



## **“The Spirit of Increase”**

**Pastor Ron Carpenter, Jr. Sermon**

### **MESSAGE SUMMARY**

Have you ever felt constantly behind financially and wondered why? Stewardship is a holy habit that must be cultivated in our lives. In this message, Pastor Ron explains the financial principles that can unlock a spirit of increase in your life, using concepts that originated in the garden.. We were meant to THRIVE, not merely survive! Today's discussion will help you recognize your areas of weakness, create an action plan to address them and provide you with scriptural keys to unlock the spirit of abundance in your life. Are you ready? Let's begin!

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **I. The Holy Habit of Stewardship**

- Stewardship is a holy habit, not emotionally driven or inspiration-dependent. It requires practice regardless of circumstances.
- When we are faithful with what we have, God will bless us with more because He knows that we will steward it well. This includes faithfulness with little, money, and what belongs to others.
- **Scripture: Luke 16:10-13; Matt. 25:23**

#### **Questions:**

1. Is stewardship a holy habit you are currently practicing? I
2. In what areas of life (time, talent, money, work, etc.) do you find it most difficult to practice stewardship?

#### **II. A Prosperous Soul**

- A prosperous soul is the key to the spirit of increase.
- Our soul includes our mind, will, and emotions. We cannot thrive beyond the point of emotional & mental health.
- As our soul prospers, so will every area of our lives (health, peace, joy, relationships, etc.)
- **Scripture: 3 John 2-4**

#### **Questions:**

1. Is unforgiveness, offense, anger, or any "hindrance" currently preventing your soul from prospering?
2. According to this verse, what are the benefits of a prosperous soul? Have you seen evidence of a prosperous soul have you seen in your own life?

### III. The Blessing as a way of life

- According to Genesis 1, we were created to rule our world. The blessing was on our life from the beginning, but Adam lost it.
- Jesus came to restore God's original blessing to humanity through the sacrifice of his life. In a way, Christ stewarded His life (his time) to benefit believers. This was the ultimate act of stewardship and obedience.
- The principle of the tithe is an example of stewardship. Everything we have has been given to us, so we must return the tenth (tithe) to the Lord. This act of obedience unlocks the blessing in our lives.
- Scripture: Genesis 1:26-2; Deuteronomy 28:1-6; Malachi 3:6-10

#### Questions:

1. How do this week's scriptures challenge you?
2. How can you more faithfully steward an area of your life in preparation for the spirit of increase in your life?

### CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

The blessing isn't something we have; it is something we carry on our lives. Our Heavenly Father desires to bless us, but we must take personal responsibility to steward that blessing well. When we steward what we have been given, we can expect the spirit of increase to rest on us. How we spend our money, use our time, and care for other's belongings are the evidence of a life of faithfulness to God.

**Challenge:** Commit to taking care of an area in your life where you're struggling. If you're unsure how, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you. **Stay dedicated to the process and watch for positive changes!**