

July 12, 2011
Charles Stanley's Life Principle #25
God blesses us so that we might bless others.

PRAYER FOCUS: _____

Since we have been blessed . . . why aren't we blessing!?!

Intimacy with the Lord, material prosperity, freedom from sin, and the comfort of having close relationships—it's tempting to enjoy such things and forget that others are hurting. We need to remember that God blesses us so that we might bless others.

*For you were called to freedom, brethren;
only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity
for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
Galatians 5:13*

**Since you have been blessed with family and a home . . .
Serve in your home!**

How are you at home? Are you more patient and courteous to acquaintances and strangers than you are towards your spouse and family members?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-11. Does this describe how you treat your family?

**Since you have been blessed with natural abilities
and spiritual gifts . . . use them!**

Read Exodus 31:2-6. Why were Bezalel and Oholiab useful in building the first temple?

Read Romans 12:5-8.

**Since you have been blessed financially
or otherwise materially . . . share your wealth!**

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-18.

What advice does Paul have for wealthy people in verse 17?

What does it mean to be "rich in good deeds"? (verse 18)

How can you apply Acts 1:8 in sharing your financial/material blessings?

Since you have been simply blessed . . . watch for opportunities!

Every day provides opportunities to bless others in small ways: opening a door for someone, guiding someone toward the right aisle in a large store, or allowing another person to go ahead of you in line. The Bible tells us that God will reward the simplest acts of kindness.

"We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger. Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help. This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing."

Matthew 10:41-42 (The Message)