by the natural economy or by the mind of men.**

## STOREHOUSES IN THE BIBLE

### 1. Joseph's storehouse

**Ge 41:35-36** "And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

36 "Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine."

**Fourteen year period: seven prosperous & seven difficult**

- There are sessions of prosperity and sessions of recession in every economy (accept God's)
- During times of prosperity, surpluses should be saved and not consumed;
- In times of recession, saved surpluses can be multiplied into more wealth as it is used to help meet needs of others

### 2. Many Animals have storehouses

**Pr 6:6-11** Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,

7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler,

8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers(stores) her food in the harvest.

9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?

10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep-

11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler (suddenly) , And your need like an armed man. (thief)

**Characteristics of Ants**

- Diligent
- Self-directed
- Do not depend on others work to produce their increase
- Work for the benefit of the whole
- Share the burden & the fruit of their labor
- Plan and build storehouses
- Store what they gather for the lean times
- Have many paths in their storehouse in the event of disaster (diversified)
- Able to weather both the dry season, the storm, and the devourer

**Characteristics of Grasshoppers**

- Devours all he gathers
- Consumes what others have planted -covetousness
- Self serving –everyone for himself attitude
- Always in a crisis of meeting the needs of the day
- Never saves -never stores
- Grasshoppers always searching

## FACTS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT MILLIONAIRES:

- 80% come from families that are not wealthy but average income families
- One in five do not hold a college degree; four of these five many have advanced degrees [*prepared themselves*]
- Most have common everyday professions like contractors, auctioneers or pest controllers
- Most have been married only one time [*stable in relationships; cultivate good relationships*]
- All live well below their means, wear inexpensive clothing and very few buy brand new cars [*things do not drive them*]
- Most all live in nice but not lavish homes
- On average they are worth \$3.5 million
- They have all invested between 15% to 20% of their earned income [*their money is put to work*]
- Many of them see managing their investments as a hobby
- They are characteristically careful planners, budgeters, and investors
- Their savings could support their lifestyle for tens years out
- They all have added to their savings without ever planning a use for it
- They all built up wealth slowly over years
- The average age is about 57 years old and only one in five is retired

## BIBLICAL WEALTH PRINCIPLES

### 1. God is the source of abundance & the catalyst for increase

**Pr 22:4** By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life.

**Phil 4:19** My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

**Prov 8:20-21** I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: that I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures."

**2 Cor 9:8** says: "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."

1. Whenever we need money or possessions, prayer is the answer. Look to the Lord, because He will provide it according to His will.

### 2. The Secret of Increase lies in “Contentment and confidence” in God

**Heb 13:5** Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**Pr 12:11** He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, But he who follows frivolity [*idleness; irresponsibility*] is devoid of understanding.

**Pr 20:13** Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.

**Mt 6:31-34** "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

**Psalms 37:1-ff** This whole psalm gives instruction on trusting God to bring everything you need to be prosperous and have increase

### 3. DEBT IS A CURSE and not a blessing. It produces bondage - Keep out of debt!

**Pr 22:7** The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower is servant to the lender.

- The minute a person goes into debt, he loses a portion of his freedom

**Ps 37:21** The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives.

22 For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, But those cursed by Him shall be cut off

### 4. Determine to Become a “SOWER” – “one who plants for the future expecting a harvest”

**2Co 9:10** Now may 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,

**Isa 55:10** "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

**Lu 6:38** "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

**Pr 3:9-10** Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase;  
10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

**De 24:19** "When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

- God blesses the work of our hands by giving to those who are not able to be productive

## 5. Lasting Wealth does not come through dishonesty (covetousness)

**Pr 13:11** Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase.

## 6. Solid wealth is built over time and not in a short term quick fix

**Pr 13:11** Wealth [not earned but] won in hasted or unjustly or from the production of things for vain or detrimental use [such riches] will dwindle away, but he who [reverently] fears and respects [gives action and honor to] the commandment [of God] will be rewarded [for his labor] –*Amplified*

**Pr 20:21** An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning Will not be blessed at the end.

- “You will be waiting a long time for your ship to come in”
- Lottery winners usually are poor within a few years after winning
- Increase comes in due season, through labor and through forethought of the future (planning)

**Ec 3:1-3** To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;

3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;

**Ec 3:6** A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away;

## 7. Wealth only comes by doing or being faithful in little things

**Lu 19:17** "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

**Lu 19:23-26** 'Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'

24 "And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.'

25 ("But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.')

26 'For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

### INCREASE COMES THROUGH FAITHFULNESS AND CONSISTENCY

- “If we DO NOT a storehouse we are believing someone else will take care of us (welfare principle)”
- Welfare is a curse because our dependency is on others rather than God
- Not planning for your future will produce a curse in your life

## 8. God blesses the work of your hands

**De 28:8** "The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

**De 30:9** "The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,

**Job 1:10** "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

**Job 34:11** For He repays man according to his work, And makes man to find a reward according to his way.

**Pr 14:23** In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.

**Pr 28:9** He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

**Ec 9:10** Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

**Pr 18:9** He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

**Pr 22:29** Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

**Pr 24:27** Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

**2Th 3:10** For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

## 9. Live On Margin

**Pr 21:5** The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

- Allow for unforeseen and unplanned things to occur.

## **10. Seek counsel that is Godly but not necessarily “Christian”**

**Ps 1:1** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

**Pr 15:22** Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

**Pr 16:9** A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

**Pr 19:21** There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD'S counsel-that will stand.

## **11. Keep Records and develop a Budget**

**Pr 27:23** Be diligent to know the state [*condition*]of your flocks, And attend to your herds;

**Pr 24:3-5** Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;

4 By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.

5 A wise man is strong, Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength;

## **12. Do Not Cosign for another person**

**Pr 6:1-5** My son, if you become surety for your friend, If you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger,

2 You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth.

3 So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend.

4 Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids.

5 Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, And like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

**Pr 27:13** Take the garment of him who is surety for a stranger, And hold it in pledge when he is surety for a seductress

- The poorest credit risk is the man who agrees to pay a stranger's debt.
- When a person cosigns a note, he is the one who is really borrowing the money.
- The reason a person needs a cosigner is because he is not a good or stable financial risk