

# ROI

=====

## Philippians 4:8-19

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

+==+

The LORD'S wisdom considers that; you need to be at peace, to allow you to project peace. That is a simple equation: in order for you to send something out, there must be an available supply of that thing, and, too, the supply must be under your control.

But, why should you, O woman, care about sending out peace? Why don't we just be stingy, and receive that precious product for our self and our own, only? One good reason not to be so constricted in your service is this:

*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

(Luke 6:38)

Okay, let us evaluate that, as looking at it from a certain modern perspective.

*Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?*

*And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

*But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.*

(Matthew 19:27-30)

~~~~~

But, can we really believe either one of these will be ours?

- *good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over*
- *receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life*

Aren't we more likely to be a part of this, next indicated, dynamic?

*Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.*

*The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.*

(Matthew 18:23-26)

Such is the time when, we just do not have enough to pay all the bills. In such times, we have to ask for an extension. Maybe, even, we will receive this blessing.

*Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.*

(Matthew 18:27)

But, please do not do the following.

*But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which*

*owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.*

*And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.*

*And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.*

(Matthew 18:28-30)

If you do press hard on your debtors; then, the world knows that you have some resources . . . since you had enough to give some to someone else. So, somehow, the authorities will hear of your capability; maybe, even, in this fashion . . .

*So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.*

(Matthew 18:31)

And, since you are able to give some to someone else; the authorities will require you to pay those dues and taxes that are appropriate for the forgiveness of a debt. Yes, this, too, is subject to income tax; at least, it is in the United States of America, today. In that day, though, things were not so gentle; in that day, this is how that was done.

*Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?*

*And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.*

(Matthew 18:32-34)

In the modern day, the tormentor uses these two thumbscrews: publicly posted lien, and, diminished credit rating. To remove our self from that dynamic, we must internalize the conclusion of the matter that Jesus presented. The conclusion is indicated in this reminder, telling us to be temperate in our behavior.

*So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

(Matthew 18:35)

If you want to be modern about it; think in terms of ROI (return on investment). Actually, I want you to modify that expansion; as it being, return on initiative. As we read, above: when the initiative is powered by our election to serve; then, we are guaranteed to receive a goodly return. Please, be aware of this: if necessary, the LORD will require the due contribution from the recipient of the services that the Spirit channels

through them. That requirement from the LORD operates at this level: *for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee.*

*If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.*

*Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou putteth thine hand unto.*

*For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.*

(Deuteronomy 15:7-11)

Moreover, the requirement, as from the LORD, operates at this level: *to every man according to his several ability.*

*For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

*And unto one he gave five talents,*

*to another two,*

*and to another one;*

*to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

(Matthew 25:14-15)

Surely, an ROI is a good thing to deliver; as we see, here.

*Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.*

*And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

(Matthew 25:16-17)

Surely, undue emphasis on safety is not good for citizens of the family of God. That emphasis is not good because; it shows our lack of faith in the LORD.

*But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

(Matthew 25:18)

Please know this: in due time, our measure of faith will be on display. On the one hand, an ROI will project a bright light.

*After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

*And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.*

*His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

*He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.*

*His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

(Matthew 25:19-23)

On the other hand; sometimes, when our faith is undiscovered, as in undue emphasis on safety, it will send forth a kind of decaying darkness.

*Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.*

(Matthew 25:24-25)

Surely, we need to have faith in the LORD'S advance placement of supporting resources. Among those resources for the men of the talents is the one referenced, here.

*His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.*

(Matthew 25:26-27)

For us, the exchangers are those sources of additional support for our effort. These are the outside assets that are willing to add their part to the ROI. It is definitely sure that the LORD will receive an ROI, from some source; whether we cooperate, or not.

*Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.*

(Matthew 25:28-29)

Therefore, O woman; be assured that, the recipient of the fruit of your election will provide a return on your imitative. As done by a certain woman, this is such an initiative that will fulfill that requirement.

*And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.*

(2 Kings 4:8-10)

Here is the first level of return on her initiative.

*And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there. And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite.*

*And when he had called her, she stood before him.*

*And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host?*

*And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.*

*And he said, What then is to be done for her?*

*And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.*

*And he said, Call her.*

*And when he had called her, she stood in the door.*

*And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son.*

*And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.*

*And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.*

(2 Kings 4:11-17)

The woman needed to be ready to go the full distance; moving to ever greater enhancement of the blessing that the LORD placed in her life. After all, the blessing is, too, an obligation to serve the LORD. This mother understood that; and, she also understood that, she needed to reach out to others. In a sense, the woman's interaction with others was forcefully extracted, here.

*And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. And he said unto his father, My head, my head.*

*And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.*

*And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.*

*And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.*

*And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath.*

*And she said, It shall be well.*

*Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee.*

(2 Kings 4:18-24)

Even though you must reach out to another, as pertains to another servant of God; O woman, please know this: the designated servant of the LORD is required to stand ready to finish the work that he begins with the woman--whether in marriage, or in other forms of partnership--as had to be done, here . . .

*And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.*

*Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?*

*Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.*

(2 Kings 4:27-29)

The designated obligation of a servant of God is not sufficiently satisfied by making it a kind of missionary matter. Sending money, or other some asset--even, another person--is not sufficient.

*And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.*

*And he arose, and followed her.*

*And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.*

(2 Kings 4:30-31)

In all matter of linkage, by the LORD, of one with another, as being a part of their return on initiative; the man must be ready to go, personally.

*And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.*

*Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.*

*And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite.*

*So he called her.*

*And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.*

*Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.*

(2 Kings 4:32-37)

Trust in this: God will deliver a return on your initiative.

And, in that understanding; rest in the LORD, as in the pattern of this truth: God's past, sterling record is one of, Absolutely Faithful Performance.



*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

(Isaiah 55:1-2)

+++++

## Sealing the Motivation

As pertains to your election; your initiative is not of your own construction. Surrounding your drive to do anything, there is the prior preparation that was done by the LORD. The redemption of Israel illustrates this power, of prior preparation.

*And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth. For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth.*

*And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.*

(Exodus 9:13-16)

The apostle Paul gives us further appreciation of why we need to consider Israel's redemption, in the time of Pharaoh. That is a very useful consideration--almost, a necessary one--as we make decisions about releasing our imitative, so as, to receive a return.

*What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.*

*For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.*

*Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

(Romans 9:14-18)

As your faith in God gains greater occupancy of your initiative; in that dedication to your election to serve, you will not be left wanting. This is so because; the LORD will never allow His work to go unfulfilled. So says the LORD . . . wherefore . . .

*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

(Isaiah 55:6-11)

~~~~~  
+ = +

*In our chosen occupation,  
There is great demand  
For each one of us to be  
Ready to take our stand,*

*To increase the size  
Of that product yield  
Which is appropriate  
For our particular field.*

*There is also a pressing,  
Sometimes odious, indication  
That; we must push, upward,  
The percent of utilization*

*Of raw skill that are in  
Management's assessment  
Of our contribution to  
Return on investment.*

*Sometimes, the press is  
So very disconcerting;  
Such that, we seem to be  
Moving toward flirting*

*With trying not to press  
Toward any arbitrary mark;  
Since, we are, probably,  
Shooting blanks in the dark.*

*But, the trigger is our election;  
So, do not hesitate to pull it;  
For, you are not shooting  
A normal kind of bullet:*

*Its motion a blessed force,  
So profoundly provocative,  
As to, in God, propel your  
Return on initiative.*

~~~~~  
**Next In  
Election to Serve;  
Delicately  
(Quickening)**

+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+==+