



## MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 1:2-11
- Luke 12:16-21
- Matthew 6:19-34
- 1 Corinthians 9:19–27

## THE INFINITE IMPERISHABLE

### JACKPOT

- Perishable Winnings
- Imperishable Winnings
- The Winning Numbers

## FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“by which he has granted to us **his precious and exceedingly great promises**; that through these you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption** that is in the world by lust.” 2 Peter 1:4 WEBUS

“I will tell my soul, “**Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years**. Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” “But God said to him, ‘**You foolish one, tonight your soul is required of you. The things which you have prepared—whose will they be?**’ So is he who lays up **treasure for himself**, and is **not rich toward God.**””

Luke 12:19-21 WEBUS

“**Don’t lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth**, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal; **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves don’t break through and steal;

for **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**" Matthew 6:19-21 WEBUS

"Don't you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run like that, so that you may win. Every man who strives in the games exercises self-control in all things. **Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.**" 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 WEBUS

## **INTRODUCTION: The Infinite Imperishable Jackpot**

*What's are your highest aspirations? For what are you working so hard to achieve? What are your ultimate goals? What final destination will bring you the greatest satisfaction? What are you running toward with such fervency? On what are you most passionately focused? If you were asked to describe your heart's desires, what would be your most cherished prize? Seven excellent questions, but for most people unfortunately, as the train pulls into their dream station, they discover something utterly disturbing about their destination. It was all a mirage, a total illusion. Tragically, everything they believed would bring them a feeling of completion and a sense of meaningful accomplishment was an utter delusion—a thorough deception!*

*God's word has much to say on this topic. If you understood His perspective and applied His knowledge beforehand, that kind*

*of wisdom would help you avoid the guaranteed regret, misfortune, and frustration that is assured anyone who chases rotting carcasses and evaporating vapors. But, God's precious and exceedingly great promises will never disappoint you; they are infinite and imperishable, while all other treasures that you might chase, even if attained, will be dreadfully temporary.*

*It's an epidemic of human achievement, but not because there is anything inherently wrong with human advancements and accomplishments. It's just that the intense desires for such success transform from God honoring stewardship to a disease of human achievement in a particular environment. At this moment, you should be begging to recognize that type of environment. It's a pathological setting that can be easily diagnosed with one test question, as long as you are willing to be honest with yourself: "What satisfies your soul?" When your self-talk sounds like this... "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; you are a true success," the disease process has set in. The Great Physician has life-saving advice for this patient... "You foolish one, tonight is your last and your soul is being recalled. The things for which you worked so hard to accumulate—whose will they be when you are gone? Since you can't keep what you've accumulated after death—your wealth, achievements, and accomplishments, don't bother*

*laying up those perishable treasures for yourselves on earth. Instead, lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven that are permanent.”*

*Here is the true measure of your success—godly stewardship of your advancements and accomplishments. “Delight yourself in Yahweh, and He will give you the desires of your heart.” If you accumulate treasures for yourself here on earth, but you are not rich towards God, those treasures actually expose the disease of your heart. For you, there will only ever be a temporary and corruptible crown. But, if your heart is one that chases the riches of God, His precious and exceedingly great promises, your rewards will be infinite and incorruptible.*

## PERISHABLE WINNINGS

### 1. Human Achievement

#### A. Finite & Temporary Winnings

##### (1) The Efforts of Man

##### (a) To Be Never Satisfied

1. “All the labor of man **is for his mouth**, and yet the **appetite is not filled.**” Ecclesiastes 6:7 WEBUS

a) If everything a man strives to achieve is for self-gratification, he will never feel satisfied.

b) No matter what he achieves, once he arrives there, he will always be looking for more.

- c) The root of this error is that his heart's desires are not in alignment with God's desires for him.
- (b) Protection from the the disease of "*Never Satisfied*"
1. **"Trust in Yahweh, and do good.** Dwell in the land, and enjoy safe pasture. Also **delight yourself in Yahweh,** and **he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to Yahweh.** Trust also in him, and he will do this: **he will make your righteousness** shine out like light, and **your justice** as the noon day sun. **Rest in Yahweh,** and **wait patiently** for him. **Don't fret because of him who prospers** in his way, because of the man who makes wicked plots happen." Psalms 37:3-7 WEBUS
- a) Protection Checklist
- 1) Trust in Yahweh: do good by obeying Him.
  - 2) Delight in Yahweh: be confident in your partnership with Him.
  - 3) Commit to Yahweh: be faithful to Him as your only source of success.
  - 4) Rest in Yahweh: be patient for His will to manifest and don't envy what others have.
- (c) The Trap of Increase

1. **“He who loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver, nor he who loves abundance, with increase.** This also is vanity. **When goods increase, those who eat them are increased;** and **what advantage is there** to its owner, except to feast on them with his eyes? **The sleep of a laboring man** is sweet, whether he eats little or much; but **the abundance of the rich will not allow him to sleep.** There is a **grievous evil** which I have seen under the sun: **wealth kept by its owner to his harm.** Those **riches perish by misfortune,** and if he has fathered a **son, there is nothing in his hand.** As **he came out of his mother’s womb, naked shall he go again as he came,** and shall take nothing for his labor, which he may carry away in his hand. This also is a grievous evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go. And **what profit** does he have who labors for the wind? **All his days he also eats in darkness, he is frustrated, and has sickness and wrath.”** Ecclesiastes 5:10-17 WEBUS

- a) The Love of Abundance (if it is not for others)
  - 1) The man who is in love with the accumulation of wealth will never be satisfied no matter what level of abundance he achieves.

- 2) The more he accumulates, the more he consumes.
  - 3) The only difference between one level of acquisition and the next is what he observes.
  - 4) A man who works hard for his provision sleeps well; a man who is obsessed with his abundance does not sleep at all.
  - 5) The worst disease of abundance is the type identified by rich man who wants to keep everything for himself; in the end, his riches will disappear because of a misfortune and his children's inheritance will ultimately dry up.
- b) As he came out of his mother's womb, naked shall he return...
- 1) **A Rotting Mummy:** You won't find a U-Haul following a hearse, unless of course you are an Egyptian Pharaoh. The Pharaohs of Egypt ordered that they be buried with their riches because they believed they would have good use for their great wealth in the afterlife. However, when we explore their uncovered tombs today, we discover that all their gold, silver, and precious stones waited patiently to be

absconded by greedy treasure hunters, and all we find left behind of the great king is his petrified mummy!

c) What profit is there in this life if abundance is a man's chief desire?

1) He eats alone!

2) He lives in constant frustration!

3) He dies in sickness!

(d) However, if God is the author of his increase, things will be different, as in Psalm 37:3-7 when a man places his *"Trust in Yahweh"*

1. "Behold, that which I have seen to be **good and proper** is for one to eat and to drink, and to **enjoy good in all his labor**, in which he labors under the sun, all the days of his life **which God has given him**; for this is his portion. **Every man also to whom God has given riches and wealth**, and has given him power to eat of it, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor—**this is the gift of God**. For **he shall not often reflect on the days of his life, because God occupies him with the joy of his heart.**"

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 WEBUS



- a) **Three Critical Distinctions:** the man chasing abundance *in his own strength* as opposed to the man to whom *God has given* riches and wealth
- 1) One is never satisfied with his increase and always needs more... the other thoroughly enjoys what he has produced with his hard work!
  - 2) One continually labors as if his success is a matter of his own doing... the other happily acknowledges that his success is a gift from God!
  - 3) One spends his days in constant obsession with himself as the means of fulfillment... the other spends his days reflecting on God as the only source of his contentment!
- b) “***But you shall remember Yahweh your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore to your fathers, as it is today.***” Deuteronomy 8:18 WEBUS

(2) Endless Striving vs. A Gift from God

(a) A Promise of Abundance

1. “I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and it will happen that when you go, **you**

**shall not go empty-handed.** But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, and of her who visits her house, **jewels of silver, jewels of gold, and clothing.** You shall put them on your sons, and on your daughters. **You shall plunder the Egyptians.”** Exodus 3:21-22

WEBUS

- a) God promised that his children would plunder the riches of the world—as a gift from Him and for His purposes!

(b) The Fulfillment of God’s Promise

- 1. “The children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they **asked of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and clothing.** Yahweh **gave the people favor** in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. **They plundered the Egyptians.”** Exodus 12:35-36 WEBUS

- a) God’s children did not have to strive all the days of their lives to gain abundance.
- b) They did not chase riches; the riches chased them!
- c) **“You shall remember Yahweh your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth...”** Deut. 8:18

(3) The Faithful and Wise Servant

- (a) Joseph as a model of faithful stewardship...

1. "Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?" Pharaoh said to Joseph, "**Because God has shown you all of this, there is no one so discreet and wise as you. You shall be over my house.** All my people will be ruled according to your word. Only in the throne I will be greater than you." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "**Behold, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.**"" Genesis 41:38-41 WEBUS

- a) Proper Stewardship {read all of Genesis 41}
  - 1) Joseph was elevated into leadership and handed control over all the abundance of Egypt simply because he was a faithful and wise servant.
  - 2) He had not chased after power or wealth and yet he gained more of those things than anyone of his day.
  - 3) His only mandate was to use it to faithfully provide for others!
- b) Joseph did not chase power and riches; power and riches chased Joseph!
  - 1) *"Now don't be grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that you sold me here, for **God sent me before you to preserve life.** For these two*

*years the famine has been in the land, and there are yet five years, in which there will be no plowing and no harvest. **God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to save you alive by a great deliverance.** So now it wasn't you who sent me here, but **God, and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, Lord of all his house, and ruler over all the land of Egypt.**"* Genesis 45:5-8 WEBUS

(b) You have an identical mandate...

1. **"Who then is the faithful and wise servant,** whom his Lord **has set over his household,** to give them their food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his Lord finds doing so when he comes.** Most certainly I tell you that he will set him over all that he has."

Matthew 24:45-47 WEBUS

- a) Y'shua's prophetic question that pointed at Joseph as the premier model of stewardship over God's gift of power and wealth!
  - 1) Joseph's unimaginable power and resources were gifted by God for one purpose... to provide for others—to give them food in the time of famine—to preserve life!

- 2) You must be found being like Joseph when Y'shua returns.

## **B. The Perishable Crown**

(1) It's All Temporary!

(a) Bigger Barns {Luke 12:16-21 WEBUS}

1. "He spoke a parable to them, saying, **"The ground of a certain rich man produced abundantly. He reasoned within himself,** saying, 'What will I do, because I don't have room to store my crops?' He said, 'This is what I will do. **I will pull down my barns, build bigger ones,** and there I will store all my grain and my goods. I will tell my soul, **"Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years. Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry."**" "But God said to him, **'You foolish one, tonight your soul is required of you. The things which you have prepared—whose will they be?'** So is he who lays up **treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."**"

a) From Today's Introduction: The "Bigger Barns" diagnosis.

1) "What satisfies your soul?"

b) Self-talk that sounds like this means the disease of "Never Satisfied" has set in.

- 1) *“Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; you are a true success.”*
- c) The Great Physician has life-saving advice for this type of patient... Remember **The Rotting Mummy!**
  - 1) *“You foolish one, tonight is your last and your soul is being recalled. The things which you worked so hard to accumulate—whose will they be when you are gone? Since you can’t keep what you’ve accumulated after death—your wealth, achievements, and accomplishments, don’t bother laying up those perishable treasures for yourselves on earth. Instead, lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven that are permanent.”*
- (b) Treasures on Earth
  1. **“Don’t lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves don’t break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”** Matthew 6:19-21 WEBUS
    - a) Where is your treasure?

1) Your heart's desires are a dead giveaway!

(c) Here Today and Gone Tomorrow

1. "No one can serve **two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You can't serve both God and Mammon.** Therefore I tell you, **don't be anxious for your life:** what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. **Isn't life more than** food, and the body more than clothing? **See the birds of the sky**, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they? "Which of you by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan? Why are you anxious about clothing? **Consider the lilies of the field**, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin, yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these. But **if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven**, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith?" Matthew 6:24-30 WEBUS

a) You cannot simultaneously serve both God and your need to accumulate wealth for yourself (earthly provision).

1) Life is more than striving and worrying about things that are here today and gone tomorrow.

(d) Pagans worry about such things!

1. “Therefore **don’t be anxious**, saying, ‘What will we eat?’, ‘What will we drink?’ or, ‘With what will we be clothed?’ **For the Gentiles seek after all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need** all these things. But **seek first God’s Kingdom** and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore **don’t be anxious for tomorrow**, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day’s own evil is sufficient.” Matthew 6:31-34

WEBUS

a) If you are chasing only the things of God, you will have no anxiety related to the accumulation of things.

1) God knows what you need and where God guides—God provides.

2) Your job is to seek only after things that will draw you closer to God and make you more like



Christ—all the other things of life, God has made a way for you to obtain.

(2) The Tower of Babel

(a) Let us build for ourselves...

1. “The whole earth was of one language and of one speech. As they traveled east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they lived there. They said to one another, **“Come, let’s make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.”** They had brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, **“Come, let’s build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top reaches to the sky, and let’s make a name for ourselves,** lest we be scattered abroad on the surface of the whole earth.”” Genesis 11:1-4 WEBUS

a) The quintessential example of man’s attempt to build his own tower and make a name for himself...

- 1) When there is one unified purpose and direction, and that purpose is not God’s will and that direction is not God’s choosing, it sounds something like this...
- 2) “I will build something by my own strength, in my own will, to make my name known!”

(b) This is how Yahweh reacts to such futile attempts of man!

1. **“Yahweh came down to see** the city and the tower, which the children of men built. **Yahweh said, “Behold,** they are one people, and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do. **Now nothing will be withheld from them, which they intend to do.** Come, **let’s go down, and there confuse their language,** that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So Yahweh scattered them abroad from there on the surface of all the earth. **They stopped building the city.** Therefore its name was called Babel, because there **Yahweh confused the language of all the earth.** From there, Yahweh scattered them abroad on the surface of all the earth.”

Genesis 11:5-9 WEBUS

- a) God thwarts man’s plan and ruins his desired outcome.
  - 1) Nothing lasting ever comes of man’s self-centered attempt to make a name for himself.

(3) Perishable vs. Imperishable

- (a) Intro Question: “What satisfies your soul?”

1. **“For though I was free from all, I brought myself under bondage to all, that I might gain the more.** To the Jews I became as a Jew, **that I might gain** Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, **that I might gain** those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), **that I might win those** who are without law.”

1 Corinthians 9:19-21 WEBUS

- a) Ask yourself, “Why are you doing what you are doing?”
  - 1) To satisfy yourself (a self-determined prize)?
  - 2) To satisfy others (a God-determined prize)?
- (b) Whatever it takes... all things to all men!
  1. **“To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.”** 1 Corinthians 9:22 WEBUS
  - a) Are you willing to become whatever is necessary to fulfill God’s plan, as opposed to your own?
- (c) The Corruptible vs. Incorruptible Crown
  1. **“Now I do this for the sake of the Good News,** that I may be a joint partaker of it. **Don’t you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the**

**prize? Run like that, so that you may win.** Every man who strives in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now **they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.** I therefore run like that, not aimlessly. I fight like that, not beating the air, but I beat my body and bring it into submission, lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:23-27

WEBUS

- a) In what are you investing your time, talents, and resources? If towards a temporary perishable crown, you are wasting God's calling on your life!
  - 1) What's are your highest aspirations?
  - 2) For what are you working so hard to achieve?
  - 3) What are your ultimate goals?
  - 4) What final destination will bring you the greatest satisfaction?
  - 5) What are you running toward with such fervency?
  - 6) On what are you most passionately focused?
  - 7) Regarding your heart's desires, what would be your most cherished prize?

(4) What is your life?

(a) Evaporating Vapors

1. “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow let’s go into this city and spend a year there, trade, and make a profit.” Yet you don’t know what your life will be like tomorrow. **For what is your life? For you are a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.**” James 4:13-14 WEBUS

a) Your life should be nothing more than drink offering to God, a cool glass of wine poured on a blazing sacrificial fire.

b) The moment the unsuspecting liquid hits the inferno, it vaporizes into a mist and vanishes as it rises to heaven.

c) That is precisely how Paul considered his life!

1) “Yes, and if ***I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.***”

Philippians 2:17 NKJV

2) “For ***I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.***” II Timothy 4:6 NKJV

## IMPERISHABLE WINNINGS

### 2. The Infinite & Imperishable Jackpot

#### A. Precious & Exceedingly Great Promises

##### (1) Exceedingly Precious Promises

- (a) Exceedingly: magnificent, great, large, mighty, abundant, in the widest sense.
- (b) Precious: valuable, honorable, of great price, honored.
- (c) Promises: a profession

##### (2) The Incorruptible Crown (14 promises)

###### (a) Promises #'s 1, 2, 3

1. “**Grace** to you and **peace** be multiplied in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord,” 2 Peter 1:2

#### WEBUS

- a) **#1 Grace Multiplied:** God’s supernatural empowerment.

- 1) “As ***each has received a gift, employ it [minister it] in serving one another, as good managers [stewards] of the grace of God in its various forms.***” 1 Peter 4:10 WEBUS

- 2) “*Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; **through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We rejoice in***

*hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2*

WEBUS

- 3) “**With great power** the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all.**” Acts 4:33 NIV

- b) # **2 Peace Multiplied:** ease in the midst of anything.

- 1) “*In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,** will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.*” Philippians 4:6-7

WEBUS

- c) # **3 Knowledge Multiplied:** understanding of the things of God.

- 1) *I “don’t cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him,**”* Ephesians 1:16-17

WEBUS

(b) Promises #'s 4, 5, 6

1. "seeing that his **divine power** has granted to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge** of him who called us by his own glory and virtue," 2 Peter 1:3 WEBUS

a) **# 4 Access to His divine power:** resurrection power.

1) *"having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is **the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength** of his might which he worked in Christ **when he raised him from the dead** and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places,"* Ephesians 1:18-20 WEBUS

b) **# 5 All things that pertain to life:** all the needs of life.

1) *"But **seek first God's Kingdom** and his righteousness; and **all these things** will be given to you as well."* Matthew 6:33 WEBUS



2) *“He who didn’t spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, **how would he not also with him freely give us all things?**”* Romans 8:32 WEBUS

c) **#6 All things that pertain to godliness:** to live in holistic integrity (spirit, soul, and body).

1) *“knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its perfect work, **that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**”* James 1:3-4 WEBUS

(c) Promises #'s 7, 8, 9

1. *“by which he has granted to us **his precious and exceedingly great promises;** that through these you may become **partakers of the divine nature,** having **escaped from the corruption** that is in the world by lust.”* 2 Peter 1:4 WEBUS

a) **#7 Exceedingly great and precious promises:** they are more than you can imagine!

1) *“Now to him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”* Ephesians 3:20 WEBUS

b) **# 8 Partakers of the divine nature:** Love is His nature!

1) *“He who doesn’t love doesn’t know God, for **God is love.**”* 1 John 4:8 WEBUS

c) **# 9 Escape the corruption that is in the world through lust:** The Gateway Sin

1) *“Therefore God also gave them up in **the lusts of their hearts** to uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves; who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason, **God gave them up to vile passions.** For their women changed the natural function into that which is against nature.”* Romans 1:24-26 WEBUS

2) *“that you no longer should live the rest of your time in the flesh for **the lusts of men**, but for the will of God. **For we have spent enough of our past time** doing the desire of the Gentiles, and **having walked in lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries.**”* 1 Peter 4:2-3 WEBUS

(d) Promises #'s 10, 11

1. "For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to **not be idle** or **unfruitful in the knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:8 WEBUS

a) # **10 You will be neither idle (barren, ineffective) in knowledge of the Lord:** that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God.

1) "*But to us, God **revealed them through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, **the deep things of God.** For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so, **no one knows the things of God except God's Spirit.** But we received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, **that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God.**" 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 WEBUS*

b) # **11 Nor unfruitful (Productive) in knowledge of the Lord:** we are made to reap a harvest.

1) "*He who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit to eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.'* I

*sent you to reap that for which you haven't labored. **Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.***" John 4:36-38

WEBUS

(e) Promises #'s 12, 13

1. "Therefore, brothers, be more diligent to make your **calling and election sure**. For if you do these things, you will **never stumble**." 2 Peter 1:10 WEBUS

a) **# 12 Make your call and election sure:** to become all God has called you to become.

1) *"To this end we also pray always for you that our God may count you **worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire** of goodness and work of faith with power,"* 2 Thessalonians 1:11 WEBUS

b) **#13 You will never stumble:** promised protection.

1) *"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name. **I have kept those whom you have given me. None of them is lost** except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."* John 17:12 WEBUS

2) *"Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If therefore you seek me, let these go their way," that the word might be fulfilled which he spoke,*

*“Of those whom you have given me, I have lost none.”* John 18:8-9 WEBUS

3) *“What then shall we say about these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**”* Romans 8:31 WEBUS

(f) Promise # 14

1. “For thus you will be **richly supplied** with the **entrance into the eternal Kingdom** of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:11 WEBUS

a) **#14 Rich entrance into the everlasting kingdom:**

Called to Christlikeness!

1) *““His Lord said to him, ‘**Well done**, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’”* Matthew 25:21 & 23  
WEBUS

(3) Promises are not a guarantee...

(a) But for this very reason you must diligently add to your faith... (See [Faith Like Mine](#))

1. “Yes, and for this very cause **adding on your part** all diligence...” 2 Peter 1:5 WEBUS

## THE WINNING NUMBERS

### 3. What does it take to win the prize?

#### A. It takes knowing the numbers AND playing the numbers!

(1) The Numbers...

(a) The numbers must be played in the proper order...

1. The order of the numbers is as important as knowing the numbers.

a) If you don't play the numbers in the perfect sequence you cannot be guaranteed to win.

2. What would stop you from playing?

a) If you knew the magnitude and permanence of the winnings and you knew the numbers it would take win, what could possibly stop you from playing?

(b) On your faith add...

1. "Yes, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply **moral excellence [virtue]**; and in moral excellence, **knowledge**; and in knowledge, **self-control**; and in self-control, **perseverance**; and in perseverance, **godliness**; and in godliness, **brotherly affection**; and in brotherly affection, **love.**" 2 Peter 1:5-7 WEBUS

(2) Seven Winning Numbers

- (a) **(#'s 1-4) The Cycle of Life:** Every decision, every conflict, and every problem should be filtered through the process of these four steps—every day!
1. **#1 Virtue:** moral excellence is the first thing to follow faith and must precede all others, or your coordinates will ALWAYS be off target!
    - a) The problem with simply thinking of virtue as moral excellence is that morality according to world standards is an ever-changing moving target. What was considered unacceptable yesterday is perfectly fine today. In fact, today it is intolerable to believe of yesterday's atrocities as immoral. This is what happens when man's heart is used to define virtue.
    - b) Instead, we will define virtue as what morally excellent to God—truth that never changes. To build upon our faith we must first consider: "What is right to God in this situation? What does Yahweh think about this? What is God's heart on this matter?"
    - c) To know the answers, we must be able to tap into the heart of God. Fortunately, we not only have the right (as granted by the gift of faith, Eph. 2:8-10),

but the ability and obligation. “We have the mind of Christ.” (I Cor. 2:16) And we are instructed to “take every thought captive unto the obedience of Christ.” (II Cor. 10:5) And each of us has been perfectly programmed to hear God’s voice (John 10:27).

d) It is critical that we start with knowing what is right in God’s eyes before we attempt to add one bit of our own knowledge.

2. # **2 Knowledge:** the additional information you need to know in order to act wisely!

a) To do what is right in God’s eyes we must fill in the knowledge gap. What am I missing? What do I need to know before I act?

b) This applies first in the spiritual realm as Paul prays for us by asking that God will give us a spirit of revelation and knowledge (Ephesians 1:17). About what? About all things that pertain to Y’shua, what He has done for us and what we have available at our disposal (divine power) because of what He has done for us (Ephesian 1:18-23).

c) If you add knowledge before you are aiming in the right direction according to God (which is the



virtuous thing to do), then no matter how much knowledge you gain, and no matter how much of an expert you become, YOU WILL ALWAYS MISS THE TARGET.

- d) This assumes you want to hit the target that Yahweh is holding out in front of you. Do you?
- e) But, once you see the target and you know all you need to do it hit that target, it takes energy and effort to move in that direction!
- f) Even after the necessary knowledge has been attained, there is still room for challenges, distractions and difficulties. There might even be a temptation or two pulling you in the wrong direction—the way of expedience. It takes self-control next to both act and act wisely.

3. **# 3 Self-control:** to act wisely, not by your first impulses and desires! Wisdom is the godly application of knowledge and understanding (See: [The Call of Wisdom](#) & [The Value of Wisdom](#))

- a) Once you know what God wants you to do and you have filled in the knowledge gap, you must have the self-control to do it.

- b) The action of self-control has two arms: One is to take action, the other is to be on constant guard that your actions stay in alignment with #1 virtue & # 2 knowledge.
- c) At times, it can be desirous to default to what appears easier. It can be tiring to pursue the call of God, and even in the little things in life, you must be on alert that you are staying the course that God has laid out for you.
- d) Expedience is often the spirit of the day—to do what is convenient and practical although possibly improper and immoral. If it is easier, takes less effort, gets the quick flesh-satisfying results, and leaves plenty of energy to fill your life with more stuff that satisfies your craven desires. The temptation to go in that direction will always be lurking in the background, so be on guard.
- e) Self-control really has two components...
  - 1) To do: once you know what to do and how to do it, you must do it.
  - 2) To not do: you must also know what not to do and then you must not do those things.

- f) Telling yourself no, when yes is so tempting; and telling yourself yes, when no would be so much more convenient, is to live a life of self-control.
- g) Self-governance and self-mastery are regular practices for disciples of Christ. Don't consider this merely from a personal improvement self-help position. Think instead about dying to the flesh because you are filled with the Spirit! (Read Roman 6-8)
- h) Knowing the right thing to do hardly ever translates into doing the right thing unless you are a regular practitioner of self-control.
- i) And then, there is oftentimes this lingering dilemma.
  - 1) You know what you should do and you do it!
  - 2) You are certain it is right in God's eyes, so you keep on doing it!
  - 3) You are sure about it, but it just does not seem to be working as expected and it's not getting any easier!
  - 4) How long should you stick with it?
- j) Answer: as long as it takes—all the way to FOREVER! It is never the wrong time to do the

right thing. And that is why God tells us that after self-control, perseverance comes next!

4. **#4 Perseverance:** Doing what is right, no matter how hard, or how long it takes, or what the cost!
  - a) Y'shua warned, *"In this world **you will have trials.**"* (John 16:33) Paul's exhortation, *"**It is through many tribulations** that we enter the Kingdom of Heaven."* (Acts 14:22)
  - b) We are *"joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified with Him.**"* (Romans 8:17)
  - c) It is clear that suffering, challenges, and difficulties are part of the process. If Y'shua suffered, why not us? And that is where perseverance shines!
  - d) Think of perseverance as PERMANENT SELF-CONTROL.
    - 1) You know what is right from God!
    - 2) You know how to do and you do it!
    - 3) You discipline yourself from straying off course, but it still won't happen!
    - 4) The fruit is elusive; the breakthrough absent; and hope starts to fade!

- e) Don't ever surrender! Don't give up! *"Don't grow weary in doing good..."* (Gal 6:9) That is what perseverance looks like: permanent, relentless, never-ending self control.
- f) Four things to consider as you persevere:
  - 1) Sometimes the desired outcome is delayed because you are being tested. *"Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering produces perseverance**; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn't disappoint us..."* Romans 5:3-5 WEBUS
  - 2) Sometimes your actions are meant to be permanent. *"**Let's not be weary** in doing good, for we will reap in due season if we don't give up."* Galatians 6:9 WEBUS
  - 3) Sometimes you come to the end because the job is complete. *"**Well done**, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord."* Matthew 25:21 WEBUS
  - 4) And sometimes you've made a mistake and you must be humble enough to admit you may have

made an error. “**Pride** goes before destruction, and an **arrogant spirit** before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18 WEBUS) Go back to beginning. Start with #1 Virtue. Maybe that was not God’s voice you heard; maybe you are still lacking some critical information; maybe you took a misstep when you began to act.

- g) A special note about tribulations and hope in relationship to persevering...
  - 1) Hope is born from the ashes of suffering?
  - 2) If one stays the course while suffering, it produces perseverance; and perseverance is a key stage in your discipleship training because it develops and tests your character.
  - 3) Your character is accentuated and revealed at times when hope is all that you have to sustain you.
  - 4) Our lives are preserved by hope in our time of waiting—in other words, while persevering.
  - 5) Hope is the sense of feeling relieved from suffering and doubt, even though in actuality the relief has not yet come. If it had, it would not be considered hope, but reality.

- 6) No one hopes for what has already happened; that would be absurd. But, to hope for what has not yet occurred, in what we cannot see with our eyes, that takes faith, patience, persistence, and perseverance.
  - 7) And for that, every child of God should remain eager.
- (b) (**#’s 5-7**) **The Outcome:** when you have become a serious disciple, one who practices (**#’s 1-4**) faithfully, these are the results!

5. **# 5 Godliness:** this is holistic integrity!

- a) This will make more sense if we take a look at the inner workings of integrity. Think of integrity as a structural engineering term. When a structure is designed correctly, it has integrity—it functions safely as it should and can be trusted.
- b) An engineering project cannot be completed with excellence unless all the raw materials being used for design and construction are utilized in perfect alignment with their natural properties (tolerances, strengths and limitations, functions, etc.)
- c) You won’t want to cross a bridge suspended over a deep chasm if cables were used under the bridge

to hold it up and the concrete blocks were used on the top as suspension support, would you? Instead, you want materials to be used for why they were created—in alignment with their natural design characteristics!

- d) Suspension cables are best when used to suspend something from above. Why? Because its natural characteristics lend to strength when pulled.
- e) Concrete is best when used to support something from below. Why? Because its natural characteristics lend to strength when compressed.
- f) When all facets of the bridge are in integrity, it is safe to cross and will offer years of faithful service to those who traverse the deep valley below.
- g) Godliness is holistic integrity. It means that your spirit, soul and body are all in complete alignment with what they were designed for by their Creator. There is no loss of strength in any area—thereby we are godly when living with holistic integrity.
- h) This alignment comes with great benefits; picture the favor of God pouring out of Heaven like rain, and all you must do is stand beneath it. In other words, align yourself with where the rain is falling.



- i) If you are not standing under the cloud of God's grace pouring out, what do you think you should do? Will God move over to you, or must you move under God's outpouring?
- j) Stepping underneath God or "aligning" ourselves with God's outpouring, His grace, His anointing, in all areas of life, is a life of holistic integrity. This is the best description of godliness.
- k) Another way of saying this is that our lives have come into alignment with God's will.
- l) This is something that must be practiced; it will not come easily, but it is certainly how we are called to live. Paul encouraged us to be sanctified, the practice of being holy or set-apart, in spirit, soul, and body at the coming of Christ. (1 Thess. 5:23)
- m) In other words, we must exercise godliness: *"But refuse profane and old wives' fables. **Exercise yourself toward godliness.** For bodily exercise has some value, **but godliness has value in all things,** having the promise of the life which is now and of that which is to come."* 1 Timothy 4:7-8 WEBUS
- n) Please be aware of this critical distinction however; godliness is not perfection in every area

of life, but rather the pursuit of perfection. If it was perfection it would # 7 {love} and not # 5 in Peter's discipleship model. "*But **godliness with contentment** is great gain.*" 1 Timothy 6:6 WEBUS

- o) We can and should find complete satisfaction in the pursuit of the things of God, even in the midst of the mistakes we make along the way, and the weaknesses that manifest in our characters.
  - p) God is good with the process it takes to remedy our sinful errors as long as we don't feel good making those sinful errors!
  - q) Our desire to align every area of our lives with the will of God makes us perfect candidates to pour our lives and all this goodness onto others—we can become a source of God's grace. "*Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for building others up as the need may be, that it may **give [impart] grace** to those who hear.*" Ephesians 4:29 WEBUS
  - r) That is why the way we treat others is next.
6. # **6 Brotherly Affection:** It's simple, but not easy; prefer others and the needs of others over yourself and your own needs!

- a) A serious disciple of Christ has so much to give others. Just meditate for a moment on all that we just reviewed and think about the type of person you have become to arrive at this place!
- b) You have so many good things pouring into your life, but why? What for?
- c) Christian Alert! It's not about you! It's easy to see that all that Christ did for us was about us and not Himself. That is the model of how we should live—for others. No greater love is there than to lay down our lives for others, like Y'shua did (John 15:13).
- d) It's a reminder of how Y'shua was careful to refer to two areas of scripture when asked about the greatest commandment. One from Deuteronomy 6:4-7. Love God! And the other from Leviticus 19:17-18. Love your neighbor! But we also learn HOW to love others in Leviticus. Don't stand by and watch your neighbor sin and say NOTHING. Instead, you shall rebuke him and NOT put up with their sins. That is brotherly love at its best!
- e) Let's face it, there is no way to be crafted into the image of Christ, and let's have no doubts, that is

our calling, without first being able to switch positions; others first for me first. Again, there is no way to be crafted into the image of Christ, without first being able to switch positions; others first for me first!

1) *“In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; **in honor prefer one another**, not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, enduring in troubles, continuing steadfastly in prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, and **given to hospitality.**”* Romans 12:10-13 WEBUS

2) *“If therefore **there is any exhortation** in Christ, if any **consolation of love**, if any **fellowship of the Spirit**, if any **tender mercies and compassion**, **make my joy full** by being like-minded, **having the same love**, being of one accord, of one mind; doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but in humility, **each counting others better than himself; each of you not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.**”* Philippians 2:1-4

WEBUS

- 3) The type of servant to others we are called it becomes next in Philippians 2:5-11, a bondservant **willing to surrender his life for others!**
- f) How can any human possibly do “others first for me first”? When you acknowledge you no longer own your life!
- 1) *“I have been crucified with Christ, and **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20 WEBUS*
- 2) *“Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.** Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 WEBUS*
- g) When you know the heart of God; know what and how to do what He calls you to do; have the self-control and self-discipline to do what God has called you to do and refrain from what He calls you to say no to; no matter how long it takes or how hard it is; and you have become resolute to

never give up; and you live your life in perfect alignment with God's will in all facets of life, spirit, soul and body; and have arrived at the place where you can, with all honesty say, "My life is not my own; it's all about others;" you are ready to tap the Divine Nature—love! That is when God can use you as if you are literally speaking for Him!

- a) *"We are therefore ambassadors on behalf of Christ, **as though God were entreating by us [pleading through us]: we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**" 2 Corinthians 5:20 WEBUS*

7. # 7 **Love:** God is love (2 John 4:8, 16); it is His divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). And there is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). Love is the bond of perfection (Col. 3:14).

- a) Peter tells us that we have the right to participate in the Divine Nature.
- b) We can experience God in us (Col. 1:27). We can have the mind of God and think like God (1. Cor. 2:16). WE CAN LOVE LIKE GOD!
- c) Love is the pinnacle of the discipleship model, the goal of the path to the divine nature.

- d) It is the expression of the full stature and image of Christ, which is the ultimate goal and mandate for the existence of the church (Eph. 4:11-13).
- e) God's divine nature is love. And love is many things, a many faceted diamond. But love is definitely not an emotion or feeling. It is a willful, on purpose decision. Love's all encompassing, uncompromisable description is best elaborated in I Corinthians 13:4-8.
- f) *[Paraphrase]* "Love is the standard by which every thought and action is measured. It is manifested altogether and simultaneously as patience, kindness, admiration, trust, modesty, humility, and meekness. It is gracious, polite, altruistic, peaceful, soothing, virtuous, joyful, righteous, and truthful. It displays fierce loyalty; believes, hopes, and endures all things; and always succeeds and thrives, no matter what. It will never fail you!"
  - 1) *"But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. **The greatest of these is love.**"* 1 Corinthians 13:13 WEBUS
- g) If all attributes are not at work simultaneously, then it is not love.

### (3) Summary

#### (a) Faith to God's Promises by way of Practice

1. Faith is a gift from God that came by way of God's grace. Faith must be practiced to gain continual access to that grace and that is done by adding to your faith these things: **{#1 VIRTUE}** Seek the Lord's will before all else and then fill in the information **{#2 KNOWLEDGE}** that is missing, before you act. Once you have the knowledge necessary, take wise and decisive action **{#3 SELF-CONTROL}**, being aware that at times it is God's will that you refrain from taking action. Recognize that along the way there will be challenges and temptations levied at you to test you, misdirect you, or humble you. Nevertheless, you must stay the course to fulfill God's desires **{#4 PERSEVERANCE}**, unless you have humbly come to the conclusion that you have made an error that must be corrected before you can continue. Under those conditions, it is wise to retrace your steps to find your error. It is best to reconsider if you missed God's voice first, and then proceed forward from there. This discipleship process must be applied to every area of life **{#5 GODLINESS}**. It's okay to be imperfect as you



progress, as long as you continually pursue God's will and make the appropriate corrections. That is what it means to live in the pursuit of godliness. And that is how a disciple becomes an effective minister—able to place others as a priority over oneself **{#6 BROTHERLY AFFECTION}**. One who does this in all areas of life at all times and for all others is a person emulating the love of God, or the nature of Christ, which is indeed the bond of perfection **{#7 LOVE}**. This process must be sought after and applied diligently, if one is to experience the fullness of God's precious and exceedingly great promises, of which there are many, none greater than participation in God's Divine nature.

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. What is the root cause of dissatisfaction according to Ecclesiastes 6:7?

- A. What four protections against such dissatisfaction can be found in Psalms 37:3-7?

- B. What are the chief indicators that a man's abundance is a trap and what will be the final outcome under those conditions according to Ecclesiastes 5:10-17?
- C. What profit is there in this life if abundance is a man's chief desire?

**2. What could change the outcome of Ecclesiastes 5:10-17 according to Ecclesiastes 5:18-20?**

- A. Describe the critical distinctions between the man chasing abundance in his own strength and the man to whom God has given riches and wealth. (Use Deuteronomy 8:18 to help)

**3. Use Exodus 3:21-22 and 12:35-36 to prove that...**

- A. God's children did not have to strive all the days of their lives to gain abundance and that they did not chase riches, but the riches chased them!

**4. How is Joseph the perfect model of faithful stewardship? (See Genesis 41)**

- A. How have we been handed the same mandate as Joseph according to Matthew 24:45-47?

**5. Permanent vs. Temporary Treasures**

- A. Use Luke 12:16-21 to describe the warning about storing up earthly treasures.
- B. Use Matthew 6:19-34 to support your answer.

- C. How does the narrative about the Tower of Babel demonstrate the pernicious nature of man wanting to make a name for himself? (See Genesis 11:1-4)
  - D. What is God's response to that type of self-determination? (See Genesis 11:5-9)
  - E. Describe the Perishable vs. Imperishable Crown of 1 Corinthians 9:19-27.
  - F. Are you willing to become whatever is necessary to fulfill God's plan as opposed to your own?
- 6. In what are you investing your time, talents, and resources? If towards a temporary perishable crown, you are wasting God's calling on your life!**
- A. What's are your highest aspirations?
  - B. For what are you working so hard to achieve?
  - C. What are your ultimate goals?
  - D. What final destination will bring you the greatest satisfaction?
  - E. What are you running toward with such fervency?
  - F. On what are you most passionately focused?
  - G. Regarding your heart's desires, what would be your most cherished prize?
- 7. Describe how your life should be nothing more than drink offering to God, a cool glass of wine poured on a blazing sacrificial fire.**

- A. Use James 4:13-14, Philippians 2:17, and II Timothy 4:6 to help your answers?
- B. Bonus: what does the imagery of the drink offering represent?

**8. God has offered us exceedingly precious promises...**

- A. Name 14 promises that can be found in 2 Peter 1:1-11
- B. Why are they not guaranteed and what must you do to access those promises.

**9. Name and define the seven steps toward receiving all the promises God has for you.**

- A. How are steps #'s 1-4 used in everyday life?
- B. How can steps #'s 5-7 be considered outcomes?
- C. Use the sermon notes to assist you in your answers.