



YOUR

abundance flows from

THANKSGIVING

STUDY BY



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YOUR ABUNDANCE FLOWS FROM *Thanksgiving*

The Word of God says in 2 Timothy 2:15 that we need to study to show ourselves approved. This study is aimed at encouraging us to study the Word of God and be faithful in applying it in our lives. Studying the Word of God should not have an end-goal focus, but rather a beautiful journey focus! When we walk with Jesus and study His Word, we get to embark on a life-changing journey that never ends.

Thank you for joining us as we journey with Jesus. Let us have a look at the title again: our **ABUNDANCE** flows from **THANKSGIVING**.

For us to understand the fullness of this, we need to understand these two capitalised words: **ABUNDANCE** and **THANKSGIVING**.

First, we need to realise that God wants us to have an abundance for every good work (*2 Corinthians 9:8b*). His heart is for us to walk in that abundance. What does abundance mean? It means more than enough, it means until it overflows, it means nothing missing and nothing lacking. When we walk in thanksgiving, this abundant life becomes our inheritance. However, this Scripture has to be read in context. The whole Scripture reads as follows:

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NKJV)

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

*"He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever."*

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, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God."

Here we see a clear link between seed sowing and seeing that abundance flow in our lives. We also see that this abundance causes us to step into an attitude of thanksgiving in **ALL** we do. We see how giving, abundance and thanksgiving are intertwined together.

Now what is true thanksgiving? It is not a holiday or one day where we look at what we can be thankful for in life. It is a culture and attitude of true gratitude for everything we have. Even when times are tough, we choose to be thankful for those things that are good. There is always good when Jesus is in our lives. There

are promises in His Word that ignites thanksgiving in our hearts. There is His precious Holy Spirit Who is our Helper and Counsellor and sparks thanksgiving in our hearts towards what God has already done and what He will still do for us. Thanksgiving is more than just raising our hands during a song. **Thanksgiving is a way of living.** It is choosing thankfulness in every moment and every circumstance. It is choosing **LIFE**. We give to God a sacrifice of praise because of what He has done for us (*Hebrews 13:15*).

Sowing seed is sowing the Word, declaring the Word, speaking it over our lives. It is giving into the preaching of the Gospel. It is giving to those in need. It is living a life with open hands and intentionally sowing into fertile soil that will yield a harvest. If I have a need, God gives me seed! He tells us where to plant that seed, we just need to listen for His voice.

From these two definitions, we can now understand fully what it means when we say that our **ABUNDANCE** flows from **THANKSGIVING**. When we walk in an attitude of gratitude, we will receive grace and empowerment to have and abundance for every good work, everything we need to glorify Jesus in and through our lives.

Jesus said that in this world we will have tribulations but that we need to be of good cheer because He has already overcome the world (*John 16:33*). When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall raise a standard against the attacks. God thrives in the restoration business. We need to remind ourselves of the Truth and promises in God's Word. God said that we need to be of **GOOD CHEER**. We need to keep joy in our midst. We need to allow His joy in us to be our strength. This is how we will overcome every challenge the enemy tries to bring.

When the Spirit of the Lord raises a standard against the enemy, we understand that THAT standard is the Word of God. He needs us to speak it, to boldly lift our shields of faith and declare that **JESUS IS LORD**. It does not matter how the enemy tries to scare or manipulate us, our God is bigger. God restores whatever the enemy has stolen, and He brings restoration even in the darkest moments of our lives. All He needs is for us to step into thanksgiving so that His abundance can overflow in our lives!

The moment Jesus died on the Cross and rose again, He paid the full price for restoration.

God knows exactly what our solution is, but He needs our hearts to be in the right place. How do we do that? By seeking His Kingdom first (*Matthew 6:33*). What is the Kingdom of God? It is God's operation system, it is His way of doing things. When we seek His Kingdom first, we seek to be obedient to God's Word in every moment. We choose to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We choose to

put our faith into action by speaking God’s Word boldly over our circumstances. We choose to give, to tithe, and to expect that harvest of breakthrough. It is then that we step into thanksgiving, knowing that He has already done it! We might not see it yet, but God said it is done, therefore it is done!

All of us have gone through challenging times. One thing that we regularly see in daily life is people going through tough times, but the people around them do not always know how to help them, how to be there for them in a meaningful way. This is usually when people stand back and the person going through the challenge may experience that they are left all alone in their time of need.

Let’s address this. How can we encourage someone who has been going through some real tough challenges?

LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS & SCRIPTURES AND ANSWER THEM ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD.

We always need to look at our own lives first, apply the Word ourselves, and then we will be able to share this journey with others as we share how God brought victory to us multiple times.

Imagine and think for a moment, what does your restoration look like?

Matthew 6:31 (NKJV)

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’”

What lesson can we learn from the birds?

Matthew 6:27 (NKJV)

"Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"

Does the act of worrying change a situation?

Matthew 6:31 (NKJV)

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"

How serious is God about us not worrying?

Matthew 6:32 (NKJV)

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

Does God know we need things?

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

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

As a child of God, what is really our first priority?

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

How do we deal with worry/anxiety/fear?

How do we get to a place of complete peace?

SAY THIS: THANK YOU FATHER, IT'S TIME FOR MY RESTORATION.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

What is a key to receiving restoration?

What happens when we enter the thanksgiving process?

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NKJV)

"Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."

What does seeking God's Kingdom first mean?

What comes first and what is a believer's priority?

Malachi 3:6-12 (NKJV)

"For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?' 'Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, "Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts.

Why are we glad that God doesn't change?

How can a person rob God?

How does a person steal from God?

What do we know if we have slipped up on the tithe/giving?

How does a person return to God?

How does the "Lord of hosts" protect the tither?

So why do we tithe then?

What if times are challenging and the devil wants us to use the tithe for ourselves?

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NKJV)

“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

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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, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Who is a cheerful giver?

How can a person schedule a time of lack in their future?

How do we decide what to give to God today?

How is seed sowing related to our breakthrough in tough times?

*Looking at these examples and Scriptures, spend some time looking at your answers. By using these, and the revelation you gained from this study, **how will you encourage someone who is going through a tough time in a meaningful way?***

How can we introduce the topic of seed sowing being related to our breakthrough?

God wants us to be generous, and that causes thanksgiving through us to God. When we are honouring God this way, thanksgiving is the natural next step in our behaviour. It flows out of us in abundance. When we don't sow seed today, we are scheduling a time of lack in our future. When we know that we need a harvest in our future we need to give as we purpose in our hearts, not our heads.

Ask God, He knows what we are going to go through. We need to ask Him what seeds we need to be planting. He will then give us instruction when we listen. Now we can do it out of faith and not out of fear. We can give because God led us to it and not because of fear. We give because we know that God has led us to give. Therefore, giving is now an act of honouring God and true Thanksgiving. In doing this we are seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. **Through this, we know our breakthrough is here!**

PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

Father from this day on, I choose to honour You first. You have blessed me and in thanksgiving I return the tithe. Everything You gave me comes from You. I will always seek You and Your Kingdom first. I choose to honour You first. Whatever You give me, I choose to return Your tithe to the house of God. I live under the open windows of Heaven. You see what I need for my future, and as I head into my future, I am asking You now, show me what seed will prepare me for that harvest. In Jesus' Name. (Now listen with your heart to follow God's instruction, and always give by faith.)



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Together they equip the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ and teach God's people how to prosper.



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