

# Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain

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## Introduction...

We who are fortunate enough to live in Western Society truly live in very affluent times. But has this really helped us?

I am going to quote from an email I received at work one day.

It is called... **'Keeping Things In Perspective'**

It talks about shrinking the world's population down to just 100 people but keeping the same ratio's, the same statistics.

So let's say you are sitting in a room consisting of 100 people and it represents the whole world.

- 52 would be female
  - 48 male
  - 70 non-white
  - 30 white
  - 70 non-Christian
  - 30 Christian
  - 89 Heterosexual
  - 11 Homosexual
  - 6 People would own 59% of the wealth.
  - And they would all come from the Unites States.
  - 80 people would live in sub-standard housing.
  - Only 30 of you could be reading this book because the other 70 can't read.
  - 50 of you would be suffering from malnutrition.
  - Someone would always be near death.
  - Someone would always be near birth.
  - Only 1 would have a college education.
  - Only 1 would own a computer.
- 
- You know if you're reading this book then you obviously own a computer. Then you are in the top 1 percent of the richest people on earth.

- If you woke up this morning with more health than **illness you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.**
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation **you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.**
- If you can attend a church meeting without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death **you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world.**
- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep **you are richer than 75 percent of the people in this world.**
- Do you have money in the bank, in your wallet, do you have loose change in a dish somewhere then **you are in the top 8 percent of the rich people in the world.**
- **92 percent of people on this planet are poorer than you.**

## **We read the warnings in the scriptures to the rich.**

- ✓ Be hospitable.
- ✓ Be ready to distribute.
- ✓ Be ready to help.

**These scriptures are talking to us.**

Let's read what they have to say...

### **1 Timothy 6:1-2**

Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, **partakers of the benefit**. These things teach and exhort.

One little sentence in there... **Partakers of the benefit!** That's us... Partakers of the wonderful benefits that the Lord has provided for us.



### **1 Timothy 6:3-5**

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

There is a line of thought in the world today that perhaps blessings are demonstrated in what worldly goods you possess. Or that what demonstrates your lack of Godliness is the opposite. The scripture is clearly saying here that this is not the case. From such who preach such things withdraw yourselves.

*1 Timothy 6:6*

**But godliness with contentment is great gain.**



Godliness with contentment is **great gain**. We live in a society that doesn't want us to be content. There's always something else we've got to have, there's always something else our children have to have.

We never have enough!

It says here with Godliness...

That's the first thing... We must have **Godliness**.

This is what we have to have in our life.

**Godliness.**

Then once we have Godliness, **contentment is great gain**.

**1 Timothy 6:7-8**

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And **having food and raiment let us be therewith content**.



## Now all of us have got that... Food and clothing!

You know I'm always astounded when I read this scripture that He hasn't thrown in a roof over your head.

I wouldn't mind a roof over my head as well, to be a bit content but He doesn't throw that in... He says, **with food and clothing let us be content.**

If you've got food and you've got clothing and you've got Godliness you should be happy.

And this is an amazing thing because in this society that just does not happen. Food and clothing in this society just isn't enough for us – is it?

Let's be honest with ourselves – But here it is in the scriptures with food and clothing be content. That is enough.

It doesn't mean we can't enjoy the other things in life of course, but it is saying... If we don't have those things we still should be content.

### 1 Timothy 6:9

But **they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts,** which drown men in destruction and perdition.



I want to really drive home the point throughout this book **that WE are the rich.**

Sure... We can look at the millionaires in our society and point the finger at them. But when we look at some facts shortly you will soon realize that you are the rich and that you are in danger of falling into many foolish and hurtful lusts.

There is more to overcome.

There's more temptations, there's more problems, there's more difficulties, there is more danger of you falling because you are rich.

### **1 Timothy 6:10-11**

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after **righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.**

Those who covet after money pierce themselves through with many sorrows!

Pull apart this verse and examine it more closely. Go through what those things mean. Those things which we should be pursuing after: **righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.**

## 1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life**, whereunto **thou art also called**, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Lay hold on... Isn't that wonderful that it is even possible?

To lay hold on is to actually reach out to something **and actually grab it**.

**You can have it...** Think about that for a while.



You can reach out and grab (lay hold on) **eternal life**.

## Whereunto you are also called.

### What are you called to?

**Eternal life...** Wow!

Isn't that great?



## 1 Timothy 6:13-18

I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; **That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;**

This word communicate is used a few times in the New Testament with regards to **helping** with food, lodging or **financially**. Paul used the word this way – Your communication was most welcome he said.

So it is in hospitality and charity. This is what he is charging the rich of this world to do. Be ready to distribute – **USE IT!**

Don't keep it – use it. You know if we can afford to build big houses then build them but design it for a house meeting. Sometimes you can read these things and think, if you have money you're in big trouble.

This is not the case. You can use it to good effect in the Lord.



### 1 Timothy 6:19

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

So... All of the above is a charge to the rich and I want you to **take it personally**.

That's right... I want you to realize that **these scriptures are talking directly to you**.

You might not feel like the rich of this world but after you read the following you will clearly see that you are.

I am going to quote from an email I got at work one day.

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It talks about shrinking the world's population down to just 100 people but keeping the same ratio's, the same statistics.

So let's say you are sitting in a room consisting of 100 people and it represents the whole world.

52 would be female  
48 male  
70 non-white  
30 white  
70 non-Christian  
30 Christian

Now this statistic jumped out at me because this is what they call Christian. Even the nominal Christian world only numbers 30 percent.

Haven't we got a job to do? Amen!

Haven't we got a job to do in getting out there and preaching the gospel?

89 Heterosexual  
11 Homosexual

That's a pretty big statistic. A very large portion of our modern day civilization is homosexual.

6 People would own 59% of the wealth.  
And they would all come from the United States.

80 people would live in sub-standard housing.

Could you imagine sitting in a room of just 100 people and 80 of those people are **worse off than you?**

Only 30 of you could be reading this book because the other 70 can't read.

50 of you would be suffering from malnutrition.

**Try this little exercise.**



You are in a room of 100 people. Now divide the room down the middle with 50 people on one side and 50 people on the other.

Now look at the people on the right. They're the rich! Loaded!

Now look at the people on the left. They're malnourished! They're starving hungry. Crying out for food. Give me something to eat.

The other fifty on the rich side are crying out too! Oh... I need to go on a diet. Have you got a good diet book? What's a good exercise machine?

Do you know that in the Western world the biggest sellers are weight loss and fitness products?

Yet 50 percent of the world isn't getting enough to eat and we're whining that we can't get it off. We complain that we're eating too much while half of the world is starving.

How well off are we?

***We are the rich!***

Back to our statistics for our group of 100.

Someone would always be near death.  
Someone would always be near birth.

Only 1 would have a college education.  
Only 1 would own a computer.

You know if you're reading this book then you obviously own a computer.

**Then you are in the top 1 percent of the richest people on earth.**

YOU ARE THE RICH! You are the one that is in danger of many temptations and hurtful lusts.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

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**Do you have money in the bank, in your wallet, do you have loose change in a dish somewhere then you are in the top 8 percent of the rich people in the world.**

**92 percent of people on this planet are poorer than you.**

People on the dole in this country (Australia) are in the top 8 percent of the world as far as I'm concerned. WE ARE THE RICH.

We read the warnings in the scriptures to the rich. Be hospitable. Be ready to distribute. Be ready to help.

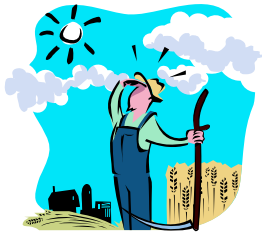
## These scriptures are talking to us.

This society leads us into this false sense of security. This illusion that everything is ok. We really do live in relative comfort. None of us are doing it too tough.

We all have various circumstances we have to deal with, however when you compare it to the rest of the world we're on easy street.

Perhaps next time we are struggling to get the newest of this or the newest of that we should consider that the rest of the world is struggling to get food and water and clothing on their back.

We read below the answer that Jesus gave his disciples when they asked him the meaning of the parable of the sower and the seed.



### Matthew 13:18-19

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

We really have to be aware that **there is an enemy** out there. An enemy has done this. We have gone out and sowed the word then someone has come along and taken it away before it could have effect.



We're in a fight. So fight the good fight!



### **Matthew 13:20-21**

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it. Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

This is really describing our life story in the Lord.

Spreading the word. Some people here the word and no effect, straight away something comes along and it's gone. Someone does hear the word, comes along perhaps, cops a bit of persecution or tribulation and only lasts a short time.

### **Matthew 13:22**

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

I believe you and I in this world, being the rich, face the above problem as our greatest enemy.

Make sure that the thorns... Make sure that the cares of this world... The deceitfulness of riches, do not choke out the word and we become unfruitful.

This is the warning you see. When you realize that we are in the top 8 percent of the wealthy in this world...

**That WE are the RICH...** Then let's be careful, let's be on guard.

The scriptures tell us that **there is more temptation for us**, it will be harder for us, so therefore be aware, be on guard!

Let's be prepared, let's be people who are putting into the things of God and don't let the cares of this world choke out the word of God.

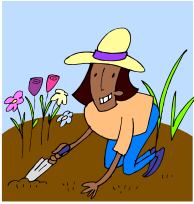
And the following scripture explains to us where we want to be.

### **Matthew 13:23**

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

This is our aim. This is our goal. Not to let anything else, not persecution, not tribulation and most certainly not the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches pull us away from God.

Our garden needs to be full of flowers, blossoming, in full bloom and no room for weeds there.



Jesus said it was easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.



It goes to show the situation that you and I are in. It's hard for a rich man to enter in the kingdom of God – **It's NOT impossible.**

In the old days they used to call the entrance into the city a needle. The rich man used to come along on his camel and the camel couldn't fit in if the rich man had all his goods on it.

The rich man had to get off, take all the goods off then take your camel through, then go back and get all your goods, reload the camel.

You could get in but it was difficult.

So it is with us. Make sure we're not collecting things that are going to hinder us from entering into the kingdom of God.

Let's make sure that when the Lord comes back we're ready.

There are few things that challenge us in the scriptures.

The rich man came to Jesus and said what do I have to do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said Love the Lord God with all thine heart, mind and soul and love your neighbor the same.

And this guy said, Look I've done all that since I was a wee lad.

The Lord said there is one thing you lack. Sell what you have and give to the poor. But he couldn't do it because he had a lot of goods.

Now apply this scripture to yourself. **If the Lord asked you right now to sell what you have and give it away – Could you do it?**

You know it was so easy to do before I got a house, a car, computer and stuff! The answer was an immediate yes.



But you see as we start to accumulate wealth it gets harder to let it go. It's scary to think that we might even hesitate.

This is where the wisdom of the Lord shone through in the book Acts when the members of the early church sold everything they had and distributed it among each other.

I don't recommend that by the way. It was a failure, they then had to raise money later on from other assemblies because of famine.

But... What happened was that when they were persecuted they just went to another town.

What happened when Titus came down and wiped out Jerusalem?

They left before they had any harm brought against them. You see they had no material goods to hold them there.

I seen in Kosovo on television where people wouldn't leave their house. The soldiers were coming. People who stood in their way were killed. The sensible thing to do was to flee to safety but these people could not leave because they valued their material possessions above their life.

Risking their lives for a house. And the wisdom of the Lord in the book of Acts stands out like a beacon. He knew what was coming. He knew that these things were going to come against Jeruslaem.



And the early Christians had nothing to hold them there. They had sold all there goods and they could just pick up stumps and go.

We need to be careful. The scriptures tell us we have no continuing city. We seek one to come, which is the kingdom of God. Make sure that whatever we have we use for the Lord and we don't allow these things to anchor us, to weigh us down, to choke us like weeds.

The attitude should be that whatever we have it is the Lord's because he gave it to us and the Lord can help us use it for good.

Again sometimes you can hear these things and think it is wrong to have stuff but that is not the case. It's wrong if we hide it in a closet and don't use it. The Lord blesses us with stuff. What is wrong is getting lost, getting sidetracked in that stuff.

You know there are some amazing scriptures on those who come to quick wealth are like fools. You're lotteries and that sort of thing.

I read a newspaper report the other day that said most of those who had won the big lotteries had gone bust. They had blown the lot.

Something like 98 percent of them couldn't handle the sudden wealth and squandered the money.

The Bible is not against us having wealth. But the scriptures encourage us to work and to earn these things. The Lord will bless the work of our hands, He will provide. Not the get rich quick scenario!

### **Proverbs 30:7-9**

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Let's get back to this world portraying this false sense of security.

It's just portrayed, as this wonderful place yet there is so many terrible things going on...

## 2 Timothy 3:1

This know also, that in the last days perilous times **shall come**.



Now we believe the bible and this is what it's telling us. It's coming!

I believe it's already here just we don't notice over here in the top 8 percent of the wealthy in the world. However the following scriptures depict our society exactly.

## 2 Timothy 3:2

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, **covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,**

I remember when I came to the Lord our Pastor gave a talk about gambling. Now before I came along I was a mad gambler. Now I remember thinking that I didn't gamble for the money sort of thing. I gambled because I liked it. It was my hobby, my pleasure and enjoyment,

Now this Pastor gave a talk on how gambling was covetousness and I'm sitting back thinking no, no... not in my case. I remember not long after this talk struggling with temptation and walking in to our local T.A.B. (betting agency) and I actually wrote out the tickets.

And I was saying to myself, I'm not covetous. I'll just put 50 cents on each one, just for an interest. This is the lowest bet allowed and virtually a nothing bet compared to the thousands of dollars I used to out lay.



Then as I walked up towards the window I realized I was covetous! Because if I wasn't covetous... I wouldn't put any money on them at all. I just couldn't get around it. Gambling was covetousness.

So the Pastors talk had effect. It cut me to the heart and it worked. I threw the bets away never more to gamble again.

People will be covetous it says in the above scripture. The biggest money revenue earner in this society for our government comes from gambling.

The lotteries and the taxes they make from slot machines and other forms of gambling are huge. It's because we as a nation are covetous. We're not content.

We want more.

## Boasters!



Well this really is the latest. You know people boast and brag in normal life.

But in big business if you can't promote yourself you're a no-body. They boast.

In recorded phone messages they found the word I used far more often than the word you. Boasters! I done this, I did that. And it's happening more and more...

Proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.

These things are just rife in our society. There is no respect any more for anyone in authority.

### 2 Timothy 3:3-5

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**

This is the big key here. Let's not fall into that trap. **Don't be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.** Let's not get caught up in the things of this world.

Perilous times shall come!

50 percent of the world's population is suffering from malnutrition **right now**.

80 percent don't have a decent roof over their heads. Not to mention all of the wars that are going on all over the place.

### **Matthew 24:1-8**

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

A few things to point out here:

***Take heed!***

How many times do we read this warning throughout the scriptures?

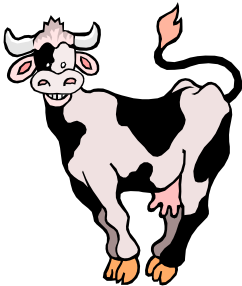
Take heed. Be aware. Don't get deceived.

But chiefly, I want to remind us of what the scriptures say about the times we are living in. Remind us that despite this illusion that is coming across and being portrayed that it is all not comfortable out there. It's not all right out there. Things aren't cruising along all rosy out there.

Here we are talking about famines. 50 percent of the world can't get enough to eat.

Pestilences – amazing!

I heard on the radio the other day about the mad cow's disease. They're really scared it's going to be an epidemic now over in Britain.



First of all they said that humans couldn't get it and now there has been almost 100 deaths. But now they have discovered that it can lay dormant in your body for up to 20 to 25 years.

They are now really scared at how far this is going to spread and it's a scary thing.

Just in case you want to know what mad cow's disease is – it turn's your brain into a sponge.

Not nice... What kind of world do we live in?

You can't even eat a bit of beef without being frightened. One family in Britain saw their 14 year old daughter die.

Could you imagine that?

What did you do? You gave your child something to eat.

Terrible.

This is our modern civilization. Just recently they were over there struggling to control foot and mouth disease. Burning everything.

We quite often think of these scriptures about diseases in conjunction with how they affect humans. But look at the animal kingdom!

Look at the diseases that are just rattling through them. Incredible stuff happening right before our eyes and we hardly notice. Something terrible happens and we almost ignore it.

The Aids virus for example has almost been forgotten. When it first came out people were horrified and there were all sorts of stories and rumors circulating everywhere.

I just happened to be watching the news the other night when they were talking about the new rules for the blood bin in football. I couldn't believe that no one picked up on it.

They said that now when a player gets blood all over them they have to immediately leave the field and remove their jumper.

They then must put the jumper into a tub, spray it with special stuff and make sure it's clean because the Aids virus can stay alive in the dried blood for up to a week.

Now when the Aids virus first hit the news they told us there was no need to panic because the aids virus once it hit the air only had a couple of seconds and then it was gone.

We live in perilous times. It can be quite frightening!

It is definitely nothing like the illusion being portrayed. It's amazing what is portrayed through the television and magazines. It's astounding how we go through life so consumed with our every day mundane things in life almost totally oblivious to the things that are going on around us.

At the end of the day some of you reading this book have double riches. Not only are we living in a world where we are among the top 8 percent of the wealthy, if you have Jesus Christ you are doubly rich!



We have everything the Lord has given to us. We have it all laid on for us. Such things as the fruit of the Spirit... The Gifts of the Spirit... and the love of God. We've got it all! We are doubly rich.

How much more then does it fall on us to be people who are ready to communicate... As the scriptures put it. Ready to spread this wonderful word of God that we've got.

### **Matthew 6:24**

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

This is a tough ask in this society. We have to work, we have to do certain things and it is a fine line. But the end of the matter is that we have to put the Lord first, we have to seek him first.

Of course this chapter continues on and explains to us how the Lord provides. How he provides for the sparrows, how he provides for the lilies of the fields and so forth.

### **Matthew 6:31**

Therefore 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. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

We see the children of Israel when they were led out of Egypt and the whole time they were whiners and complainers. What are we going to eat? What are we going to drink? Where are we going to this? What about our children? Whine, moan and complain!

***You know what?***

They were going to the Promised Land.

Complain, whine, moan!

***You know what?***

We are going to the Promised Land!

What do we complain about?

What about our kids? What about our clothes? What about this, that and the other thing?

**Are we any better than the children of Israel?**

We have got to be careful. We can look back at them and say, Oh you silly people. Yet we can be doing the same thing because we're going to the Promised Land folks.

Sure, we're traveling through the wilderness at the moment. But we can have the tabernacle set up as a great testament for those around about.

Make sure that we are people who seek first the kingdom of God.

Sometimes we can get lost chasing after the provision instead of chasing after the provider.

**Deuteronomy 28:1-2**

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, **and overtake thee**, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.



## I want to tie this scripture in with 'Seek Ye First The Kingdom Of God'

You know there is so many blessings that come in the Lord. He certainly looks after us... the provisions and so on. He does look after us and he does provide for us and we do get wealthy.

The healing and the blessings!

But too many times people get turned aside chasing after the provision and they forget **the provider**.

They might need a healing and they chase after the healing. Hang on a minute – the Lord's over here. Chase the Lord – He's got the healing.

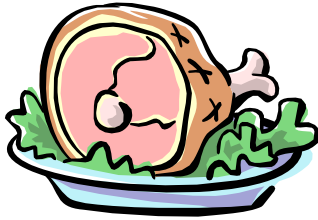
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and the blessings will **OVERTAKE YOU**.

Just keep serving the Lord. Keep walking towards the Promised Land and while you are doing that the blessings will overtake you.

Too often we get lost chasing after the blessing. Too often we complain because we don't get what we asked for.

This probably not the best example but it's a bit like going into Kentucky Fried Chicken and all you've wanted is some fries but instead they have given you some huge 10 course banquet.

But when you get out you realize you haven't got the fries and you start whining and complaining because you haven't got the fries.



Well when you come to the Lord he has put this banquet on for us. He placed this enormous feed before us with everything that we'll ever need and we complain because we haven't got the fries.

Does this make sense? A mad parable I know. But do you see what I mean?

Sometimes we're too busy chasing after things when we should be chasing after the Lord! Having that wonderful relationship with our God. Then the blessings will overtake you.

**God WILL provide** for us and the blessings **WILL** overtake us. Sometimes you can read these things and think if you have a bit of money you're in trouble but that's not the case for the Lord will bless us if we are not chasing after the things of this world.

And there are so many examples of wealthy people helping out in the church. We need to be mindful of the greater vision, to be people ready to help and support the work of the Lord.



### Deuteronomy 28:3-13

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

The LORD **shall command the blessing** upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God **giveth** thee.

The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

Isn't it amazing what happens if we just keep seeking the Lord? If we just continue towards the Promised Land and not get lost in the trappings along the way.

**It says the Lord shall COMMAND THE BLESSING!**

**It also says that he will bless you in the land that the Lord thy God GIVETH thee!**

Now this is where the big dividing line comes. Everything we own has been given to us by the Lord. **It's not ours it is his.**

That is the dividing line. Sometimes we hold on to things – that's mine. No – it's the Lords.

And the Lord shall make thee **plenteous** in goods. How's that?



It's amazing what happens when we obey the Lord. We see people being promoted all over the place in various work places and so forth. But the Lord will bless if we follow him. Don't get lost in chasing after riches.

Another proverb says that riches take eagles wings and fly away. Just as you think you might have them, swoosh... they're gone.

Chase the Lord. Follow the Lord. Make him number 1 and the blessings, the necessities of life will be provided for you.

And if along the way the Lord does bless us with goods or wealth, then use it!

The thing is you can't out give the Lord. The more you distribute the more you seem to get back.

So let us not forget what true wealth is...

**Godliness with contentment is great gain.**

Amen.

## **Our Lord Jesus Christ Is The Same Yesterday, Today & Forever And In These Modern Times Miracles Still Happen ...**

A special thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his powerful healing hand which enabled us to have children and to my church <http://www.trf.org.au/> for all their prayers and support...

Let me explain...

My name is Allan Wilson and in December 1986 I became a born again Christian, I was baptized by full immersion and received God's Holy Spirit with the Bible evidence of speaking in tongues...

I once was a compulsive gambler, however through the power of Jesus Christ my life changed dramatically, with gambling, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol and swearing all ceasing within the first few weeks of my conversion...

In 1990 my wife Michele was also born again.

After 10 years of marriage we seemed never likely to be able to have children, however through the loving prayers of our brothers and sisters in the Lord we were blessed with our first born son Samuel in 1995...

It was then the doctor discovered she had very advanced endometrioses (a condition which can cause infertility and miscarriages), despite this medical condition the Lord was doubly gracious, with Michele giving birth to twins Benjamin and Nathan in 1998...