

You Have Gifts and Talents That Should Not Be Ignored 2 Corinthians 6:1 (NLT)**God Wants to Partner With You If You Are Willing**

A mantra said *“Without God I cannot. Without me God will not.”* The point is that he wants to use you, but He will not force Himself on you. He won’t make you do what you choose not to do.

“If God is your partner, make your plans big.” D.L. Moody

If Our Big God is Your Partner Expect God’s Big Blessings

God is your partner, so expect God’s blessings to be upon you as you use your gifts and talents to serve others!

The Greatness Principle Result: When you bless others, God blesses you.

The greatness principle result in itself is an IF – THEN statement.

That is, if (X) comes to pass, then (Y) will happen. *If* you bless others, *then* God will bless you.

IF – THEN Statements: Isaiah 1:19, 1 John 1:9, Luke 6:38, Matthew 5:7, Proverbs 11:25, John 13:15-17

If you **are not expecting** the blessing of God; you will either miss it or fail to give God the credit.

When Serving with God Expect Four Types of Blessings

1. **Tangible Blessings** - If you never expect tangible blessings, and then you receive one, you may miss that the blessing was actually from God. And you may not give Him thanks.

Next Step: This week I will gratefully make a list of my tangible blessings from God.

2. **Intangible Blessings** - Things that money cannot buy! Most of the time people are looking for tangible blessings, but the intangible are the ones that lead to a deep abiding joy in our lives.

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. Ralph Waldo Emerson

Next Step: I will make a list of intangible blessings that I have experienced this week.

3. **Greater Influence** Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus taught us, that if you are faithful in a little you will be given more! Matthew 25:21

- That’s why Jabez actually prayed for greater influence. 1 Chronicles 4:10 ...enlarge my territory!

In “The Prayer of Jabez” Dr. Bruce Wilkerson has a wonderful section called *Living By God’s Math*.

When it comes to increased territory or influence we think: **My abilities + experience + training + my personality and appearance + my past + the expectations of others = my assigned territory (influence).** God’s math would look more like this: **My willingness and weakness + God’s will and supernatural power = my expanding territory.**¹

Next Step: Like Jabez, I will pray that God increases my influence.

4. **Visible Blessings** A visible blessing is when God gives us the chance to see Him work a miracle firsthand through our willingness to serve others. Don’t miss what God is doing in the lives of others.

Next Step: I will be watching for and expecting to see visible blessings of God.

Life Group and Family Devotional Application

1. Do you think we live our lives and make our plans as if God truly is our partner? Why or why not?
2. If we don’t think God is our partner we tend to live our lives with limits. If self-imposed limits or fears would leave and we really believed that God is our partner, what would you attempt or do different?
3. The greatness principle itself is an “IF – THEN” statement. Share some “IF – THEN” realities that you have experienced in your life or you have witnessed in the life of others.
4. Are you comfortable talking about and expecting the blessings of God in your life? What do you think about the danger that if you are not expecting the blessing of God; you may miss it or fail to give God the credit?
5. Share at least one example of 1) a tangible blessing, 2) an intangible blessing, 3) greater influence, and 4) a visible blessing that you have experienced in your own life.

¹ Dr. Bruce H. Wilkinson, The Prayer of Jabez (Multnomah Publishers, Inc., IBID, P. 39-40)