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July 2016

SEEKING FINANCIAL INCREASE

Greetings in Jesus!

If you want to conduct a ministry conference and draw large crowds, there are three subjects which are guaranteed to get results: 1) how to flow in the power and anointing of God, 2) end-time prophecy and operating in the prophetic and 3) how to have financial increase. Of these three, the one which seems to be most attractive is the third; Christians generally seem more concerned with paying their bills, driving nice cars, living in bigger homes and having fancy stuff than they are with God's power, the identity of the anti-Christ and how to prophesy great, spiritual mysteries.

Sadly, many preachers have horribly distorted the idea of financial increase by teaching that God wants all His children to have abundant wealth and material possessions. Scriptures are twisted way out of context to motivate Believers into giving and giving. In spite of the fact that God said the borrower is servant to the lender (Proverbs 22:7), some preachers have encouraged Christians to get loans or obtain cash advances on their credit cards in order to give in special offerings. I have even heard of a preacher guaranteeing that God was going to release a "1000-fold return" in a specific offering.

I honestly don't believe that those who preach such things are intentionally misleading people. Oddly enough, I think they actually believe what they are saying. But just because you believe something doesn't make it true. To be blunt: there is *nothing* in scripture where God has declared He wants Christians to live in opulent wealth. In fact, there is not enough money in the entire world for all the Christians alive to live the lavish lifestyle described by some preachers.

Nevertheless, God does not want His children to struggle with paying bills or to face starvation. He desires all Believers to be clothed, have a roof over their head, have food to eat and have enough money left over to give as He leads them to give. In spite of this, so many Christians all over the world are struggling mightily just to get by. Yes, some may be struggling due to very unwise choices concerning how they have stewarded their money, but that is not generally the case. God wants His own living in blessings!

Some might reply, *"Yes, Brother Martin, that's easy for you to say; you live in the United States, one of the richest nations in the world. Where I live the conditions are horrible, there are very few jobs and life seems unbearable at times."* I agree that it can appear as though living in the United States makes it easier to live in God's blessings. However, God's Word - His promises - are not bound by national borders or cultural conditions; His Word is true for all generations in every country in the world. The battle may be greater in some countries, but God's promises are equally effective no matter where a person lives.

Speaking of battles, that brings up an interesting point. In Ephesians 6:10-18, the Apostle Paul writes about putting on the armor of God in order to stand against the wiles of the devil. What I

have observed is how it seems most Christians - myself included - are more *reactive* than they are *proactive* when it comes to fighting the devil. What I mean is, so many do nothing until the devil attacks, then they scramble to put on the armor of God and fight. But this is not how a successful army wins. Long before the enemy attacks, an army trains its soldiers how to use their weapons and how to engage in battle. That way, when the enemy does attack, the army will be fully prepared to fight and win.

As Christians, we need to be proactive instead of reactive. This means we must prepare for the devil's attacks before they are launched. In no arena is this more true than on the battlefield of finances. Christians should not be at a place of near desperation when facing a \$500 car repair bill or when needing to drill a new well for water. Hardly a week goes by that I do not receive near-desperate pleas for financial help from ministers in other nations. The Body of Christ should not be going through such frantic situations.

In this letter I am sharing both a reactive and a proactive approach to dealing with financial increase. For me, it is reactive because it addresses something I have allowed to slip in my own life and ministry. It is proactive because I am preparing for what is coming. The Holy Spirit is impressing on me that before the end of this year, there is going to be an expansion and growth in the ministry to which I am called. This growth is going to extend into next year.

I am not saying that this growth is exclusive to an increase in the number of people attending our church. It is growth that includes how this ministry is going to impact people, especially ministers, in various parts of the world. One of the things the Lord has impressed upon me is that pastors are at different levels of their own spiritual growth. Just as they are supposed to disciple those in their church, a vast number of them are in great need of their own discipling. In Mark 6:34, Jesus was moved with compassion for people, commenting that they were like sheep without a shepherd, and began to teach them. This image is the same for many pastors: they are like sheep without a shepherd and need a shepherd to feed and nurture them.

In order for us to accomplish what the Lord has set before us, we need such things as 1) His plan, 2) His timing, 3) His wisdom, 4) His grace, 5) an increase of finances. The first four come by spiritual fellowship with and revelation from the Lord; the fifth requires a manifestation in the natural. Concerning the finances, the time to believe God for increase is *now*, being proactive, not waiting until the day comes to step out and act, for that is reactive. But this principle is true for all Christians: the time to believe for finances is right now, not when the car breaks down and feelings of desperation try to blanket our emotions.

But the question then arises: What can a Believer do to see financial increase? For starters, it is of paramount importance that we start by totally purging ourselves of any desire for the biggest, the best, the fanciest, the nicest and anything else that makes a statement to the world that we are "children of the King," as I've heard it explained. There are really only two areas of need in our lives: 1) What do I need spiritually, materially and financially to live life as a Christian? 2) What do I need spiritually, materially and financially to fulfill what God has called me to do? Our reason for wanting financial increase - our motivation - can make or break us when it comes to receiving from God.

Once we have our motivation aligned with the heart of our Father, we then need to consider the best approach to receiving increase. As simple as it may seem, asking for increase is extremely effective.

¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. (1 John 5:14-15)

Asking our Father for increase according to His will, with His desires as our own, can accomplish much. It is **NOT** wrong to ask for nice clothes, working appliances, a reliable car, plenty of food and so on. It is not wrong to ask for an adequate facility for your church, along with all that is necessary to run the race set before you.

Along with asking, confessing the Word of God concerning His promises about provision is extremely important.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
(Hebrews 11:3)

The word “worlds” in the above verse is not speaking of the stars and planets. It is referring to the ages in which people lived. The entire chapter of Hebrews 11 is describing how people changed their generations by the Word of God. This being true, how much could we change our financial situation through the Word of God?

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. (Psalm 33:6)

Unlike Hebrews 11:3, this verse is describing that God created the entire universe by speaking His Word. This should convince us that His Word has the power to impact things in the natural.

Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? (Ecclesiastes 8:4)

Revelation 1:6 states that Jesus has made us kings and priests unto God. If I, as a king, utilize the Word of God in what I declare, should I not expect results?

Confessing the Word of God does not motivate God to release an abundant flow of finances into our lives, for He has already revealed His intentions in His Word. What confession of His Word does is impact us on a spiritual level to increase both our trust in God and our belief in His promises, and to facilitate faith to come (“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Romans 10:17). A person may have absolutely no money whatsoever to give in an offering, but that person can still speak the Word of God; after all, Jesus said in Mark 4:14, “The sower soweth the word.”

The next question some may ask is, “How do I confess scripture over my finances?” That is a very fair question. Following are several examples of such confessions. I won’t type out the verses, (you can look them up on your own), but I will show how to turn a verse into a confession. Keep in mind these are just examples; you can customize them however you desire. The first three are the verses I use the most when it comes to financial increase for both personal and ministry needs.

2 Corinthians 8:9 I know the grace of my Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for my sake He became poor, that I, through His poverty, might be rich.

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward me; that I, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2 Chronicles 26:5 As long as I seek the Lord, God makes me to prosper.

Matthew 6:33 I seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; all that I need is added unto me.

Psalms 33:10 Some may lack and suffer hunger: but I seek the Lord and I shall not want any good thing.

Deuteronomy 8:18 I remember you, O Lord my God, for it is you that gives me power to get wealth so that through me, You may declare and establish your covenant of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 10:22 Your blessings, Lord, make me rich and there is no sorrow added with it.

2 Peter 1:3 God, your divine power continually gives to me all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of You, for You have called me unto glory and virtue.

The above is just a small sampling of verses that can be used to develop confessions for financial increase. The length of time you spend confessing is up to you, but the more we confess, the more faith comes; the more faith comes, the more we see God's promises come to pass. After a time of confession, you can actually incorporate some - or all - of these verses into a praise and declaration of thanks for your increase.

Father, I thank You that You are not a man that You should lie (Numbers 23:19). Your Word has gone forth and it will not return void, but it shall accomplish that which You please and it shall prosper according to Your intended purpose (Isaiah 55:11). Your Word is a revelation of Your will; as I have declared Your Word, may Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven (Matthew 6:10). I thank You for Your grace flowing into my life, raising me above poverty and producing abundant sufficiency in all things. I thank you that every need is supplied. I praise you for making me to prosper and that I do not want any good thing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

No matter what your present financial situation, declaring God's promises will serve to your benefit. Of course, confessing God's Word is not limited to finances. This principle applies to everything God has promised us. Furthermore, confessing God's Word will work in any nation no matter what the economy, customs, poverty level or culture. Always exalt His Word over anything you face.

Because of what God is doing in our ministry, I plan to increase my confessions over finances now, being proactive instead of reactive in the future. If you think of it, as you are confessing over your own finances, you could also join with me in confessing over the finances of our ministry. God wants all His children blessed financially so we can effectively spread the gospel around the world!

In His Grace,

Jim

P.S. - If you would like more teaching about financial increase, including the revelation of another principle that flows right along with confession, please use the form below to order a CD of my sermon, "A Key to Financial Increase."

>>>> **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT** <<<<

Our 2017 Prayer and Power Conference will be Sunday, April 23 - Friday, April 28. Our host hotel will again be the: Country Inn and Suites
3971 Colonel Glenn Highway, Fairborn, Ohio 45324
(937) 429-2222, email shekira.kanemoto@countryinns.com,
web site <https://www.countryinns.com/beavercreek-hotel-oh-45324/ohfairbo/rooms>

Rates per night (tax not included): Double Queen: \$105.00; King Standard \$105; King Suite \$120.00. Room space is limited. Those attending are responsible for making their own hotel reservations.

_____ Check here to receive a CD of the sermon, "A Key to Financial Increase."

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My love gift is: \$ _____ (Make checks payable to "Jim Martin Ministries.")

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