GROWING IN GOD

What if you had a million dollars in the bank,
but didn't know it or didn't know how to get it out?
That is what is happening to a lot of Christians,
as it relates to getting God's provisions.

By Mel D Westbrook MBTh

Learning The Biblical Truths Through Study

You Inherited God

You Have A Perfect Record With God

Rom 8:17 (NIV) Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory. You inherited God! He is now your heavenly Father. That puts God and all of His provisions in your spiritual "bank" account. Once that happened, you were able to start making "withdrawals" from your account. From that point on, all you need to do is learn how to make those "withdrawals."

One of the first things you need to learn how to get, are the benefits of godly attitudes and character. Deposited into your account is a perfect record with God. **2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** If you had a million dollars in the bank, it would be yours; but, you would have to draw some of it out, in order to take advantage of it. That is the way it is with you being **a new creation.**

Credited-Righteousness

Rom 4:4-5 (NIV) Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God Who justifies the wicked, his faith is *credited* as righteousness. As a Christian, you aren't always righteous in your relationship with yourself and other people. If it weren't for salvation and justification, every time you mistreated yourself or others, it would be a sin and it would separate you from God.

Rom 4:7-8 (NIV) Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him. When you don't sin against yourself and others *on purpose*, even though you do things that would typically be a sin, your **sins are covered** by Jesus' blood. This keeps your record perfect before God. But, it doesn't keep it perfect with others. When you do things that are wrong, bad, or evil against them, you hurt them and they hate it.

People Relationships Need To Improve

Direct Access To God

One of the reasons Jesus provided you a perfect record with God is, it is a requirement of a holy, righteous, perfect God. If God can't look at you through Jesus' blood and see sinlessness, you will not be given access. But, because you have a perfect record with Him, you can pray to Him any time you want. That brings all of God provisions into your account.

If you do what it takes to start "withdrawing" the provisions of God out of your account, you will start getting a better and better record with yourself and other people. You will start treating them with righteousness. This is in your account: **2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he *is* a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** This is in you account; but, you can't experience it or take advantage of it until you "draw it out" of your account. It is yours; but, you must access it.

Spiritual Growth

Mat 5:48 (NIV) Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. This isn't an assignment for you to try to fulfill. Jesus is speaking this into your account. The word "be" is a creative word, when Jesus speaks it. In Genesis, when Jesus said: "Light *be*!" The original Hebrew words say: "Light was." When you read verses like Matthew 5:48, the main thing you have to do is, accept it into you through faith.

All of these things that deal with perfection have to do with relationships. And, all sins have to do with relationships. If you sin against yourself, other people, or God, it will be a relational issue. You will have done something, in your relationship, that was wrong, bad, or evil. But, as you "do what it takes" to start drawing perfection out of your account, your relationship with yourself and others will start to improve. And, when perfection is in your account, that means you have unlimited resources. You will never overdraw your account.

Getting A Better Record With People

How Did You Get Saved?

The main way for you to get everything that is yours, is presented, as the **Word Of Faith** procedure, in Romans 10:8: **But what does it say? "<u>The word is near you</u>; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, <u>the word of faith</u> we are proclaiming (NIV).** In the next two verses, the way this **Word Of Faith** procedure is used for salvation is presented in Romans 10:9-10.

That if you <u>confess with your *mouth*</u>, "Jesus is Lord," and <u>believe in your *heart*</u> that God raised Him from the dead, <u>you *will* be saved</u>. For it is <u>with your *heart* that you believe and are justified</u>, and it is <u>with your *mouth* that you confess and are saved</u> (NIV).

You used the **Word Of Faith** procedure, presented in Romans 10:8. But, you personalized it according to Romans 10:9-10, and you were saved. Because you used this **Word Of Faith** procedure, you *instantly* became a child of God, a member of His family, and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom. This **Word Of Faith** procedure is extremely powerful. And, it is vital that you use it on everything you want to start taking advantage of for your life.

Applying The Procedure

You Must Believe It

Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; <u>it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*</u>," that is, <u>the word of faith</u> we are proclaiming. Once again, what if you had a million dollars in the bank, but didn't know it or didn't know how to get it out? In that case, you could live in poverty for as long as you stayed in that condition. That is what is happening to a lot of Christians.

For example: Romans 5:5 says you have God's love **poured** into your heart. If something is already yours, you can use the **Word Of Faith** procedure on it. But, if you don't believe you have it or don't know you have it, you won't be willing to say with your *mouth:* "I have God's love." It would have to be based on the fact that you believe, in your *heart,* that you have God's love.

Your Faith Comes From Jesus

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Every time you need to believe something in your heart, it all starts with Jesus and the Bible. If you don't believe it in your heart, then it will be impossible for you to truly confess it with your mouth.

Once again, it all started at the moment you "did what it took" to become a Christian. Romans 10:17 explains how you were able to **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.** You were only able to do that, because you actually believed that was true. Jesus empowered you to believe it was true by speaking faith into you, so you could.

Jesus Makes It All Possible

The Good News Message

Rom 10:17 (NIV) Consequently, *faith comes from hearing the message*, and the message is heard through the word (rhema) of Christ. In the Greek language that your Bible was translated into English from, there are two types of "word." There is the written word (logos) and there is the spoken word (rhema). So, Romans 10:17 actually says: Faith comes from *hearing* the message, and the message is *heard* through the *spoken* word (rhema) of Christ.

When Hebrews 12:2 says Jesus is the Author of your faith, that means He authored it, by *speaking* your first faith into you. That empowered you to **believe in your heart that God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead.** By Him speaking faith into you, He also empowered you to **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord."** Just like you are to use the **Word Of Faith** procedure for the rest of your life, you are to continue to look to Jesus to speak faith into you for those things you need.

It Has To Be Real

If Jesus didn't speak faith into you, through the gospel message, you would **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"** and it would not be real to you. You wouldn't be able to **believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.** Christianity is supernatural; if Jesus weren't the living Christ, none of this would work. The whole Bible only works, based on its total dependency that God is alive, real, and actively involved in all of Christianity.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith: You won't be able to believe anything in the Bible, without Jesus' supernatural faith. Romans 7:15-24 is describing a person trying to use human faith, effort, and reasoning. Since Christianity is all supernatural, it takes Jesus working in, with, for, to, and through you. As it says in John 15:5b: **Apart from Me you can do nothing.**

Getting The Biblical Truths Through Prayer

I Inherited God

I Have A Perfect Record With God

Rom 8:17 (NIV) Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory. Jesus, help me realize that I have inherited God! He is now my heavenly Father. Help me believe that this puts God and all of His provisions in my spiritual "bank" account. Now that this is true, help me make "withdrawals."

Jesus, help me get the benefits of godly attitudes and character. Teach me that, deposited into my account, is a perfect record with God. **2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** Help me see that if I had a million dollars in the bank, it would be mine; but, I would have to draw some of it out, in order to take advantage of it. Teach me that this is the way it is with me being **a new creation.**

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Jesus, help me now look at my relationship with myself and other, help me see that I don't have a perfect record with others. When I do things that are wrong, bad, or evil against them, I hurt them and they hate it. Help me care about my relationship with myself and others. Help me let you do something about that.

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Jesus, help me see that one of the reasons You provided me a perfect record with God is, it is a requirement of a holy, righteous, perfect God. If God can't look at me through Your blood and see sinlessness, I will not be given access. But, thank You for giving me a perfect record with God, so I can pray to Him any time I want. Thank You making all of God provisions be placed in my account.

Jesus, help me do what it takes to start "withdrawing" the provisions of God out of my account, so I will start getting a better and better record with myself and other people. Let this empower me to start treating them with righteousness. Teach me that this is in my account: **2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he *is* a new creation; <u>the old has gone, the new has come</u>!**

The old has gone, the new has come: Jesus, even though I am not experiencing a lot of this, help me believe that this is in my account. But, help me understand that I can't experience it or take advantage of it until I "draw it out" of my account. It is mine; but, I must access it.

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