

YOU CHOOSE FIRST
Series - "It's Time To Make A Deal"
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"You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden ¹⁷ – except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die" (Genesis 2:16-17, NLT).

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children" (Ephesians 5:1, NLT).

† **The Greek word Paul uses is [μιμητής, mimetes] and it is where we get our English word "mimic."**

"God is love" (1 John 4:8, NKJV).

"For God loved the world so much that He gave . . ." (John 3:16, NLT).

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father" (James 1:17, NLT).

† **It is the Greek word [ἀγαθός, agathos] and it means "pure in its nature, excellent, honorable." The word translated as "perfect" is [τέλειος, teleios] and it means "to fulfill its purpose, to fully accomplish or finish."**

Statistics (depending on your translation):

† **The word "bless" is used 88 times in the Bible.**

† **The word "blessing" is used 62 times in the Bible.**

† **The word "blessed" is used 220 times in the Bible.**

"The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it" (Proverbs 10:22, NIV).

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 33:12, NIV).

"Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust" (Psalm 40:4, NIV).

Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8, NIV).

† **Webster's Dictionary Definition of "blessing, or blessed": "A declaration of divine favor, or an invocation imploring divine favor on some or something; a benediction; a wish of happiness pronounces."**

† **A biblical understanding of "blessing or blessed:" A blessing is God's way of _____ you with something that is either _____ or _____.**

IF YOU WANT GOD'S BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE, HERE IS WHAT IS REQUIRED:

1. I _____ TO GOD'S REQUESTS THROUGH OBEDIENCE.

"Should I chase after this band of raiders? Will I catch them?" And the LORD told him, "Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you!" ⁹So David and his 600 men set out" (1 Samuel 30:8-9, NLT).

"So he led David to them, and they found the Amalekites spread out across the fields, eating and drinking and dancing with joy because of the vast amount of plunder they had taken from the Philistines and the land of Judah. David and his men rushed in among them and slaughtered them throughout that night and the entire next day until evening" (1 Samuel 30:16-17, NLT).

2. I _____ GOD'S BLESSING IN MY LIFE.

King David went in, took his place before God, and prayed: "Who am I, my Master God, and what is my family, that You have brought me to this place in life? ¹⁹But that's nothing compared to what's coming, for You've also spoken of my family far into the future, given me a glimpse into tomorrow, my Master God! ²⁰What can I possibly say in the face of all this? You know me, Master God, just as I am. ²¹You've done all this not because of who I am but because of who You are – out of Your very heart! – but You've let me in on it. ²²"This is what makes you so great, Master God! There is none like You, no God but You, nothing to compare with what we've heard with our own ears. ²³And who is like Your people, like Israel, a nation unique in the earth, whom God set out to redeem for Himself (and became most famous for it), performing great and fearsome acts, throwing out nations and their gods left and right as you saved Your people from Egypt? ²⁴You established for Yourself a people – Your very own Israel! – Your people permanently. And You, God, became their God" (2 Samuel 7:18-24, MSG).

3. I _____ GOD'S BLESSINGS TO OTHERS.

"Can this be the voice of my son David?" and he wept in loud sobs. ¹⁷"You're the one in the right, not me," he continued. "You've heaped good on me; I've dumped evil on you. ¹⁸And now you've done it again – treated me generously . . . May God give you a bonus of blessings for what you've done for me today!" (1 Samuel 24:16-18a, 20, MSG).

"God is generous" (James 1:5, GWT).

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27, NIV).

4. I _____ MY M.O. (see Matthew 25:14-30).

† We are view ourselves either as _____ or _____.

"You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts" (Matthew 25:21, TEV).

"You bad and lazy servant!" his master said. "You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? ²⁷Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. ²⁸Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand" (Matthew 25:26-28, TEV).

"To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:29-30, NLT).

"Blessed is the person who . . . delights in the teachings of the LORD and reflects on his teachings day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted beside streams – a tree that produces fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither. He succeeds in everything he does" (Psalm 1:1-3, GWT).

Bible Stats (depending on you translation) > In the Bible . . .

- † _____ verses talk about prayer
- † _____ verses talk about faith
- † _____ verses talk about money & possessions
- † Of the 38 parables Jesus told, _____, deal with money, possessions and our responsibility with them.
 - † The word "believe" is used _____ times
 - † The word "pray" is used _____ times
 - † The word "love" is used _____ times
 - † The word "give" is used _____ times.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, your heart will follow" (Matthew 6:21, PAR).

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children" (Ephesians 5:1, NLT).

WHAT IS YOUR M.O.?