**Luke 6:47-48 NIV**

**Aug 7th Notes**

**“Hitting Rock Bottom”**

**Building on a Strong Foundation**

You have been asking God to bless you recently in these past few weeks. Before God will bless you He will also inspect you, He will inspect your life to insure you can handle the blessing. The question is, can you handle the blessing?

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In the above picture these two homes look the same. They have the same color siding and the same number of windows. They sit in the same neighborhood and were built by the same builder. So looking from the outside we assume these two homes are the same. They look the same until the storm comes. When the storm comes what’s on the inside is what matters most.

Being blessed comes with a price. You have heard it said before that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, **Romans 10:17**. God is looking for people who will HEAR **and** DO His word. God wants you to move past just hearing and become a doer of His word. Ask yourself this question, ***“Can God bless me and trust me to do what He asks me to do with the blessing?”*** **James 2** puts it this way, faith without works is dead. In other words what you believe must be put into practice. In order for you to become a doer of His word you must learn to practice it; His word must become your chosen lifestyle!

**Dig Deep!**

In order for you to receive God’s blessing you must be prepared. God is not going to require you to do a thing unless He knows you are prepared to handle it. Jesus was able to go to the cross for us because God had prepared Him from birth to be able to handle this sacrifice. Like Jesus, God is in the process of preparing you for the purpose He designed you for from birth. All of your life experiences have led you up to this vital moment. You need to hit rock bottom. Some of you must begin and for others you must continue to build on something firm and something solid, something that is unshakeable (God’s Word). For many years you have handled life your way. You have done what you were either taught by your parents or by what society has deemed necessary and important. You are now at a place where you realize doing it your way doesn’t work. The storms of life have come and like a wrecking ball destroyed all that you labored to obtain. The great news about all of this is God wants to rebuild your life! He wants you to dig deep! He is in the process of removing all that is unstable in your life. Translation….there are some people, habits, moods and attitudes that are causing instability in your life. Some of these things are so deeply rooted in your life that it’s hard to up root them and it’s taking a lot of effort and hard work. Don’t allow the “God knows my heart” concept to keep you from obtaining these blessings. Don’t allow the mindset of being too selfish, too afraid, too anxious and too moody from obtaining God’s best in your life. You want the blessing but you don’t want the work that comes along with it. There is a cost to stardom! You will never be great until you fall in love with the process. God calls us to love, love those who spitefully use you but your attitude tells God this is just for show and not for use. The question you have to ask yourself is “What part of my life is only for show and not for use?” You display a lifestyle but in reality you are not what you are displaying. God wants you to know He is not going to bless you if you can’t handle what’s coming. For each new blessing you must be inspected, you must be found able to handle what God has instore for you and if found that you are not able don’t worry, He will prepare you! Don’t get so caught up in circumstances. In those times of need is when God will reveal He is a provider, a healer, and a Savior.

**Learn to forgive the unforgiveable**

God has called us all to love; to love our enemies, our neighbors and our self. God doesn’t want you to be held captive in the moment because God can’t give you more. Don’t get caught in that moment. God knows that un-forgiveness causes are hearts to become hard. He can’t give you more because your heart is hard and it cuts off or minimizes your ability to hear him. (**See Genesis 4**) God told Cain that sin was lying at the door and desired to rule over him but because Cain did not listen he murdered his brother. Likewise, if you are harboring un-forgiveness it’s makes it hard for your heart to hear what God is speaking to you about your life. You have allowed anger to become your god and rule over you. God knows it hurts, God knows it wasn’t your fault but He also knows that you are now stronger because of it. Stop trying to negotiate with God. God will use a certain process to heal you and bless you . He will allow what doesn’t feel good, He will use what is embarrassing and He will require you to step out. It will take some tenacity. It will take some prayer, some patience and some perseverance!

**A New Perspective**

Your view of your past will determine your future. **Romans 8:28**, states all things work together for good. Viewing the past the wrong way will keep you from getting your blessing. Don’t blame the devil the devil is just God’s shovel. It’s God shoveling out the unstable things in your life. He wants to get to a place where there is no distraction; it’s just you and God. When it’s just you and God you are unbeatable. In **Matthew 11:28-30**, Jesus talks about His Yoke. There are different types of yoke. A yoke is a piece of equipment that is used to fasten two animals together for farming purposes. But this allows the two to walk together. God doesn’t want us yoked up with the wrong thing. God doesn’t want you to buy the wrong yoke or even steal the wrong yoke. The yokes obtained in this way are undependable and you will find that they fall apart, though they seemed right at the time. God builds on excellence; not on perfection but a heart that is willing to continue to obtain godly character. In order for you to obtain God’s blessing it will be done at a cost. God will ask you to lose some things.

**God blesses you to be a blessing**

To be a Christian you have to be willing to sacrifice yourself to obtain the will of God. Satan will use people to distract and move you out of the will of God for your life. One of his primary ways of doing this is to get you to stop coming to church. If he can’t distract you from coming often times he will distract you from receiving revelation. Revelation will transport you into transformation through providing you with information. You are vital to the body of Christ. Before your birth God designed you to fulfill your purpose. Through you God wants to touch others with the light of His love. It’s when you acknowledge this that God can come in and build you a new life, a home built on a solid foundation in Christ Jesus. You are already a great Christian! You have been equipped and it’s time to acknowledge that Christ the almighty lives in you. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world! **(1st John 4:4)**  Don’t be afraid of the struggle. Take your authority back from Satan and from people. Build up from the **Rock** bottom!