

Releasing God's Blessing

*Sunday August 15, 2021
Series: Authentic Ministry*

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
John 10:10 ESV*

*“so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.
For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good,
and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”
Matthew 5:45 ESV*

Authentic Ministry is Releasing God's Blessing into our World

I. Honor My Commitment to God and Others

By Doing So... I Motivate Others to Honor their Commitments

*“Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them.”
2 Corinthians 9:1–2 ESV*

Keeping My Commitments Requires Time Management

*“But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident.”
2 Corinthians 9:3–4 ESV*

I Take Advantage of Reminders

*“So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.”
2 Corinthians 9:5 ESV*

II. Living The Cycle of Blessing

Why Can I Be Generous?

*“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
2 Corinthians 9:6 ESV*

Three Principles of Reaping and Sowing.

One: I Reap What I Sow — (Galatians 6:8)

Two: I Reap More Than I Sow — (Matthew 13:8 ESV)

Three: I Reap Later Than I Sow — (1 Timothy 5:24 ESV)

*“give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”
Luke 6:38 ESV*

Living In the Cycle of Blessing

1. I Must Choose to Give

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

(Also Matthew 6:24)

2. I Invite God’s Blessing

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”” 2 Corinthians 9:8–9 ESV

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(Also Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6; Psalm 66:18)

“As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”” 2 Corinthians 9:9 ESV

(Also Psalm 112)

3. God Blessing My Personal Provision and Spiritual Growth

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” 2 Corinthians 9:10 ESV

4. I Become God’s Blessing To Others

“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11 ESV

I don’t have to be rich to be generous, I just have to be generous to be generous!

5. I Draw others to God

“For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,” 2 Corinthians 9:12–13 ESV

6. I Strengthen the Church

“while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.” 2 Corinthians 9:14 ESV

7. The Lord is Honored

“Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!” 2 Corinthians 9:15 ESV

Will I Choice to Live in the Place of God’s Blessing?

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
2 Corinthians 9:6 ESV