

INCREASE FROM GOD

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When Almighty God made His covenant with Abraham in *Genesis 17*, He promised to **multiply him exceedingly**, v2, and **make him very fruitful**, v6. It was at this point that God changed his name from Abram, (exalted father), to Abraham, (father of a multitude). In this covenant, **the Lord required Abraham to walk before Him in a blameless way**, (blameless not faultless, *1Thes 5:23,24*).

In the New Testament, **those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, are said to be “children of Abraham”**, *Gal 3:7*. They are blessed with believing Abraham, *Gal 3:9*, and receive the promise of the Spirit by faith, *Gal 3:14*.

As with Abraham, **God requires of us to walk before him in a blameless way**. We do this through living by faith in the Word of God, and when we fall short, to confess our sins, repent and turn back to God. *1Jn 1:9*. “The just or righteous, shall live by faith,” *Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, Gal 3:6*. Whatever is not of faith is sin, *Rom 14:23*. Abraham believed God and his faith was counted to him as righteousness, *Gen 15:6*. **Therefore as we follow in the footsteps of Abraham, by walking in faith, God’s blessing rests on us**, as it rested on Abraham. As it is mentioned by God in *Gen 17*, **one of the major blessings of God towards Abraham was INCREASE**. God said I will multiply you exceedingly and make you very fruitful.

On the day of Pentecost, there were 120 disciples, waiting and praying in the upper room in Jerusalem, *Ac 1:15*. Later that day, after the coming of the Holy Spirit, *Ac 2:1-4*, and Peter’s preaching to the people, **3000 were added to their number**, *Ac 2:41*. **This is huge increase**. Increase continued after the healing of the lame man at the Temple gate and Peter’s preaching, 5000 men believed, *Ac 4:4*. We may assume that there were an equal number of women and children **making a total of probably about 15000**. By the time we get to *Ac 5:14*, **the increase was too great to count**. The Scriptures simply say, “multitudes both of men and women,” came to believe in Jesus Christ.

So the Word of God declares, that for those who are serving Christ, by faith, in the power and enabling of the Holy Spirit, **there will be astounding increase**.

Jesus said that as we abide in Him we will produce **fruit, more fruit and much fruit**, *Jn 15:2,5*.

Our life in Christ through the years, is one of **steady increase**. This is the blessing of God.

God says, **“I will increase you more and more, you and your children,”** *Ps 115:14(KJV)*.

The promise of increase to Abraham and his descendants is repeated many times, as in *Gen 12:2, 13:16, 15:5, 21:12,13, 22:17,18, 35:11,12, Ex 1:7, Deut 1:10, 7:12,13*.

Speaking of the Kingdom of God in *Is 9:7*, it says that **there will be no end to its increase**.

Paul spent 2-3 years in Ephesus, *Ac 19:10,20,31*, and the blessing of the Lord upon his ministry was such that **all the Jews and Greeks who lived in Asia heard the Word of God**, *Ac 19:10*. **The Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power**, *Ac 19:20*. Even the unbelievers, who raised up a riot against Paul, said that **he had persuaded large numbers of people in Ephesus and in the whole province of Asia**, *Ac 19:26*.

This same increase is promised to every believer who is abiding in Christ, walking by faith, and serving Christ by the enabling of the Holy Spirit in their God-given calling.

There is no limit. God says, “Ask of Me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession.” *Ps 2:8*.

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, **and you shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”** *Ac 1:8*.

For “increase” also refer to No 264, “Team Ministry.” And refer to the subject index under “fruitfulness”.

Jesus said, “Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened”, *Mat 7:7*. As you serve the Lord, He will meet your every need so that you can be fruitful and increase in your ministry for Him, *Phil 4:19*.

INCREASE IN GOD

- Ex 34:24* For I will cast out the nations before you, and enlarge your borders: neither shall any man desire your land, when you go up to serve the Lord.
- Josh 3:5,7* Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." The Lord said to Joshua, "This day will I begin to magnify you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you."
- 2Sam 22:20*
:37 He brought me out into a large place: He delivered me because He delighted in me.
You have enlarged my steps under me: so that my feet did not slip.
- 1Chr 4:10* Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my borders, and that your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that it might not grieve me! God granted his request.
- 1Chr 17:7,8* The Lord of Hosts said, "I took you from the sheepfold, even from following the sheep, that you should be ruler over My people, Israel. I have been with you wherever you have walked, and have cut off all your enemies from before you. I have made you a name like the name of the great men that are in the world.
- Ps 1:1,2,3** *Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in God's law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*
- Ps 66:12* We went through fire and water but You brought us into a wealthy place.
- Ps 68:6a*
prosperity). God sets the solitary in families; he brings out those which are bound with chains, (into
- Ps 71:21* You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.
- Ps 75:6,7* For promotion comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. God is the Judge: He puts down one and sets up another.
- Ps 115:14* The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children.
- Ps 118:5* I called upon the Lord in distress: the Lord answered me and set me in a large place.
- Ps 144:13* That our storehouse may be full, affording all manner of store; that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in the streets. That our oxen may be strong to labour.
- Is 54:2,3* Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of your house: spare not lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. You shall break forth on the right hand and on the left; and your seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.
- Mat 20:26-28* Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister. Whosoever will be chief among you let him be your servant. Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
- Ac 9:31* Then the churches had rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit were multiplied.
- :35* And all that lived at Lydda and Saron saw him and turned to the Lord.
- :42* It was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.