

**Message #13****Deuteronomy 8:1-20**

The basic formula for getting all of the blessings of God in your life as a believer is very simple:

- 1) Fear God.
- 2) Listen to the Word of God.
- 3) Personally obey the Word of God.
- 4) Remember God and His word throughout all of life.
- 5) Do not ever forget about God and His word.

It does not matter what the dispensation, whether O.T. Israel or N.T. Church, these key essentials that are stressed in the book of Deuteronomy are the same today as they were in 1406 BC.

Israel was on the verge of experiencing blessings and prosperity that she had never known. She was about to hit the financial jackpot. God was about to take her into a Promised Land that He would give her. She was about to experience success and prosperity the likes of which she had never known.

Moses would not be going with them. He was days away from dying. So he wanted to share something with them that would guarantee them that God would bless them for the rest of their lives. What he teaches them here is very simple:

**IN TIMES OF SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY, ALWAYS REMEMBER IT IS GOD WHO GAVE THAT TO YOU AND NEVER FORGET THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU IF YOU FEAR HIM AND ALWAYS SEEK TO UNDERSTAND AND OBEY HIS WORD.**

In this context, Moses sets forth the prerequisites for continuing to receive the great blessings of God, when you are already experiencing those blessings:

**PREREQUISITE #1** – Very carefully focus on understanding and obeying all the word of God.  
**8:1**

God says to His people that if they will very carefully obey His word, they will live and prosper while they are here in this life. Doug McIntosh, in his commentary, said, “Life without God at the center is a slow form of death” (*Deuteronomy*, p. 108). God wants His people understanding “all” the word of God.

**PREREQUISITE #2** – Always remember how God humbled you and tested you to show you He was the one who provided for you. **8:2-5**

When God’s people were in the wilderness experience, God was there with them and He was testing them and He provided for them and blessed them. God wanted His people to remember that He let His people go through a forty year wilderness experience for specific reasons:

**Reason #1** - To humble His people. **8:2a**

It is amazing that former slaves would have to be humbled, but every man is proud no matter what their status in life and God hates pride. **He will never bless a proud person; He will humble him.** The Apostle Paul said when someone is a new convert, you do not put them into some immediate position of leadership or they will become proud, arrogant and ruined (I Tim. 3:6). God did that when He first saved Israel. He did not immediately shower them with all His blessings or they would have become completely arrogant. He needed to humble them first. God permits us to go through difficult things to humble us so we will learn to trust Him and depend on Him.

**Reason #2** - To test His people. **8:2b**

According to **verse 3**, God let them be hungry and then miraculously provided manna for them. This is the first time Moses mentions manna in this book. Moses wanted them to realize that they needed to focus on God and His word and as they would do that, God would provide for them. This was a new kind of provision never given before. God's people need to realize that as we focus our attention on a right relationship with God, He will see to it that He supplies us with everything we need. Right down to our clothing and shoes on our feet (**v. 4**).

**Verse 3** is the very verse that Jesus used to defeat a Satanic temptation. Satan was trying to get Jesus to turn stones into bread. Jesus said, I don't need to do that because I don't live by bread alone. I focus on every word of God and God supplies everything I need. In the aftermath of Jesus being focused on the word of God and obeying it, an angel showed up and ministered to Him.

That is the lesson we need to learn. We must learn the importance of understanding and obeying the Word of God because that is what leads to the blessings of God. God will test His people to see if they have learned that lesson. He will search minds and hearts to determine whether or not His people are doing that. If they are, He will provide for them and care for them in ways they never imagined. That is what Moses wanted Israel to remember and that is what we need to remember. If they trust Him, they will experience some amazing things.

God does not today miraculously produce manna from heaven or water from a rock or give us clothes that don't wear out. What God does today is give us jobs and the ability to earn money (Deut. 8:18). He will send people into our life at just the right time to help us and minister to us.

God is a God who searches the minds and hearts of every one of His people (Rev. 2:23). He tests them to see if they are serious about Him and His word. God will permit things to come into our lives to see whether or not we truly believe His word. If His people stay faithful to Him, they will see Him do some amazing things for them and with them.

It is a good thing to look back over your life and remember what you have seen God do when you have been focused on Him and His word.

When most people think back on their lives, they think about their own accomplishments, achievements and successes. **Wise people look back and don't think about what they did, but about what God did.**

**PREREQUISITE #3** – Always remember to praise God and worship God when God leads you to great blessings. **8:6-10**

Notice the conjunction “therefore” that begins **verse 6**. In view of reflecting on the blessings of God, Moses describes the kind of lifestyle God's people should pursue. These lifestyle patterns are the key to a life that will be continually favored and blessed by God.

There are four lifestyle patterns that need to be maintained by God's people:

**Lifestyle pattern #1** - God's people are to carefully guard the commands of God. **8:6a**

The verb “keep” (shamar) is one that means to very carefully keep, guard, watch, honor, protect and observe (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 837).

What God wants His people to carefully guard and observe is the “commandments” (mitzvah) of God. That noun refers to all of the written precepts that are found in the word of God (*Ibid.*, p. 501).

One thing is very clear and that is if God's people want God's blessings in life, they must be very serious about accurately understanding and applying God's written word in every area and situation of life.

Only Jesus Christ has done this perfectly, but we must be very serious about accurately understanding and applying God's word.

**Lifestyle pattern #2** - God's people are to walk in the ways of God. **8:6b**

We are to take the word of God and implement it in every area of our life. The idea of walking is the idea of living life daily, step by step. So people who will be blessed by God will have a daily, step by step focus on understanding and applying the word of God.

Moses is talking here about a very serious level of knowledge and application of God's word. To walk in the ways of God means we actually know what those ways are.

**Lifestyle Pattern #3** - God's people are to live in a fear of God. **8:6c**

If we want God's blessings, we must reverence and have a fear of God. God searches the hearts and minds of His people to see who truly does this. This is not just an O.T. mandate. The New Testament stresses time and time again that God's people are to fear God:

In Luke 12:5, 7 - Jesus said to fear God who can cast one into hell.  
In Acts 9:31, Luke says the early church developed in a fear of the Lord.  
In II Corinthians 5:11, Paul said knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men.  
In II Corinthians 7:1, Paul said we are to develop in holiness in the fear of God.  
In Ephesians 5:21, Paul said we are to be subject to each other in the fear of Christ.  
In Philippians 2:12, Paul says work out your salvation with fear and trembling.  
In I Peter 1:17, Peter says conduct yourselves in fear during your stay on earth.  
In I Peter 2:17, Peter says fear God.  
In Revelation 14:7, an angel announces to the world in the Tribulation to fear God.

God's people are to live their lives with a fear, a reverence and an awesome respect for God

Unfortunately today, most people do not have a fear and reverence for God and one reason why is many churches are not teaching the people that they need to fear God. This truth is being lost and, as a result, God's people are missing out on some wonderful blessings in their own lives.

In fact, Moses said if God's people guard the word of God, walk in the ways of God and fear God, then God would give them a great future. Now the specific promises here are for Israel and not for the church. These are specific land blessings promised to Israel if they stayed faithful:

**(Future Blessing #1)** - God would lead them into a good land. **8:7a**

**(Future Blessing #2)** - God would lead them to a land of good water. **8:7b**

**(Future Blessing #3)** - God would lead them to a land of flourishing agriculture. **8:8**

**(Future Blessing #4)** - God would lead them to a land of abundant prosperity. **8:9**

Simple formula - Fear God; listen to the Word of God; obey the word of God; remember the word of God all the days of your life and don't ever forget it and all the blessings of God will be yours. He will pour out His amazing blessings on your life.

Now there was one more lifestyle pattern that was needed, when God did all of this for His people.

**Lifestyle Pattern #4** - They were to praise and worship God when they experienced these future blessings. **8:10**

**God's people have the responsibility to "praise God from whom all blessings flow."**

Dr. Warren Wiersbe made a significant observation on this point when he said, "There is a peril in prosperity and comfort, for we may become so wrapped up in the blessings that we forget the one who gave us the blessings" (*Be Equipped*, p. 77).

There are people who are speaking negatively about the blessings of the United States, and are demeaning the God who has given these blessings, and mark my words, they will perish.

**PREREQUISITE #4** – Never forget God or His word when He is blessing you. **8:11-20**

The fourth prerequisite to maintaining the blessings of God is to never forget to say “thank you.” God’s people, in the midst of experiencing good things in life, can forget to thank the One who gave them the good blessings in life.

Moses brings this up because this is a real threat when a nation or an individual is prospering. There can be a tendency to forget to say thank you to the One who gave the prosperity and to become loose or lax in one’s focus on God’s written word. Moses says you do not ever want to forget God and His written word. In fact, in **verse 11** he again mentions “commandments” (mitzvah); “ordinances” (mishpatim) and statutes (huqqim).

Moses gives five warning reasons why one does not want to forget about God and His word:

**Warning Reason #1** - Your heart will become proud and you will forget God. **8:11-14a**

God hates pride and He does not want His people to be proud people. One of the first things that happens when people forget God is they become proud. They become proud of themselves; their possessions; their achievements and their prosperity. They strut around as proud peacocks in their arrogance.

We can forget where we came from and what we were prior to coming to faith in Jesus Christ. We were fallen, depraved sinners.

**Warning Reason #2** - You will forget your former slavery. **8:14b**

God’s people need to take a trip down memory lane and remember how life was before they had a relationship with God.

**Warning Reason #3** - You will forget God’s former protection. **8:15a**

It was God that led you through the wilderness. It was God who protected them from fiery serpents and scorpions.

**Warning Reason #4** - You will forget God’s wonderful provision. **8:15b-16**

It was God that provided water for you and manna for you.

**Warning Reason #5** - You will forget God gave you your wealth. **8:17**

When you listen to many people talk about their wealth, they want you to believe they did it themselves without any help from Almighty Sovereign God. God gave them their life; God gave them their skills; God gave them their mind; God gave them their success and they act like they did it.

**PREREQUISITE #5** – Always remember God is the one who blessed you. **8:18**

Three realities to always remember:

**Reality #1** - God is your God. **8:18a**

**Reality #2** - God gave you the power to earn and make your wealth. **8:18b**

**Reality #3** - God blessed you because of a covenant He made with you. **8:18c**

The biggest threat when one is prospering is not the enemies; it is one's own self.

In **verses 19-20**, Moses says if you ever forget God and forget these things, God will cause you to perish like the other nations.

So when one looks at Israel in the land and she is flourishing in the land, we may know that she is in a right relationship with God.

So we ask a question. When you look at Israel, does it look like she is in the land and flourishing and experiencing all of the blessings of God? No. It will take the humiliation of the Great Tribulation to humble her to bring her to the point where she will realize her need to cry out to God and to Jesus Christ for salvation.

But let's make this personal. When people look at us, do they see that we are spiritually flourishing and experiencing the blessings of God? Do they see that we are very serious about guarding God's word and obeying it?

Do not let your pride keep you from what God wants to do with you and for you.