

Accessing Heaven's Abundance

Sunday 03-05-26

The Power of giving honor

During the campaign we learned that God has made every good thing available to us and it his will for us to have it- spiritual and natural blessing, all of the abundance of heaven - peace, joy, freedom, health and wealth - provision, protection and prosperity - Life abundant!

But to gain/release the fullness of all God's blessings and abundance into our lives there are commands and principles that we need to follow.

The principle of giving honor

Giving honor means to recognize/assign high value to others, to respect, esteem God, other people and authority.

The worth you place on them, your attitude towards them, how you speak to them and about them.

Honor goes beyond mere respect to recognize the God-given value in people, a position they hold, a gift they have, the things they do.

Dishonor - little or no value is placed, little respect or esteem is given, viewed as common or even with disdain. It involves acts of disobedience, disrespect for authority, or treating sacred things with contempt.

Proper honor can release God's blessings, while failure to honor can hinder it

Revelation 4:11 *You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

We honor God above all else, and our honor to him is at a higher level than other honor, in that it transcends to worship, which is for him and him alone.

Honoring God is primarily done by submitting our lives fully to him in devotion and obedience to his commands, worshipping and serving him.

Matthew 15:8 *These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are from me*

It involves humbling ourselves and acknowledging his rule over our lives.

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

As we humble ourselves and honor him, he honors us in return.

1 Samuel 2:30 *I will honor those who honor me*

Who do we honor?

Honor your parents and elders

Ephesians 6:2 "Honor your father and mother" —which is the first commandment with a promise— "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth"

A commandment with a promise!

Honor your marriage/spouse

1Peter 3:7 *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect (honor) as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

Our prayers can be hindered due to a lack of honor

Honor governmental authority

Romans 13:1 *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

The concept and need of authority structures has been established by God to create an orderly and just society.

Honor civic and social leaders, employers

1 Timothy 6:1 Tell us that our "masters worthy of full respect"

Work hard, give your best and maintain a good attitude.

Honor your spiritual leaders

1Timothy 5:17 *The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of **double honor**, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.*

1 Thess. 5:12-13 *Honor those who are leaders in the Lords work. They work hard among you and warn you against all that is wrong. Think highly of them and give them your wholehearted love because of their work*

We honor our leaders by submitting to their leadership, praying for them, serving, encouraging them and speaking well of them

We should honor all people

Romans 12:10 *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

1 Peter 2:17 *Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the king.*

An honoring attitude should be a way of life for a Christian. We not only do it because it is the right thing to do, but it also a key for us to access all of heavens abundance

Examples from scripture

Mark 7: 24-30 *Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.*

Mark 14: 3-9 *While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly. "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."*

Matthew 10:40-42 *Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward*

Mark 6:1-5 *Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.*

This is amazing – Jesus himself was limited simply because of lack of honor!

Matthew 8:5-9 *When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me.*

V12 *Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.*

He honored Jesus and received what he was asking for - his servant was healed.

Hannah at the temple

1 Samuel 1:9-20 *As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine." "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief*

Hannah was honoring his position, his authority over her as the head priest and she received her blessing.

Example of David and Saul

1 Samuel 24:6-10 *The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, why do you listen when men say, "David is bent on harming you?" This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord gave you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you, I said I will not lift my hand against my master because he is the Lords anointed*

David's actions were motivated by his respect for God's authority and his refusal to take matters into his own hands, preferring to let God judge.

David went on of course to become King and the greatest leader in the history of Israel.

He was honored because he gave honor.

1 Samuel 2:30 *I will honor those who honor me*

We see here that David honored by both his words and his actions.

Honor is deliberate and generally involves action - particularly with how we speak about and treat someone.

It is not just that giving honor pleases God, but it gives us access to many of Gods promises.

Honor is an essential key to receiving from God. Honor carries great rewards and can release the abundance of heaven that God wants us to have.