

The Overflowing Life

“Living with an Open Hand”

Text: Proverbs 11:25 KJV *The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. ²⁶ He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it. ²⁷ He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.*

NIV ²⁵ *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. ²⁶ People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell. ²⁷ Whoever seeks good finds favor, but evil comes to one who searches for it.*

Introduction: We all have a choice as to how we face life and impact others. We can be a taker, hoarder, or a giver.

Recap: The Key of Gratitude Unlocks Your Inheritance Through People!

Today the question is, do I live out of the bottom of the barrel or from the overflow of the top? We all spend or set our spending level to that which we have decided we will live from. So, does your barrel always run on empty or is your barrel full and overflowing from the top?

God's economy operates on a principle of overflow, where generosity is the channel for His blessing, and selfishness is the pathway to scarcity.

Imagine two buckets. One is turned upside down, focused only on what it can get from below. It lives at the bottom of the barrel, always scraping, never satisfied. The other is right-side up, open to the heavens, constantly being filled and overflowing from the top to bless everything around it. Our choices determine which bucket we are. Today, we'll see from God's Word how living with an open hand is the position for us to live in the constant flow of God's blessing.

I. The Principle Stated: Generosity Creates Increase

Proverbs 11:25 *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

This is the foundational law of God's kingdom economy. It is a cause-and-effect promise.

“A generous person will prosper...” The Hebrew word for “prosper” here implies being saturated, enriched, and made abundant. It's not merely financial; it's holistic prosperity.

“...whoever refreshes others will be refreshed” This is the reciprocal nature of God's grace. The act of giving is the channel for receiving. You become a conduit, not a dead-end.

Luke 6:38 NLT *Give, and it will be given to you. You will have more than enough. It can be pushed down and shaken together and it will still run over as it is given to you. The way you give to others is the way you will receive in return.*

“Running over” is the overflow from the top!

II. The Contrast: The Giver vs. The Hoarder

Proverbs 11:26 NIV *People curse the one who **hoards** grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is **willing to sell**.*

This verse paints a practical picture of how these two lifestyles play out in the community.

- **The Hoarder (Living from the Bottom of the Barrel):**

Mindset: Scarcity and fear. "If I don't hold onto this, there won't be enough for me."

Action: Withholds in times of need to drive up the price.

Result: Earns the curse of the community and, by principle, God's opposition (James 4:6 --- "God opposes *the* proud,"---).

- **The Seller (Living from the Overflow)**

Mindset: Stewardship and trust. "God has given me this to be a blessing."

Action: Makes resources available fairly.

Result: Receives both the blessing of the people and the favor of God.

2 Corinthians 9:6 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. (Hoarders sow sparingly; givers sow generously.)*

1 John 3:17 *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (A hoarder's heart is closed to God's love.)*

III. The Heart Condition Revealed: What You Seek, You Find

Proverbs 11:27 (NIV) *Whoever seeks good finds favor, but evil comes to one who searches for it.*

The Seeker of Good: Their life is oriented outward. They are actively looking for ways to bless, to do good, to be generous. What do they find? Favor (Hebrew —goodwill, acceptance, delight). This is the "blessed" life.

The Seeker of Evil: This is the person who is self-seeking, looking for angles, suspicious and greedy. Their inward focus attracts the very trouble and scarcity they fear.

Matthew 6:19 (NLT) *Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy (evil, covetous), your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.----V32 KJV (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

IV. The Open Hand is Constantly Blessed!

The world says, "Hold on tight to what you have." God says, "Let it go, and trust me to fill your hand again." An open hand cannot hoard, but it is always in the position to receive.

Pastor Faye's Testimony

Conclusion: Choose to live from the top of the barrel overflowing to others!

- The "bottom of the barrel" life is a life of fear, closed fists, and curses.
- The "overflow from the top" life is a life of faith, open hands, and blessing.

Recognize you are the inheritance of others:

- **Key #1? – What do I know that is critical for others' dreams and visions to come to pass?**
 - **Key #2 ? – What do I have that is critical for others' dreams and visions to come to pass?**
 - **Key #3 ? – What can I do that is critical for others' dreams and visions to come to pass?**
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Worship God through your First-Fruits, Tithes, Offerings, and Sacrifices:

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.*