

# BLESSING



*You Were Born To Taste The Grapes, Born To Enjoy Royalty And The Blessings And Benefits Of God.*

You have the instinct for improvement. You have a motivation for increase. *Something inside you gravitates toward growth.* You were created for expansion. God created you that way, and you will never be happy any other way.

Now, I could discuss forever these Grapes and how luscious and tasty they are. Grapes of *Wealth, Health, Peace, Power, Success*—but unless you know how to obtain the Grapes, it will not help you.

## **1. The Gate Of Obedience.**

Deuteronomy 28:1 says, “...if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God...”

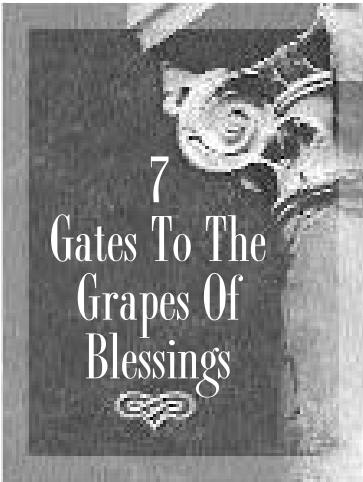
This simply means doing what God has told you to do. It means living up to the knowledge you have received. If you are a *gallon*, live up to gallon knowledge. If you are a *pint*, live up to pint knowledge. You can move into states of perfection and maturity as God reveals Himself to you. Abraham was called a *friend of God because he obeyed God.*

God said, “Abraham, I want you to move from your comfortable situation and go to a new country.” Abraham *obeyed* God. If God has been talking to you about something, *do it.*

Don't negotiate. *Only Fools Negotiate With Givers.*

That raises a question: How can we know the voice of God? It is impossible to describe the voice of God. Oh, I could give you some guidelines, but when it comes to *knowing* when God is speaking, you have to become addicted to Him. I don't have to ask, “I wonder if this man is my brother.” I know His voice. If you have spent time in the presence of God, you will know His voice.

If God is drawing you, speaking to you and dealing with you, *obey*



*Him*. It may even appear to be a step backward. It may be something you do not really want to do. But if you will say, “Father, I will do what You ask me” and will step through the Gate of Obedience, all of Heaven will open for you. God is standing by the Windows of Heaven ready to pull them open and unload an Avalanche of Blessings if you will just obey Him (see Malachi 3:10). He said, “If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7). Oh, unleash the powerful benefits of obedience!

## **2. The Gate Of Knowledge.**

God says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:6). What you do not know can destroy you. God wants you knowledgeable. Information is God’s business. All of Heaven is involved in distributing information. Angels bring information. The Bible is an information manual. It is literally the “*Winner’s Digest*,” informing us about God—His power, nature and thoughts about us—and about satan, angels and demon spirits.

*You have a right to the blessings of God.* You are a child of the Most High God, an heir of God, a joint-heir with Jesus; He is your *elder brother*. You have a right to enter into the Holy of Holies. You have on your behalf a *High Priest*, an *Intercessor* beside the right hand of the throne of God. But you cannot take hold of the grace and blessings of God unless you have *knowledge* of what He has provided for you. I am saying that *you have to know what belongs to you*. You must open and walk through the *Gate of Knowledge*. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

A woman came forward for prayer one night, and I asked her, “Do you want God to heal you?”

“Well,” she responded, “I think He is trying to show me something.” Imagine such ignorance!! Have you ever heard of “*Disease University*?”

Many people have accepted disease and sickness as teachers. The Bible says that the *Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth*. Not, “Yea, I will send disease and it will teach you and lead you into all truth.”

*Know what the Word of God says, and believe it.* Pray, “God, Your Word says that You were wounded for my transgressions, bruised for my iniquities and by Your stripes I am healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Embrace the Word and stand upon it. You can spend your energy *explaining your sickness*, or you can spend your energy *reaching for a miracle*.

Do you have a thorough knowledge of the Grapes God has provided? Find out what the Scriptures teach; know about the Grapes you are reaching for. A lot of people have not because they do not even know the Grapes exist. You were born to taste the Grapes and you need to have the knowledge that God made them available and accessible to you.

### **3. The Gate Of Visualization.**

*Visualize the Grapes.* If you cannot see the Grapes in your *mind*, you will not see them in your future. Your mind is a force that affects everything else in your life. *The renewing of your mind is the secret of transformation* (see Romans 12:1,2). Your mind is a powerful force.

The woman with the issue of blood said to herself, "If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole" (Mark 5:28). She visualized. *It happened in her mind before it happened in her body.* Visualize the Grapes. See yourself tasting the Grapes. See yourself with victory. Some of you have never seen yourself victorious like God means for you to see yourself. Visualize where God wants you to be. Then, act as if you are *already* there.

*Jesus visualized Himself in victory:* "...for the joy that was set before Him [He] endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2). He endured the present suffering for the joy that was set before Him; His mind was picturing victory. When Jesus walked to Calvary, He was not looking at the cross; He was looking at the *resurrection*.

If you have always longed to be victorious in an area, *get your mind on the Grapes* until you can visualize them and see them in your grasp. Is there a habit in your life you want to conquer? *Do not* concentrate on the habit; *concentrate on victory.* This is called the *Law of Displacement*. It means you *displace* evil by the *entrance* of good. We do not go into a building and suggest to darkness, "Would you mind leaving, because if you leave we can have light?" We bring in light, and the *entrance of light forces the exit of darkness.*

Some people spend their lives saying, "Oh, I wish I could quit thinking bad thoughts."

You'll never stop thinking bad thoughts, you'll never stop thinking doubt, until you start thinking faith and you start seeing yourself victorious. That picture drives out evil. Visualize it right now.

Whatever it is, see yourself with it.

### **4. The Gate Of Forgiveness.**

The Fourth Gate to the Grapes is Forgiveness, which simply means the transferal of the right to judge and penalize. It means that

you give up your position on God's vengeance team. *Forgiveness does not flow to you until it can flow through you.* You can ask for forgiveness, beg God for forgiveness, offer Him “double tithe,” but nothing will happen inside you until you permit God alone to penalize others for doing you wrong.

“Well, Mike, I want to teach him a lesson.”

That’s understandable, but it is wrong. God is the One in charge of payment; He is the Judge. Exercise the ability to *withhold* judgment and let God perform His program of restoration and forgiveness.

*Forgiveness is not the removal of information.* It is the removal of the pain of it. There is no entry into Heaven until you walk through the Gate of Forgiveness. There are no Grapes of Blessing, no Grapes of Reward, until you “remember...not the former things” (Isaiah 43:18).

Forgive not only other people, but forgive yourself. That is just as important. There are people who have never forgiven themselves. *Never advertise your mistakes.* Lay the memory of them at the cross and *leave them there.*

### **5. The Gate Of Persistence.**

What is the Gate of Persistence? Simply make up your mind, regardless of how far away the Grapes appear, to push on for The Blessing. Sometimes it will seem like they are a thousand miles away. Friends may try to discourage and disillusion you. They may not understand your dream, your goal. It will not fall into your lap automatically. It will not be easy. But every man or woman who has ever achieved anything had to *persist*. They made up their minds to go after what they believed in.

I met a young man the other day—sharp, nice. He could be a great preacher. Will he ever be? I doubt it. Why? No persistence: “I tried and it didn’t work. I think I will quit. I don’t know if I am called.”

*The Rewards Belong To The Persistent.* For ten days the disciples waited in the Upper Room. Can you imagine the first day? Someone says, “Well, He said for us to just wait; here we are.”

Second day, third, fourth, fifth, sixth. Another says, “You know, if God *really* wanted us to have power, He wouldn’t make us just sit here and wait for it.” Seventh day. Eighth. Ninth. Tenth—suddenly, a sound from Heaven as a rushing mighty wind fills the room (see Acts 2:2). Cloven tongues of fire sat upon their heads, and they began to speak in tongues as the Spirit of God gave them utterance. Why? *Persistence.*

Say it: "*Persistence.*" Say it until your whole body feels it. There will be times you will not feel like you can make it. At times you will feel like asking, "Why am I doing this anyway?" Or, you will feel like "It's no use, nothing is going to work out." Stay there! The diseased woman did not feel like pushing her way through the crowd, *but she had a goal.* I am certain Peter did not always feel like an overcomer, but God gave him such a victory that when he, the man who had denied the Lord, began to preach he said, "You folk need to repent; you denied the Holy One of Israel" (see Acts 2:23). *He persisted until the power of God came into his life, and he walked in that power.*

## **6. The Gate Of Sowing.**

You cannot reap Grapes until you sow Grapes. The Blessing follows the Blesser. *Whatever Good Thing You Do For Another, God Is Going To Do For You* (see Ephesians 6:8). If you want to taste Grapes, you have to distribute Grapes. You have to bless *other* people if you want God to bless *you*.

*If you want something good to happen in your life, you must make something good happen for your sister or brother.* You must first perform for *others* what God wants to perform for you.

Jesus did not say that if you treat your brother or sister right he or she will love you. He said that if you do right to others *God* will do right by you. Everything reproduces after its own kind. If you want healing, start praying for *others* to experience healing. If you want blessings, start concentrating on *others' receiving* their blessing. Jesus concentrated on other people's needs. He went around doing good, healing all that were sick and oppressed of the devil (see Acts 10:38). **What You Make Happen For Others, God Will Make Happen For You.**

## **7. The Gate Of Praise.**

Judah, which means praise, was the first tribe into battle. Praise is the sound that makes hell sick; it unnerves demons. Satan used to be the song leader in Heaven, but God kicked him out. Anytime you start praising God, all of Heaven notices it. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so! Make a joyful noise! Clap your hands.

- ▶ *Praise is an act of the will.* It is not something you have to *feel* in order for it to be real. It is *not* meditation; it is something that is *heard*. Praise is articulated sound and opinion. It is your *recognition* of Jesus as Lord of everything, that Jehovah is still on the throne.
- ▶ *When you begin praising God, something miraculous happens.* I don't care how you feel; if you start saying, "God, I love you,"

something *loosens*. Talk about smashing the locks of your prison; praise does that! Now, praise has nothing to do with feelings. You don't have to say, "God, I feel great," or, "I feel lousy." Praise has to do with *Him* and *it takes your mind off yourself*.

- ▶ *Praise lifts you to where God is.*
- ▶ *God is very comfortable with praise.* In fact, that is where He chooses to  *dwell* (see Psalm 22:3). God likes praise, and He  *responds* to it. Not only does God respond to praise, demons repulse at it.
- ▶ Praise is something you deliberately  *choose to do*, to acknowledge the power of God.
- ▶ The purpose of praise is not just to make you feel good, but it is also to stir others.

God values recognition. He does things in a big way. You never see God "sneaking" around saying, "You be quiet now and have a good time." He is a  *celebration* God, an  *expressive* God.

*You were born to taste the Grapes of God's blessing.* The silver and gold are His. He gives us the power to get wealth. Everything that God has, everything that He is, He is willing to pour  *into* us and  *through* us. The Grapes are not for the holy, they are for the  *hungry*. They are not placed within your mouth; they are placed within your  *reach*. So, enter the gates and reach for the Grapes.

They are  *accessible...today*.

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## RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND TAPES ON THIS TOPIC

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|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B-28  | The Blessing Bible (251 pages/\$10)                                       |
| B-82  | 31 Reasons People Do Not Receive Their Financial Harvest (251 pages/\$12) |
| B-104 | 7 Keys To 1000 Times More (127 pages/\$10)                                |
| TS-13 | Born to Taste The Grapes (Six tapes/\$30)                                 |
| TS-38 | 31 Reasons People Do Not Receive Their Financial Harvest (Six tapes/\$30) |
| VI-16 | 7 Keys To 1000 Times More (Video/\$30)                                    |
| VI-17 | 31 Reasons People Do Not Receive Their Financial Harvest (Video/\$30)     |