

## **Faith In Action: Giving God Permission To Bless Me**

### **God loves us and wants the best for us.**

- If no one ever says “I love you” to you, always know that God loves you.
- God gave us free will.
- God will NOT force us to submit.
- God will NOT force us to obey. We will simply face the consequences of disobedience.
- In Revelation 3:20, Jesus said, “I stand at the door, and knock...” Not break down the door. Not kick in the door. Jesus waits for US to open the door and allow Him to come in.
- Jesus wants us to experience an abundant life. (John 10:10)
- We must give God permission to bless us.
- We must place ourselves in the proper position to receive God’s blessings.
- ***What does it mean to be in the proper position to receive God’s blessings?***
- ***How do we get into the proper position to receive God’s blessings?***

### **Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew who she was and what that entailed.**

- Luke 1:38a
  - “I am the Lord’s servant” (NIV)
  - “Behold the handmaid of the Lord” (KJV)
  - “Behold the maidservant of the Lord!” (NKJV)
- ***Do we know who we are in the Lord?***
  - Do we know that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made?” (Psalm 139:14)
  - If yes, how do we know?
  - If not, why don’t we know?
- ***Can we confidently say, as Mary did, “I am the Lord’s servant?”***
- ***What things/events/people prevent us from “being the Lord’s servant?”***

### **Mary gave God permission to bless her.**

- Luke 1:38b
  - “May your word to me be fulfilled.” (NIV)
  - “Be it unto me according to thy word.” (KJV)
  - “Let it be to me according to your word.” (NKJV)
- ***Are we willing to let God’s will be fulfilled in our lives? If not, why not?***
- ***Are we willing to commit to God’s assignments?***

**Three sources for struggles:**

- **From God**
  - Character Development
    - We cannot be fully utilized by God in our assignments until God develops our character.
  - Faith Development
  - Holiness/Righteousness
  - Fruit of the Spirit
    - We cannot display the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 until we become holy and righteous through sanctification.
  - Gifts of the Spirit
    - We cannot effectively use the gifts of the Spirit listed in I Corinthians 12:4-11 until we become holy and righteous through sanctification.
- **From the adversary**
  - Who is our adversary?
    - The adversary is NOT omniscient. Don't give the devil too much credit.
    - The adversary is NOT omnipresent. Demons work on Satan's behalf.
    - Our adversary, the devil, walks about/travels to and fro/prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he MAY devour. I Peter 5:8
    - “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness** of this world, against **spiritual wickedness** in high places.” Ephesians 6:12
  - **Individuals**
  - **Institutional/Systemic**
    - \_\_\_\_\_ism
    - Oppressive System
- **Self-Inflicted**
  - *What consequences are we facing from some of the bad decisions that we have made?*
  - *What caused us to make those bad decisions?*
  - *Do we have high self-esteem?*
  - *Are we living to our full potential with God?*
  - *Are we living below our inheritance?*

***What does it mean to be in the proper position to receive God’s blessings?  
How do we get into the proper position to receive God’s blessings?***

- **Allow Jesus to be Savior and Lord**
  - Matthew 16:24. “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’” (NIV)
- **Attend church regularly**
  - Hebrews 10:24-25. “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (NIV)
- **Pray**
  - Matthew 6:6. “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (NIV)
- **Fast**
  - Matthew 6:17-18. “But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (NIV)
- **Study God’s Word**
  - **DAILY.** Studying encompasses **MORE** than just reading.
  - How can we know God’s promises toward us if we never study God’s Word?
  - How can we live at our level of inheritance if we don’t actually know what we’re **ENTITLED** to?
  - What do we know about Jesus?
  - Matthew Chapters 5, 6 and 7 will teach us Jesus’ teachings.
  - ***If we quote our pastor or favorite TV preacher more easily and more readily than we quote Jesus, whose disciple are we, really?***

**Questions for Self-Reflection:**

***How do we get into the proper position to overcome our struggles?***

***How do we get into the proper position to receive God’s blessings?***

***Do we know confidently, like Mary, who we are in God?***

***Can we confidently say, as Mary did, “I am the Lord’s servant?”***

***What things/events/people prevent us from being “the Lord’s servant?”***

***Are we willing to let God’s will be fulfilled in our lives? If not, why not?***

***Are we willing to commit to God’s assignments?***

***Have we FULLY submitted ourselves to the sanctification process?***

***What character traits do we have that God wants to change?***

***What systemic force(s) are source(s) of struggle for us?***

***What consequences are we facing from some of the bad decisions that we have made?***

***What caused us to make those bad decisions?***

***Do we have high self-esteem?***

***Are we living up to our full potential with God?***

***Are we living below our inheritance?***

***How often do we fast? What is the quality of our prayer time?***

***Of the 24 hours in the day, how much time do we spend studying God’s word?***

***If we quote our pastor or favorite TV preacher more easily and more readily than we quote Jesus, whose disciple are we, really?***