

Balance in Blessing

2Kings 4:1 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." 2 Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil." 3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." 5 She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

The Purpose for This Series:

1. To put our lives and our possessions in proper _____ .
2. To find _____ in a fast-paced, off-centered society.
3. To find balance as a _____ so that God can use us to reach our part of the _____ for His Kingdom's sake.

Why Does a Church Grow?

A church grows when the _____ chooses to _____ it!
Matt. 16:18 . . . on this rock I will build my church,

How Does A Church Grow?

_____ don't _____ !
Mark 4:26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

What Is Our Part in Church Growth?

To provide an _____ for growth.
Luke 8:8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

1. By helping to _____ the " _____ " of the heart!
-- Through _____ lives
Matt. 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

--Through God-honoring _____

2. By scattering the " _____ "!
2Tim. 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.
3. Be removing the " _____ " the stifle growth.

Types of "weeds"?—

What Do We Learn of God's Blessing?

1. _____ and _____ things happen to _____ people.
2Kings 4:1 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead,
2. It is _____ to ask for God's blessing when we have been _____ to our responsibilities.
2Kings 4:1 . . . "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD
3. We don't know _____ God chooses to bless some and not others! His will is perfect. (And there are different _____ of blessing!)
4. God will _____ use what you already _____ to produce great results! Be faithful with the _____ things.
5. God often uses the _____ us to participate in that blessing.

Don't be too proud to _____ for help!

Don't be too proud to _____ help from others!

6. When God is blessing, expect the blessing to be _____ !
2Kings 4: 3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few.
7. When God is blessing, do the _____ that it takes to _____ that blessing.
8. Remember: God will not _____ anything,
2Kings 4: 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped.
9. When you have _____ God's blessings, be _____ with them!
2Kings:5:7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

Your Thoughts: