

Session 7 God’s Power and Promises of Supernatural Wealth

INTRODUCTION

This is the seventh out of eight sessions; as we look at the prophetic history on this one, we are looking at the power of God and the promises of God related to supernatural wealth. We talk about God’s power, and how we want to see His power. We looked in one of the sessions at supernatural conviction, where the preaching, the singing, and the Word cut the heart like a piercing sword. I mean, that is power. We talked about signs, wonders, and the lightning of God coming from heaven in power through the hands of God’s people—limbs being restored, the blind seeing, and the lame walking. Let me say this: there is equal power that God exerts in the realm of transferring finance. It is the same power that touches our hearts when someone is preaching under authority, or when a body is healed.

There is a significant dimension of God’s power and His personality related to money. There is significant warfare. There are high-level demons, and their assignment is to control the money, and to wipe out everyone who touches it for the purposes of God.

Some folks think, “Oh, I am blessed. The Lord is going to prosper me.” My question is: for what reason?

People say, “Well, I do not know why I want money.” Why do you want money? People say, “The Lord is going to prosper me.”

I answer, “Do you understand the bull’s eye that will be on you from darkness?”

They respond, “Well, I have the authority in the name of Jesus. I will just cast it off.” You do have the authority in the name of Jesus, but I guarantee you it will be war, and it will take endurance. The realm of money is not just an issue of being faithful to give; the realm of money is the issue of being faithful to endure the onslaught that comes because you have been given money from heaven. It is a supernatural power encounter when God multiplies wealth supernaturally. It is a power encounter. It is a power dimension like healing the sick, blind eyes opening, and the power of God coming on people through someone’s ministry.

GOD WILL DISPLAY HIS POWER BY SUPERNATURAL CONVICTION

I want to get right to some testimonies and just mention a few promises. Deuteronomy 8:1: “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.” It is God who gives power to get wealth, but He does it to establish the covenant. He wants to give us money so we can promote the covenant.

Now, I think some people read this in a different way. They say, “God is going to give me lots of money to prove to me that He will keep His covenant with me.” They think, “The covenant is to give me money so I can go do stuff for my own life.” The covenant God is making is not just to give you money so you can go and play. He has given us money so we can extend the covenant to bring more people into the covenant. He gives us wealth so that we can promote the gospel, that the covenant of God would be magnified and millions, even a billion, would enter into it. That is why He is going to give us wealth—to establish His covenant, and to multiply the number of people that enter into it.

God is not only kind, not only wise and powerful, but He is rich. I said that in one of the other sessions. He is really rich. He is wise. He is powerful. He is kind, but He is really rich. You know the passage in 2 Corinthians 8:9: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty may become rich." Though He was rich, He became poor. Jesus took upon Himself the form of man and bore the wrath of God on the cross. We focus on how He became poor, but let's pause one moment and back up. Though He was rich—He is really rich. He is rich right now. I mean He has lots of money. He wants to distribute it to His people. He wants us to believe Him for money as much as we believe Him for power for miracles and for apostolic preaching. He wants us to be steady in the attack, to endure the onslaught just like the apostles did when they healed the sick and raised the dead.

GREAT TRANSFERENCE OF WEALTH AS GOD MANIFESTS HIS OWNERSHIP

There is going to be a great transfer of wealth. When God shakes the nations, He says, "'I will shake all the nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory . . . The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD" (Hag. 2:6-8). When He shakes the nations, He is going to fill His temple with glory.

He makes a statement in Haggai 2:8 when He says, "The gold and silver is Mine." It is as if God is saying, "I own it, but I am going to manifest My leadership over it when I shake the nations." He is already beginning to shake the nations now. We can see the early shaking and the early stirrings. It has not at all come to a crescendo like it will. However, when He shakes the nations, He is going to fill the temple with glory. He is going to manifest His glory, and He is going to show His ownership over gold.

Right now, a lot of people who are serving the kingdom of darkness have control over a lot of the gold. It is as if God says, "I own it. I am going to flex My muscles. I am going to manifest My ownership over it in the hour when I shake the nations and release My glory." Beloved, often religious institutions get mad when their people leave. I mean, that is one of the biggest issues in history. In a religious institution, whether it is false religions, or even Christian, when the people leave, the leaders get really mad and start wars. Religious wars start when money gets moved. When the kings of the earth say, "Hey, that is my money," there is a war. In the spirit realm, there will be tremendous onslaught. I am not trying to talk you out of getting money right now. It sounds like I am. I am trying to help us to have a sober look, because when people think of healing anointing, they think of becoming rich and famous. People associate a healing anointing with popularity and think, "I am in this stadium. Everybody wants me. They have millions. I will be rich; life will get easy." Those are totally wrong dreams. Those are fantasies. If the Lord releases healing like that in your life, you will have so much pressure on you. I mean, it will be worth it; there will be joy in your spirit, but I guarantee you, it will be different from how we imagine in our vain imagination.

That is all I have got to say. I am ready for it by the grace of God. I am saying, "Lord I want it. I want to go forward. I want to go forward in the promises, in the power, and I want to set my soul to be patient, persevering, and not to quit."

God answers, "Be patient, young man. Do not quit."

I have set my soul. You need to set your soul. You say, "Well, when I get there, I will determine to set my soul." No. When you get there, it is going to be too late to set your soul. You need to set your soul now not to quit before the battle picks up at the next level of intensity.

GOD WILL RELEASE GREAT WEALTH TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE AT THE RIGHT TIME

“God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us... that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations” (Ps. 67:1-2). The Psalmist prayed for God to be merciful and for God to bless us and cause His face to shine on us. Why? Why do we want blessing? We want the anointing to be manifest so that the way of God can be known in the earth—not so we can own a bigger house. The Psalmist did not say, “Bless me and anoint me so I can get more stuff.” He said, “Bless me that the way of God could increase; that I could use the authority, the influence, and the wealth to make the fame of the name of Jesus go forth in the earth.” Beloved, this is not a small thing. There is a resolve that we must make in the day of small beginnings. The small beginning for some is thousands of dollars, because the Lord is going to give millions.

The day of small beginnings for others is hundreds of thousands, because the Lord is going to give hundreds of millions. Some people have millions right now, but it is only the day of small beginnings, because God is going to give them billions. I believe the hour is coming where there will be people who have trillions of dollars. I really believe that there are some of them in the earth. I expect a number of them to be in the kingdom. Imagine a trillion: a thousand billion—not a billionaire—a thousand billion. Why? So that the fame of the name of Jesus would go forth, not so that my house gets bigger, and I have more people who think that I am awesome, but that the salvation of God would go forth into all the nations.

PROMISES OF SUPERNATURAL WEALTH

Roman numeral II. When I was in Cairo, Egypt, in 1982, the Lord said, “I am going to change the understanding and the expression of Christianity in the whole earth in one generation.” I have said that a number of times over the years and even in this prophetic history.

One of the things that I do not talk so much about, but it was a very important part of it, is that the Lord spoke to me and said, “I will give you the wealth of the nations.” I was twenty-seven years old in this experience in Cairo, Egypt, and I heard the voice of the Lord resounding in my soul. He said, “I am going to change the understanding of Christianity in the whole earth,” and He invited me to a work that will touch the ends of earth.

I said, “Yes, Lord, yes.”

He said, “Many have said yes, but they have not yet done it.”

I said, “I am saying yes.” I do not want to go through the whole story, but He said, “If you will do this, I will give you the wealth of the nations, but you cannot touch it in your personal life. You cannot touch it.”

I set my soul, there, in that hour, to be a billionaire and to operate with billions—not a billion, billions and billions. I set my soul as a young man, and I made a commitment. I said, “I will live, by the grace of God, a simple lifestyle all the days of my life. I want to be a man that touches money in billions, but I set my soul not to touch it, or bring it to my own life.” That was part of when I said yes to the Lord, when He spoke those four heart standards and I said, “I will not touch it.”

The Lord said, “I will give you indescribable wealth.” That is not a quote, but that was the essence of what He was saying. The Lord said, “I will cause the wealth of the nations to come into your hands.”

I want to urge you—and I know a number of you have already done this—I urge you to set in your soul now that this transfer of wealth is to make His name known in the earth, not just to get you more stuff to make your life easier. That is really not what it is about. “I set my soul. I will live, by the grace of God, a simple lifestyle all of my days, with billions going through my hands.” I am excited by that commitment. You know, it’s twenty-five plus years later, and I am more excited by that commitment, or equally as excited, as I was then.

THE OPPRESSED OF THE EARTH SET FREE THROUGH OVERFLOW OF MONEY

Now, some have gone through a paradigm shift, and others still need to go through it. Here is the paradigm shift: When you see money, you see souls. When someone says, “A billion,” you see souls. You do not see cars, you see souls. You do not see yachts. I appreciate cars and yachts. Bless, Lord, whoever has them. Give them more. I am happy for them to have more, but when the Lord talks to me about billions, I see souls, I see intercessors, and I see the oppressed of the earth set free.

If you can have a paradigm shift when you see money, you automatically see thousands of young people in full-time service as intercessors crying out in Asia and Africa before the Lord. I want to see full-time houses among the 40,000, 50,000, 200,000 or 300,000 in refugee camps, as a number of them are in Africa. They do nothing, but sit all day long. They sit all day. They wait for the food in food lines. They have nothing to do. Remember what God did with three million slaves who were out in the desert leaving Egypt—these 600,000 Jewish men, along with women and children. Nearly three million of them were out in the desert. What do they do all day? Play video games? No. Check the stock market? No. Plant the gardens? No. Not a lot to do. You know what the Lord did? He built the house of prayer. He built a temple. He built a tabernacle. They were to worship God. Joshua, the young man, he went into the tent. It says he would not depart. God built a house of prayer in the wilderness.

My heart is stirred up. Look at these refugees, and let us go build houses of prayer. God gives us a hundred million, a hundred billion extra. Let’s just keep multiplying them everywhere. You know, if there are 50,000 people at a refugee camp, I guarantee you 5,000 of them would join the staff right away if you would let them. Build a tent. Get a generator. Buy a bunch of instruments. Teach them the apostolic prayers. Teach them how to sing the psalms. Get them flowing. Buy them some instruments, and let them sing. Tell them they have to keep their sacred trust; they have to do it all the time. I tell you they will get dreams and visions. They will start healing the sick in a way they do not now. Their lives will be transformed. Angels will start appearing.

If God will give me a trillion, I have got a place to spend it. I made a commitment to the Lord that I would never touch it in my personal life. I am not talking about me right now. I am already resolved. I am talking about you right now. Have you resolved yourself at that level? When you see money, do you see souls, intercessors, and the oppressed getting set free? If you do, you have had a paradigm shift, and the kingdom of God has come into your life, if you see money and you see souls.

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

Joseph was one idea away from being one of the wealthiest men in the earth—one idea away. He was a Jewish boy in an Egyptian prison. That is a bad combination, to be a Jewish boy in an Egyptian prison. That’s not good. The guards don’t like you, the prisoners don’t like you. A whole lot of people don’t like you. God liked him. Things were going badly. He was in this prison for twelve or thirteen years. It is not a small thing. That’s two prison sentences. But he was one idea away.

Joseph got a dream in the night. I tell people, “You are one idea away from being a very wealthy person.” I always love to add to that, and I say it tongue and cheek, but I mean it. I say one idea away—plus some blood, sweat, tears, and a few prison sentences. It is not always a physical prison. Sometimes it is, but surely there are going to be some prison sentences and some difficult times. I say, “You are one idea away.”

People say, “Yes.”

I say, “Add some blood, sweat, tears, and a few prison sentences, and you have got the Joseph calling. Brother in the back row in the blue shirt, you have the Joseph calling.”

He says, “I knew it!”

“Do you know what the Joseph calling is?”

He says, “Oh, I always wanted to be Joseph.”

I ask him, “Have you read the story? I mean the first half, not just the back half? I mean this is real. It's cute to say that. But it's real. Imagine Joseph at twenty-two, twenty-three, and twenty-four; do you think he thought that he would be one of the wealthiest people in the earth? It didn't look that way. He was in prison.”

“I don't really see myself as being one of the wealthiest people in the whole world.”

“Well, David grew up in a poor family in a little rural village.” I mean Bethlehem was a really little rural village. I mean, he was out in the middle of nowhere. He was a hundred miles to the closest Wal-Mart, so to speak. I mean, you have got the picture of the town. Think about living far out in east Texas, or west Texas—way out there. The big event was to go to Wal-Mart. That's a two-hour drive. That's the big event. That's where David lived.

If you had asked David when he was fifteen years old, “David, do you think you will be one of the wealthiest men in the earth? David, do you think you will give billions of dollars to the house of prayer?” David gave billions. I don't have the verse in the notes, but it is 1 Chronicles 22:14: “Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD one hundred thousand talents of gold, and one million talents of silver and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may also add to them.” This verse talks about David. He gave a hundred thousand talents of gold. A talent is seventy-five pounds. There are several different designations, but that is the most commonly accepted one. A talent is seventy-five pounds. He gave one hundred thousand talents of gold, and he gave one million talents of silver. When you add it all up in today's market, it is right at a trillion dollars. He gave it for the building of the temple where the singers and musicians would go night and day. He gave it of his own money.

But if you had asked David at fifteen, when he was out there, way out in west Texas in a little village in Bethlehem, 100 miles from Wal-Mart, “David what are you going to be when you grow up?” David might have answered, “Well, my dad has got sheep, but I have seven older brothers. There are eight of us. We separate the sheep. I get the smallest portion. They do not even invite me to the dinner when they have a guest.” First Samuel 16 says that they did not invite him when Samuel came. David might have said, “I will not get an eighth of the sheep, but I will probably get one-sixteenth of them.”

Wow. That seems like quite a life vision, to get one-sixteenth of Dad's sheep. Some might have asked, "What are you going to do?"

"Well, we have been in this village for years..." I do not know what David would have said. At fifteen he might have really had a hold of something by then, but here is my point: He probably did not know at fifteen that he would be one of the wealthiest men in the earth, and that he would give a trillion dollars away to the house of prayer that his son was building after his day. David gave it in his old age. He dedicated himself to it, and then laid hands on his son and said son, "Solomon build it now." Can you fathom?

Cyrus, of course, was the Persian king. He built the house of prayer and built the city of Jerusalem with his own money. God is raising up real Cyruses in this day. You know where God trains the Joseph company? In Joseph's dungeon.

BOB JONES' DREAM FROM AUGUST 8, 1975

You remember the dream where Bob Jones went to Joseph's dungeon. We talk about the humility, but we do not always understand that Joseph's dungeon was real. There are a lot of saints right now who are in those dungeon years, some spiritually and some more than spiritually. It is heavier than that. In Cairo, Egypt, the Lord said, "If you do not touch it, I will give you the wealth of the nations—but I do not want you to touch it."

We looked at this in the second session. Remember Bob Jones's experience from August 8, 1975, when he had the near-death experience and he stood before the Lord. The Lord said, "I am going to send you back because there are a group of young people that I want you to touch." He sent him back from death. So Bob Jones came back from death after his spirit left his body and he stood before the Lord. The Lord sent him back because He said, "I want you to touch some of the leaders of a youth movement to help establish them. I will release the spirit of prophecy on you." I am putting a few experiences together, but the Lord said that He would release a spirit of prophecy to strengthen them so that they would be resolved and steady.

So he came back from death, and when his spirit was about to enter his body, he saw his body, and he thought, "Lord, I have got to go back in that body? I had so much pain." Incidentally, when he went back in, he still had pain for three days. He said, "You would think I was in the presence of God, but when I came back, I was in pain again."

I asked, "How does this work?" I didn't tell this part of the story, but when the saints prayed for him, then he got healed, but until there was prayer, he did not get healed. He said, "I thought I would have been instantly healed. The Lord said, 'No. Cry out for it, and I will touch you. I will heal you.'" That was the truth the Lord showed him, but anyway, that is another story for another day.

Bob Jones looked at his body and he saw these two angels who were prophesying about the move of God in Kansas City. Again, as I have said a number of times, there are angels in many cities that have many prophecies, so this was just a peek into what's happening in this city. God has a grand story for the cities of the earth with angels, demons, conflict, and prophetic histories. The Lord wants to tap His people into those story lines in other cities. Well, in our little story line here in Kansas City, the angels described how God is going to raise up men and women to whom He will give extraordinary wealth. Bob said he heard the angels talking about wealth that would be beyond anything that he could understand. Beloved, there is coming such a transfer of wealth that we cannot even get our mind around the magnitude of it. What are we going to do with it?

GOD WILL MULTIPLY THE MONEY

He wants to give it to the right people at the right time for the right reasons. I want to be one of those right people at the right time, and I want to receive it. I want to use it for the right reasons. I want to be faithful in giving it. I want to be faithful in enduring the onslaught. In the onslaught, there is the joy of our spirit and there is victory. But there is a real battle in this breakthrough of power, promise, and finance. There is the one we looked at a couple of sessions ago about the bus. I think it was session six when Bob Jones digs up the bus in the garden. That's prophetic poetry, but in his experience with the Lord, when he saw the bus, the Lord said, "I am going to give Noel Alexander one thousand dollars, and if Noel will sow it I will give one thousand fold. Then, if you will sow it again, I will give one thousand fold. That is a billion." Well, I want to sow a billion. Where will that take us? I do not think God will give one thousand fold to everybody who gives a million, but I think that if you give a million to the kingdom, there are situations where the Lord will give one thousand fold return, but it is for kingdom purposes; God will actually give you a billion.

DO NOT JUST GIVE THE LORD THE SURPLUS

You give 99 percent of it to the gospel and then take the Lord at His Word and see what He will do. Do not give Him the surplus. Give Him the first portion and the lion's share of it. That is the kind of giving that God is interested in. A lot of people could give a million and not even know that they gave it because they have got so much money. He is interested in our all. In our all is what causes the multiplication under the power and the grace of God. So Noel gave the thousand, and God gave us a million. I told the story in session six. We gave the million. Well the Lord says, "I will give you a thousand fold." I am expecting, totally expecting, a billion. I am 100 percent sure what we are going to do with it: we give 100 percent of it away to the gospel. We are going to raise up intercessors and preachers. This is the same thing, because I want preachers who intercede and who pray. I want preachers who take care of the oppressed of the earth, not just token-help the oppressed of the earth. I mean "token" in the sense of just doing humanitarian work. I want to help the oppressed of the earth as we are exalting the name of the Lord fearlessly while we are helping them. You know these many humanitarian organizations, I appreciate them, but you cannot say, "Jesus," or you have to whisper it in the hallway. I believe that God will give us supernatural wealth where we can say "Jesus" on the megaphone, because it is our money; God gave it to us. It is not like we snuck in under the wire and gave a tract when no one is looking. This is all about Jesus. He heals cancer, raises the dead, delivers demons, feeds people in the name of Jesus, and it is all free. That is the kind of wealth transfer and resolve we are talking about.

"By the way, do you want a new job?"

"Yeah. I just got saved. The Devil just left."

"How would you like to be a full-time intercessor?"

"WHAT IS IT TO YOU IF I GIVE MIKE BICKLE ONE BILLION DOLLARS?"

I loved this one: It was the summer of 2000, and Paul Cain was on our Shiloh property. Shiloh has about 100 acres, which is part of IHOP, just down the road about a mile or so. He was on the Shiloh property. He was walking, and he said later that it completely surprised him. He was walking along and he heard the word of the Lord. Over the years, he has continued to hear the word of the Lord in precise ways. When the Lord wants to be clear, He is really clear. So Paul was walking and he heard a voice behind him. The voice said, "What is it to you if I make Kansas City one of the revival centers that touches the whole world?"

Paul says, "I stopped. I turned around. There was no one there. I understood that it was the Lord. The Lord said, 'What is it to you?'"

It was a strange way to say it, but the Lord said that to Paul. Paul says, "It was just a strange statement, and my spirit was trembling. I knew it was the Lord." He was praying and walked a few steps further. He said, "I was in the presence of the Lord. The voice came behind me again and said, 'What is it to you if I give Mike Bickle one billion dollars?'"

Paul says that he stopped. He turned around again. He said that his spirit trembled. He called me on the phone. He said, "Mike, Mike, God is going to give you a billion dollars. It is going to touch Kansas City."

I said, "Thank you, Lord." I said that because I knew that it was not the time to act arrogantly, but in my spirit, I knew that I had wanted a billion dollars a number of times because I had plans to see houses of prayer multiply across the earth. I mean radical, dedicated, Sermon-on-the-Mount people, who take a stand for what the Spirit is saying and who are bold and live a fasted lifestyle. I told the Lord, "Give me a billion, I want it Lord, but give it to me many times. Lord, I keep my covenant." I am saying this for your sake, not for my sake. I will not touch the money in my personal life. I will not touch a dime of it. I will not say, "I will give most of it." I will not touch a dime of this.

I made a commitment in my heart in this. I got it all worked out with the Lord. I will not take a free cup of coffee from it. I mean literally not a dime. It is holy to the Lord. It is certain that financial blessings are coming. I think that a whole company of people around the world will be doing the same thing and will resolve that they will not touch the money either. They will be a vessel to see the fame of His name go forth.

Well, I am going to give you a few little examples, because you start small. I am going to tell a few stories now of our past, to bless the Lord. It is not only to bless Him; I mean that is not my only point, but it is also to instruct on you how it operates. So it's to say, "Thank You Jesus," and to magnify Him. We must also make a commitment to start giving in the day of small beginnings, because the idea that we will give it when we get the millions and billions is a false concept if we do not give it when we have the thousands and hundreds of thousands.

By the way, God does not believe it when you say, "Well, I won't give it now, but I will then." He says, "I have heard this story so many times." I mean God is God.

People say, "No. I am different from the others. I will really give it."

I answer, "Well, give it now."

People say, "No. I cannot make this work."

I answer, "Well, reduce your lifestyle so you can start giving."

People say, "No. I do not want to reduce my lifestyle. Give me more, and I will start giving."

The Lord says, “No. Give now.” I want to say this. This is essential. We have to give now. We have to pray for the sick now, not just in that day. We have to evangelize now, not just in that day.

GIVING EXTRAVAGANTLY

I made a commitment when I was a young man; I was reading all of these biographies of guys like J. Hudson Taylor. He was my first hero, a missionary to China. You know, he was English, he was from Britain, and a medical doctor who went to China. I read three of his biographies, and this guy could have been a wealthy man in England. Then he went to China just for the gospel. Oh, his life was amazing. I was twenty-one years old. And I had such a small income. I had no room for error.

Diane and I got married at twenty-one or twenty-two years old, and I said, “Let’s do this.” Our income was so small, like ten to eleven thousand dollars. I said, “We are going to double tithe.” We could hardly pay our bills when we were tithing. I said, “We are going to double tithe, and we are never going back on this, never. We are going to then go from 20 to 30 percent, and we are going to go to 40 percent; we are not going backwards.” So I determined in my heart that I was not going to wait until I had hundreds of thousands, or hundreds of millions, or hundreds of billions. I had ten thousand dollars a year. Our salary was \$11,700 actually. I made a decision that we were double tithing. Those checks were big; they were like 300 dollars. The Lord was smiling. He said, “I love this. Keep doing it. You do not have a clue where I am taking you.” He could have said, “Start now; don’t start then.” I told Diane that we would reduce our lifestyle before we reduce our giving. We would have smaller houses and smaller cars before we gave a smaller percent away, because I was building my history in God. God was accounting; He was marking it all down.

EVERYTHING IS RECORDED BY GOD

It seems like He is not looking, but really He is watching every movement of your heart. It is all recorded in His book. We had some really tough times, and the bills would come. I remember a few times when we couldn’t pay our bills. I didn’t do this that many times, but a few times I did because I felt stirred. I said, “Here is what I am going to do: we are going to give our way out of it. We cannot pay our bills this month, so I am going to go and commit. I am going to give a thousand dollars to missions.” So we got our next paycheck and I gave the whole thing away.

Of course, I got Diane’s blessing. She said, “Argh.”

I said, “No. Let’s just do it. Let’s just throw ourselves into this. Let’s work in the opposite spirit. Let’s see where this goes.” We got double blessings that came out of nowhere. In those days, when we gave a \$2,000 check, it was a huge deal. The Lord was smiling. The Lord said, “I am writing this down.” God is going to put zeros behind that check one of these days. I am not talking about me right now. I am talking about you. I want to encourage you, as I have established some of these habits in my own life. I want you to say, “If he can, I can; if this is what they do, let’s do it.” I told Diane that we were going to reduce our lifestyle before we reduced our giving.

REDUCE OUR LIFESTYLE BEFORE WE REDUCE OUR GIVING

We’re not going the other way around. I am not buying into the American dream that I am supposed to have more while I continually give less. We are not ever opening that door. We were in our early twenties. I was twenty-two and she was twenty-one when we got married. I said, “If we start that now, by the time we are thirty and we are old, we will never get back to the basics. This is the basic—to double tithe.”

Well, I could tell you so many stories of supernatural provision, and they are fun. I call them power encounters. It is so exciting that when you give, it comes back. There is a cause and effect. It is always fun to get money from God, but when you gave an exact amount, and it comes back in the exact amount, you know that the Lord is winking and saying, "There you go."

THE MULTIPLICATION OF \$550

You know, I love to tell this story. I was about twenty-six to twenty-seven years old, and there was a woman who was in real need. She needed this huge amount—\$550, but I think our salary was \$2,000 or \$3,000 a month. I mean it was pretty small; \$550 was a huge amount. We were making \$2,000-\$3,000 a month. I don't really remember the exact amount, but I know she needed about \$550. And I said, "I'll give you the money," even though we could not afford it.

So what happened was, a day or two later, I was at the church service on the front row. A guy came up to me. He put his arm around me as they were worshiping and said, "The Lord told me to give this to you."

I said, "What?" He put this money in my pocket. I looked at it; it was exactly \$550 dollars: not 540 exactly—\$550.

I said, "Lord, this is so intense because if it would have been \$570, I would have been disappointed." It was exactly the right amount, and it was this wink from heaven.

So I was sitting there. I was so happy. I said, "You know that I know that You know that I know. Oh, this is so cool. Your eyes are on me." It wasn't the money; His eyes are watching.

So then we had a ministry time, and I went to pray for someone. I said, "What is the deal?"

He said, "Oh, I am in crisis."

I said, "What?"

He said, "It's financial."

I said, "What happened?"

He said, "Well, today I need \$550, and there's no way I can obtain it."

I said, "Oh! I know how to do that. I know a way." I put my hand in my pocket. I said, "Here it is."

He said, "You have \$550 in your pocket?"

I said, "Yes. Here." It was the exact amount.

He asked, "It is rolled up exactly in the right amount? Do you package your money in 550s?"

Well, I was back to minus \$550. It was fun, though. When I was walking out the door, a guy came and stopped me. He said, “Hi. Mike. I cannot believe you are still here. The Lord told me to give you money. Here it is — \$550! I know that is a strange amount.”

I said, “Unbelievable.” I looked at Him [pointing to heaven] and I said, “Oh. I love you, but I love Him more.” I couldn’t get over that. More stories. Oh. I love stories like this.

MIRACULOUS PROVISION FOR A WOMAN IN NEED

I remember once when I talked to a lady, and she was really desperate. I talked to her on the phone. She said, “I need \$2,000.”

I said, “OK. We can make this work. We are going to pray.” I won’t break the story down because I want to tell some more movement stories. So we prayed and made a few conditions. I said, “The Lord is going to bring that \$2,000. I am positive. I am committing my heart to this.” Two thousand is a lot bigger than five hundred, especially when you don’t have a lot of money. Neither of us did.

A guy came walking in and knocked on my door, a businessman, I had met him once at the church. Our church was only one or two years old here in Kansas City. He said, “I am having nightmares. I feel oppressed.” His wife and he were a really sharp looking couple with a lot of money.

He said, “Can you pray for me?”

I say, “Yes.” It was a very non-elaborate prayer. I prayed, “Lord, help him. Just help him.”

The guy started manifesting a demon. He said, “I do not know what is going on.”

I said, “In the name of Jesus.” I kicked into another gear. I commanded this demon out in the name of Jesus.

This guy was from a wealthy family. We did not do the demon thing at our church. I said, “Anyways...” A demon came out of him.

His wife said, “Wow. What was that?”

He said, “No, honey. I feel great right now. I just feel great.” It only took thirty minutes. Then he said, “Here,” and he gave me \$2,000. I only just talked to this lady an hour ago, and now I had \$2,000. I said, “Demon out,” and I had \$2,000 in my hand, and I gave it to the lady.

She said, “Unbelievable. How did this happen?”

I said, “It is all in a day’s work.” It wasn’t \$3,000; it wasn’t \$1,000, and the Lord was looking down, saying, “We can do this in far bigger numbers, if you want to.” I don’t mean I heard Him say that, but I know what He was thinking: “We can do this. We can put zeros on it. We can go to any level you want, but you have got to keep giving it back to Me.”

Well, we made certain commitments in our early days, this young youth group, to obey the Lord in this arena of money. I remember we were on a rental property, so we had to get a building one day. We were only a year old as a church. We had to get a building. So I went, and they gave me three or four days to go fast and pray. So I took the time off to go fast and pray. In actuality, I did not end up fasting, but it was a great three days. Actually, I went to a Kenneth Hagen conference. I had never been to one. It was pretty cool. So I went to this conference, and ate every meal.

The church was waiting for the man of God to come back. They asked, “Did you fast and pray?”

I said, “Oh! I prayed. Some.” I did not expect to go, but somehow I ended up at this meeting, and the Lord told me at the meeting, “You give the money away.” When He said that, I was fasting and praying in order to get a wisdom strategy to come back and say what we were going to do with our building program. The Lord spoke to me this time very clearly, non-fasting, non-praying, but sitting in meetings and doing some praying. He gave it to me very clearly.

“IF YOU BUILD MY HOUSE, I WILL BUILD YOUR HOUSE”

He said, “If you build My house, I will build your house.” He told me crystal clearly, “You build My kingdom, just give all the money away, and I will build your house.”

I came back. Our church was 500 to 700 people. Almost everyone was from Overland Park, and they had more money than most of the folks in this neighborhood. Let’s put it that way. It is a different economic climate. That is what I am trying to say. So I said, “Here is the deal: I’ve got the building program.” They were excited, as I had just come back from fasting and praying. I said, “We are going to give all of our money away. That is the plan!”

A couple of people went, “That is cool, but you know, we are business guys. We actually build businesses.”

I said, “No. That is a word from the Lord.” That is not for everybody, every time. That was a true revelatory *rhema* word of the Lord. “We give it away.”

So I said, “Here is what we are going to do: we are going to have no building fund.” I believe in building plans and building funds. I believe in that. The book of Proverbs backs up that kind of stuff. The Bible backs that up; it really does, but there are times when God says to do the opposite. I said, “We are going to give all of our money away all of the time—and we will get a building.” I said, “I will stake my reputation on it. I will stake my leadership here. It is a word from God.”

They said, “We will go for it.”

So we would get x amount of money—we had a little extra, so we would give to orphans, or we sent it to Israel a couple of times, or we gave it away to the pro-life movement, because we were really involved in that. We just gave it away, we had to get rid of it. I said, “We have to get rid of it. It is a mandate. God is watching us.” So we had no building. We had no building, no plan, and no money. There was no plan. No one wanted to work with a group that would never get money: “How much do you have saved up?”

“None.”

“OK. That is fine. What is your plan?”

“Give it all away every month.”

So we did not have a plan, any money, or a building. So Augustine knew this. He stood up in front of the congregation and on February 1 he said, “By June 1st you will have the building.”

Afterwards I said, “Augustine, you can’t give a date like that.”

He said, “You have made this commitment to the Lord. He is going to honor it. You are going to have a building June 1.”

I said, “OK.”

So now it was the middle of May, May 15. There was no building in sight. There was no clarity about where we were going, and we had to be out of the place we were renting in June—May 28, actually, we had to be out. We had no place to go, no plan, no money, and we got a prophecy in February that we were going to have a building by June 1. We had two weeks to go. People were starting to say, “Hey, what about that prophecy? What about that ‘Oh, give all the money away plan,’” because we are going to lose our lease? The high school we were leasing, we could no longer use after May 28. They said, “Sorry, you cannot use it in the summer for these reasons.”

Then, a guy knocked on the door. It was around May 20. I don’t know exactly what date, but it was the last week or two. He said, “Hey”—talking about this building right here—“I’m over in Grandview” —because we were over in Overland Park. Remember, our people didn’t shop in Grandview. They were going to shop there, though. I mean they have for years, but they did not at that point in time. He said, “I have got a big building in Grandview.” Of course, it was right next to Harry S. Truman, because a few hundred yards away is Harry S. Truman’s house. Bob Jones had prophesied, “You will be right next to him.”

This fellow said, “I have an indoor soccer field, and I want *you* to have it.”

I said, “Well, I have no money.”

He said, “That is fine. Let’s just get in it.” John Short was the man who helped us, he loved the Lord. He said, “I believe in what you are doing. I want you to get in there.”

I said, “I literally have no money.”

He said, “Good. I will take it.”

Bob Jones had said he had a dream, and the Lord said, “I am going to make you an offer you cannot refuse.” That is what He said: “I will make you an offer you cannot refuse.”

AN OFFER WE COULD NOT REFUSE

John Short said, "Here is the deal: I need you to be in there because there has been some vandalism that has been going on. Is there any possible way you could be there, like on June 1st? That would really be important to me."

I said, "Yes! Yes! Oh yes. I love it." So I bought the building, sight unseen, although the truth is I actually walked through it—once.

Here was the difficulty: there was no air conditioning, and we had to get through June. I told our folks, "I've got a building!" I could tell you this, they were not impressed when I showed them this building, because we only had two or three days to get it working. So it was very dirty, but we had church on June 2. We were in it on June 1. We had the keys. It was ours. And so when we got here, Bob Jones was really happy. Oh, he was so happy. Our church was two years old. He took me out in the parking lot. We got to where you could see through the buildings, a few hundred yards away, and said, "You see that house?"

I said, "Yeah."

He said, "It belongs to Harry S. Truman. I told you that you would be in Grandview, and I told you that you would be next to Harry S. Truman. I love it! This is the Lord's will." And he said, "You see Blue Ridge right there, the street right there, just a few yards away? What, fifty yards away? That is where the procession was, marching to Arrowhead Stadium, the healing procession. You are fifty yards from it. I told you, you would be next to Harry S. Truman. You didn't believe me." Little did we know we would actually buy the Truman property. That is another story. Most of you know a little about it.

MONEY IS ALSO A POWER ENCOUNTER

But that has been our policy. We are going to believe God for the outrageous. We are going to get out of the boat and see what He will do with money. Money is as much a power encounter as healing, raising the dead, or the power of conviction. I mean, money is a power dimension. It is not just a nice blessing on the side next to the real stuff, and then we talk about the money. The money is real stuff.

I remember when we started IHOP. So I resigned from the building here. Most of you know, I resigned from it all and said, "No, it's important to me that I resign from everything." The Lord gave me a building, through Bob Hartley, in the little trailer. I said, "I will take it. I will take it." I affectionately named it the Bethlehem stable, and at our dedication, I said, "This is the Bethlehem stable. Good things are born at Bethlehem stables." This is a good thing, but it was only a little building.

I remember my son was talking to me, and he said, "Dad?" I told him that I was resigning the church, and I was going to go get this little trailer and get some people to sing all day long. I told my son, "That sign on the wall that says 24/7 prayer, we are going to do it. It has been up for sixteen years, but we are going to start doing it."

My son said, "Well, Dad, why do you not just keep the church and do that on the side? They wouldn't mind. You guys do prayer. Everybody likes prayer."

I said, "No. I am supposed to burn the bridge, 100 percent, and start from zero. Son, I have a little golden seed in my hand. I am going to plant that seed and a mighty tree is going to come forth by the glory of God, but it has to be planted. We have to go all the way, burn all the bridges, with no escape hatches. Son, you watch. When

we plant this seed, a mighty tree is going to come forth sooner than you think, because not only do we have the favor of God, but we are responding to God's word."

God requires responses. He records the responses, and our responses through the years build a history with God. He relates to us based on some of those responses in our history.

I said, "The Lord is going to give us money. Trust me, He is. I have got this major commitment with the Lord, He and me. He is going to give me the wealth of the nations; He's going to give it to us. We cannot keep any of it."

So we had the little trailer, and Nick Syrett, whom you saw in the video, said, "I found the Red Bridge center." The way he found it was that he drove down Red Bridge. There it was. That is how he found it. He came and told me, "I found a building." It is right there. It is right there on Red Bridge.

I said, "Well Nick, we do not have any money."

He said, "I know, but what do you think?"

I said, "Let's go for it. Lord, give us money. If it is time, it is time."

HOW WE GOT THE RED BRIDGE CENTER

I mean, in a short amount of time that check came in the mail from a brother from Chicago. He had never met us, but gave us \$750,000. Put it down. The bank said, "We'll lend you the money." So we were in what seemed to be a huge facility. This shopping mall was huge compared to the trailer. Receiving that \$750,000 dollars was major. Wow! So then, the guy at the apartments called me and said, "Hey, are you the guy who bought the shopping mall?"

I said, "Yes."

He asked, "Would you be interested in buying the apartments next door?" The Herrnhut Apartments is what we renamed it, so that we could name it after Herrnhut—the 100-year prayer meeting in Herrnhut, Germany.

He said, "Would you be interested in buying the apartment building?"

I answered, "Well, we really do not have any money." He didn't know we had just received \$700,000 and put it down [on the shopping mall]. And the bank took a risk on us, because even putting \$700,000 on a \$2.5 million dollar building—they said, "We will take it, but you know that you don't have a big money flow. But it's going to work; it's going to work." The lady banker, I remember she said, "Well, I appreciate the \$750,000, but your cash stream is not great." She looked at some of our staff who were mostly twenty-two. I said, "They've got jobs!" They were intercessory missionaries, but that did not impress her.

I said, "They have real jobs."

So the guy at the apartments said, "You want these?"

I said, "Well, we'll see." I didn't really say no; I said that we would see.

So we called the bank, the same lady, the vice president: "You know you lent us money for the shopping mall? "What would be the chances of you lending us money for the apartments?"

She answered, "Oh, I don't think so. I don't think so. No. Your profile is not quite strong enough. I could get in trouble if this doesn't work right."

I asked, "What would you need for this to happen?" There were several conversations, and there were several people involved. I'm summarizing it.

HOW GOD PROVIDED FOR THE HERRNHUT APARTMENTS

She said, "Well, I would need \$700,000 dollars." This was on Monday. The guy called Monday at noon. We talk to the bank, not even to her specifically, but we talked to the person relating to her initially. The bank said, "\$700,000."

I said, "OK, at least I know where I stand."

It was Monday. I went to bed. So I opened up my email the next day and this lady said two sentences: "Dear Mike, the Lord told me to make \$700,000 available to you. Do you want it?"

This was Tuesday morning, the next day. I wrote, "Yes. Love Mike."

They brought it to us. So we called the banker back on Tuesday. I said, "OK. We have got the \$700,000."

They asked, "What do you mean?"

"I received \$700,000 yesterday; you said that if we get it...."

They asked, "Now what do you mean you *have* it? Where did you get it?"

We answered, "Oh, it is solid. Don't worry."

So we owned the apartments in about six or seven weeks, which is almost instantaneous. For those of you who know property, it is very hard to secure property in six weeks. So we continue to give, and the Lord keeps blessing us.

GOD'S SUPERNATURAL PROVISION TO SOW INTO GOD TV

Then we got into a relationship with GOD TV. They said, "We want you to be one of the heads of our prayer division. We want you to do these things."

I was talking to Rory Alec at about ten o'clock at night, and I said, "Here is what I am going to do. I am going to ask the Lord about our conversation, to seal it supernaturally. I am going to ask the Lord for a confirmation."

He said, "Good." It was related to money.

I said, "I am going to help you get some money, because I believe in what you are doing. Let's seal it. Lord, in the name of Jesus, seal it." So I went to the prayer meeting at six o'clock in the morning the next day. I walked into the prayer meeting and a guy came up to me whom I did not know. I will not name him. He tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Can I talk to you for a second?"

I answered, "Yes."

We went into the room. He said, "I want to give you one million dollars."

I said, "What?"

He said, "I want to give you a million dollars. The Lord told me to give it to you. Here: I want to give IHOP a million dollars." He wrote the check to IHOP, and I called Rory and our team, and we worked it all out.

I called Rory at nine o'clock in the morning, and he was at the hotel. I said, "Remember, how we sealed the deal? Yesterday, I told the Lord, 'Lord, put Your seal on it.' Well, a million dollars came this morning."

Rory said, "Really? Amazing."

Then some time went by, and the Truman property went up for sale. The Lord said that we were going to be next to it. Of course, Gary Cooper had a major role in that. He talked to the family and it was for sale for some years. There was this big sign saying that it was for sale, and they were all asking for a huge amount of money for many years. But, it was probably really worth about ten million dollars, but they were asking a lot more than that. I do not really know all the details about what they were asking, and why, but it was worth a lot less. They were asking for maybe approximately ten million dollars, and so we were talking to them. Gary and the guys were working with him. This Jewish family said this beautiful story, and they said, "You know what? Why do we not sell it to you?" I am trying to summarize this story. I am not trying to give all the details. They asked, "Why do we not sell it to you for a million dollars instead?" They were asking a lot more. But again it was worth a lot more than a million dollars.

They said, "We will give it to you for a million dollars because our mom and dad bought it from Harry S. Truman. Our mom and dad loved Grandview, and we think your young people would do well in Grandview." This Jewish family came walking through IHOP. They said "Wow. This is neat, you know."

Someone walked up to them in the prayer room and prophesied over them. I do not know the whole story. I was not there, but I heard it from Gary and some of the others. They prophesied to one of them, and they said, "What was that?"

I think Gary said, "Well, you know, they hear things from God and say them." Again, I do not know the whole story.

They said, "No. We are going to give it to you for a million instead." It was on the market for ten or twenty million dollars.

FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY TO BUY TRUMAN PROPERTY

So it was a great victory. We were so excited because it really is the Harry S. Truman property. I thought, “This is it,” when we got this building. The prayer, the prophecy, was answered.

So then a guy came through. Gary and I were talking about this story some weeks later, and there was a man who passed through visiting us. He was there and said, “This is the most remarkable story.” Imagine this ten- or twenty-million-dollar property that we were able to buy for a million. It’s Harry S. Truman’s property. The guy said, “I want to give you the million.”

I thought, “Say what?”

He said, “Here. I want to give you the million. There you have it.” It is debt free.

THE PROPERTY CLOSES FIFTY YEARS TO THE EXACT DAY, IN THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

The property closes, and you know the story, but I just love saying it: We bought it on January 27, 2008—exactly fifty years to the day that Harry S. Truman sold it to that Jewish couple, and we were now buying it from their kids. We saw that the contract said, “Harry S. Truman on January 27, 1958;” then, “IHOP, January 27, 2008.” The closing day was exactly on the jubilee day fifty years later. We are debt free because it is jubilee! Debt free, and what does *jubilee* mean also? It means the property reverts back to its rightful owner, and the rightful owner is the intercession movement for Israel. Harry S Truman was an intercessor for Israel.

So we got that property. When I called Bob Jones, you could picture him: he was eighty years old now. I said, “Bob, we got the Truman property on the jubilee.”

He said, “I told you that was going to happen. You never believed me.”

Diane was there. We went to Grandview. You can picture it, right? You have seen his videos. “They did not believe me.” Oh, Bob Jones was so happy. He deserved to let me have it for a while as he teased me. I put the phone out there and let him go on teasing me. We were smiling and laughing. It was so fun.

GOD’S SUPERNATURAL PROVISION IN THE GRANDVIEW PLAZA

Then we had a situation. Our Bible school was growing. This auditorium was our Bible school, and we couldn’t fit the students into it. So we decided that we were going to look at this Grandview Plaza a half a mile away, as it was another big shopping mall.

The shopping mall that we bought with the prayer room is 50,000 square feet. This other one is 100,000 square feet; so it is twice the size. But it was \$3.3 million, and we did not have any money. We pay our bills, but we do not have anything extra.

So I was looking at the leadership team and said, “Let’s go for it,” meaning, “Let’s just say, ‘Lord, help.’” That is what “going for it” means. We want that property. What does that mean? It just means that we tell the Lord that we want the building, and it is recorded in heaven. Heaven records, “They want the building. They have got this history. They have got promises. They are responding. OK. Things are in order. Let’s go.”

THE ACCOUNTING OF HEAVEN

There is the accounting of heaven. A guy came through town. I always like to keep them unnamed. This man said, "Hey, what are you doing? What are the pressure points?"

I answered, "Well, our school is going to double in the next year or two. We're looking at this shopping mall."

He asked, "Where?"

I answered, "It is about a half mile from the Forerunner School of Ministry, where the auditorium is, at our Bible school."

He said, "Well, let me look at it." So somebody took him to see the property. It's about fifteen minutes away. He came back. The story was that before they came to Kansas City, they were visiting for only a few days. They were praying for IHOP, and the wife got the number 3.3. He said, "What is 3.3?"

She said, "I do not know exactly." They looked at the property, and they said, "Well, what does this cost?" The person showed them the property and told them that the price was \$3.3 million.

The wife looked at the husband and the husband looked at the wife. He said, "Oh, we cannot afford that."

She said, "Honey, the Lord said 3.3." So he wrote us a check for \$3.3 million dollars, and it is debt free. Those are great stories. The story of God supernaturally providing the \$700,000 the next day to buy the apartment is amazing. I am so grateful when the amounts are real. I am so grateful because the amounts are still really little, because \$3 million is really good, but we need \$300 million. We need \$3 billion. We need \$30 billion. I love the three million-dollar realm. I love the thirty-dollar realm. I love the \$550. The zeros do not matter to God. He is really nice. He is really smart.

GOD IS REALLY RICH

He is really rich, but He is really smart as well. He said, "You are not going to trick Me with the excuse that you will start giving when you get rich. I say, 'You give now. You give now.'" He is a really nice, kind God who is very smart. He is really rich, and \$39 million is as easy to God as \$30. I mean, it is as easy to God as \$30.

Well, let's just end with that. I could go on and on. I have got fifteen more stories that are so exciting, because they touch your heart. Your heart says, "Wow, God!" But they mean one thing to me: "You are watching me." That is what matters. It is not the money. The God of Genesis chapter one has set His eyes on humans. He is looking at humans. He smiles and records it in His book. Beloved, that is everything to you and me.

Amen. Let's stand. Lord, we say yes.