



Double Blessing ***How to Get It. How to Give It.***

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God doesn't bless us to raise our standard of living. God blesses us to raise our standard of giving, and that's where true joy is found. The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Chase the Lion* challenges us not to settle for half of what God offers when it comes to blessings—we are BLESSED to BLESS.

His discovery started with a simple experiment. Whenever Batterson received a blessing, he would give a similar blessing away. If someone paid him a compliment or gave him a gift or went out of their way to help him, he would return the favor by doing something similar for someone else.

We *flip the blessing* by blessing others in the way God has blessed us. That's how the blessing becomes a double blessing. It turns giving into a game—one we can't win because God will always outgive us! It's an ancient truth found within the Abrahamic covenant: "I will bless you . . . and you will be a blessing."

In other words, we are blessed to bless. The first blessing is receiving, but it doesn't end there. The second blessing is giving it away! That's the double blessing. And that's where double joy is found.

In a day and age where the idea of blessing has been reduced to a hashtag (#blessed), Batterson challenges readers to pursue true, God-glorifying blessing and experience an exponential impact by participating in the double blessing.

Don't settle for half of what God offers. Discover how you can both get it and give it . . . in *Double Blessing*.

My Synopsis:

A Christmas gift from my daughter, a thankful blessing indeed! A reminder not only for us to count our blessings, but to be more proactive about listening to God to ensure that the blessings He bestows upon us are shared. For me now, in this season of life, it's important to remember that the most valuable blessing I should be focusing on is sharing Christ, love, and time with my kids, and not focusing as much on the dollars and cents of business.

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Double Blessing

By Mark Batterson

p. 1 **Ariadne's Thread**

p. 1 Weaving your way through difficult seasons of life can feel as hopeless as trying to escape an ancient labyrinth.

p. 2 Before original sin, there was original blessing.

p. 3 ...you've got to position yourself for that blessing.

p. 3 The blessing of God is not an immunity card against pain and suffering.

p. 4 God doesn't bless us to raise our standard of living. God blesses us to raise our standard of giving.

p. 9 **Part 1: Double Blessing – How to Get It**

p. 11 **Double Portion**

p. 13 Legacy isn't measured by what we accomplish in our lifetimes. It's measured by every blessing we bestow.

p. 14 God does not get nervous! And neither should we!

p. 14 One of the most common mistakes we make is thinking we can attain the level of success others have achieved without the corresponding sacrifices.

p. 14 If you want success without sacrifice, good luck with that...

p. 15 God honors bold prayers because bold prayers honor God.

p. 16 If you let your circumstances define the way you see God, you are a prisoner of perspective. Or worse, a prisoner of your past mistakes! But if you let God define the way you see your circumstances, you are a prisoner of hope.

p. 18 When we have a setback, we do not take a step back, because God is already preparing our comeback.

p. 18 Not only does the act of forgiveness break the curse of bitterness, but it also invokes the blessing of God.

p. 21 **Umbrella Blessing**

p. 22 I like to think of the blessing of God as an umbrella. An umbrella doesn't change the forecast. But the blessing of God does provide a covering of sorts, an extra layer of protection against the elements.

p. 22 We need to get under those things God has put over us so we can get over those things God has put under us.

– Ed Young

p. 23 There is no better way to position ourselves for God's blessing than good old-fashioned obedience.

p. 24 The *penalty* for sin was paid in full two thousand years ago, but you still have to live with the *consequences* of your actions.

p. 24 ...obedience is *the first habit* of highly blessed people.

p. 29 I'd rather have one God idea than a thousand good ideas! Good ideas are good, but God ideas change the course of history!

p. 29 ...the attitude with which we approach our work should shift the atmosphere.

p. 30 ...it's in our weaknesses that His power is made perfect.

p. 31 If your goal is to multiply sales for selfish purposes, God won't bless it. But if your motives are pure, God has blessings in categories you cannot conceive of.

p. 31 God doesn't bless lack of effort anymore than lack of integrity.

p. 33 **The X Factor**

p. 34 What is the double blessing? The first blessing is using our God-given time and talent to make a difference in the world. The second blessing is using the treasure that our time and talent produces to generously bless others.

p. 36 The X factor is the favor of God...

- p. 37 ...if you compromise your integrity, you short-circuit God's blessing.
- p. 38 If you have to compromise your integrity for an opportunity, it's not a opportunity.
- p. 38 ...blessings that are the by-product of integrity have a way of boomeranging months and years and decades later.
- p. 43 **The Avogadro Constant**
- p. 44 Your disguises may fool everyone else, but they deflect the blessing of God.
- p. 46 Death and life are in the power of the tongue.
- p. 48 ...the right words at the right time can change the game. They can even change a life.
- p. 51 **God in the Hands of Angry People**
- p. 54 What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. – A.W. Tozer
- p. 56 ...the mistake that so many of us make when someone we love or trusts lets us down – we give up on God.
- p. 61 Figure out what God wants you to do and what works for you; then put it into practice.
- p. 63 **Fight For It**
- p. 64 Life will knock you down, but you have a choice to make. You can stay down. Or you can get back up with even more determination to fight for what you believe.
- p. 64 Choose your battles wisely.
- p. 65 The blessing of God is not good luck; it's hard work. The blessing of God is not a magic trick; it's long obedience in the same direction.
- p. 65 You can't just pray like it depends on God. You also have to work like it depends on you.
- p. 67 Our hardest-fought battles often result in our hardest-earned lessons, the kind of lessons you never forget.
- p. 69 If you want to build trust, don't just share your success stories. When you authentically share your failure stories, it builds trust and increases empathy.
- p. 69 One way to keep our sense of perspective is by counting our blessings.
- p. 70 ...you control what you control.
- p. 71 Leaders get to make the decisions no one else wants to, and that means we're the lightning rods for people's complaints.
- p. 71 Leadership takes a toll, and so does life.
- p. 72 If we're being honest, many of our prayers revolve around personal comfort.
- p. 72 Sin is the epitome of poor judgment.
- p. 72 ...sin is meeting a *legitimate need* in an *illegitimate way*.
- p. 72 ...if we don't value God's blessing above all else, we sell our souls for a cheap substitute.
- p. 73 If you want to experience God's full blessing, you have to do God's will God's way.
- p. 75 **Blessings in Disguise**
- p. 76 ...past challenges that uniquely prepare us for opportunities.
- p. 76 God doesn't always deliver us *from* our difficulties, but He does deliver us *through* the.
- p. 80 If you aren't experiencing any opposition, it might mean you're maintaining the status quo and not making much of a difference.
- p. 81 ...the blessings of God don't always seem like blessings at the beginning.
- p. 81 ...opposition can have a refining effect on vision.
- p. 81 ...people don't trust leaders who have it all figured out. They trust leaders who walk with a limp.
- p. 83 If you curse those who cause you pain, it only compounds the problem.
- p. 834 ...the only way out of our pain is to leverage it for someone else's gain.

- p. 87 **Living in Wide-Eyed Wonder**
- p. 89 Cynicism sucks the mysterious out of the mundane, while skepticism sucks the miraculous out of it. And the soul suffers. Worship does the exact opposite.
- p. 93 Whatever you don't turn into praise turns into pride.
- p. 94 Generosity rises or falls to the level of our gratitude.
- p. 95 Gratitude is a pilgrimage back to the foot of the cross. It's giving thanks and giving glory to God.
- p. 95 Gratitude is thanking God *after* He does it. But faith is next-level gratitude. Faith is thanking God *before* He does it.
- p. 96 We give up because we didn't get the whole miracle, but some miracles happen in stages.
- p. 97 God won't bless a lack of effort any more than a lack of gratitude.
- p. 98 Instead of trivializing what is sacred, we must sanctify what seems trivial.
- p. 98 The only way to *get the blessing* is to see the blessing, including well-disguised blessings like brokenness.
- p. 99 **Part 2: Double Blessing – How to Give It**
- p. 101 **The Law of Measures**
- p. 102 Don't despise the day of small beginnings!
- p. 102 If you do little things like they're big things, God has a way of doing big things like they're little things.
- p. 103 ...you cannot out give God.
- p. 104 A scarcity mentality operates out of fear rather than faith, and it nets greed rather than gratitude.
- p. 104 An abundance mentality recognizes that it's all *from* God and it's all *for* God.
- p. 106 ...we use two guardrails to guide our giving: we want to *stretch our faith* and we want it to *involve a measure of sacrifice*.
- p. 108 ...giving away 90% of your income sounds a lot easier when we're talking about billions of dollars. But it always starts with fifty-dollar faith.
- p. 108 ...the more you give away, the more you'll enjoy what you keep.
- p. 109 ...don't let what you cannot do keep you from doing what you can.
- p. 111 **Seed the clouds**
- p. 112 If you wait until you're ready, you'll be waiting the rest of your life.
- p. 113 At some point, you've got to quit making excuses.
- p. 114 We want God to go first so it doesn't require any faith. But this is where so many of us get stuck spiritually.
- p. 115 Prayer is...the difference between us *fighting for God* and *God fighting for us!*
- p. 118 If you aren't willing to risk \$85 on your God-given dream, you might not be ready for it.
- p. 118 ...you have to put your money where your dream is.
- p. 119 ...you don't wait to give it until you get it.
- p. 119 Few things seed the cloud of God's blessing more effectively than generosity.
- p. 121 You aren't seeding the clouds just for you. You are seeding them for future generations.
- p. 121 We think right here, right now. But God is thinking nations and generations.
- p. 122 Can I remind you that outcomes are out of your control? But inputs are not.
- p. 123 **Opportunity Cost**
- p. 123 When it comes to counting the cost, most people fail to realize that it's a two-sided coin. Most of us are pretty good at counting the actual cost. Counting opportunity cost? Not so much.
- p. 124 As Christ followers, we should be more known for what we're *for* than what we're *against*.
- p. 124 Potential is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your Gift back to God.

- p. 125 Our insatiable appetite for more means that enough is never enough, unless you predetermine an amount in your heart.
- p. 126 If we don't define success for ourselves, we generally adopt a cultural definition by default. The same is true of happiness.
- p. 126 Blessing is defined not by what we get but by what we give.
- p. 127 Generosity involves time and talent as much as treasure.
- p. 129 The blessing of God cannot be equated to external circumstances or material things.
- p. 129 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men. – King Solomon
- p. 130 ...happiness is giving more than you receive.
- p. 130 ...when you live for yourself, you eventually lose yourself.
- p. 131 Wealth should come with this warning: your greatest asset will become your greatest liability if you don't use it for God's purposes.
- p. 131 ...accumulate the kind of experiences that can come only from following in the footsteps of Jesus.
- p. 132 At the end of our lives, our greatest regret won't be the mistakes we've made. It'll be the opportunities we left on the table.
- p. 133 **The Giving Game**
- p. 134 If we fail to flip the blessing, we hit the point of diminishing return.
- p. 134 If the blessing stops with you, it'll eventually stop altogether.
- p. 136 The first level of generosity is giving *spontaneously*.
- p. 136 The second level of generosity is giving *consistently*.
- p. 136 The third level of generosity is giving *proportionately*.
- p. 136 The fourth level of generosity is giving *radically*.
- p. 138 ...give in keeping with who you are.
- p. 138 Your generosity is as unique as you are, but you have to figure out how to put your fingerprint on it.
- p. 140 The most interesting people on the planet are those who take the greatest interest in others.
- p. 141 You can't go to church just because of what you'll get out of it. You need to go to church because of the time, talent, and treasure you bring to the table.
- p. 143 ...sometimes the smallest acts of kindness are the most meaningful.
- p. 147 **Pay It Forward**
- p. 149 ...the God who celebrates two small coins will celebrate every risk you take and every sacrifice you make.
- p. 150 You can't hold out on God and expect His full blessing.
- p. 150 ...the goal is to grow in the *grace* of giving. Grace is the genesis of generosity.
- p. 150 ...tithing is trusting.
- p. 150 ...the tithe keeps greed in check.
- p. 150 Our tithe is really God's reverse tithe.
- p. 150 ...God honoring goals are never easy.
- p. 152 Those who sow greed reap scarcity. Those who sow generosity reap God's abundance.
- p. 155 ...our preset as Christ followers is lead with blessing.
- p. 156 Lord, give us the privilege of doing for someone else what's just been done for us.
- p. 157 Generosity is always inside out...
- p. 158 You cannot flip the blessings you have not inventoried. You have to look back.

p. 159 **Kingdom Calculus**

p. 159 Our natural inclination is to hold onto what we have with tightly clenched fists.

P 160 Gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can. – John Wesley

p. 160 Perhaps it's time to let go of your time, talent, and treasure in greater measure and see what God can do.

p. 161 Everyone wants a miracle, but no one wants to be in a situation that necessitates one.

p. 161 ...you cannot have a comeback without a setback.

p. 161 ...don't let your budget determine your vision. A God-sized vision will always be beyond your resources, but it's not beyond God's ability.

p. 162 If you put what you have in your hands into the hands of God, it doesn't just add up. It multiplies.

p. 162 ...your generosity is someone else's miracle.

p. 162 You share the story of God's work in your life, and it becomes a seed of prophecy sown in someone else's life.

p. 164 ...givers...know that at the end of the game, all the toys go back in the box. So they operate with an abundance mentality.

p. 164 ...givers are *we* people, not *me* people.

p. 165 What you *own* and what you are *worth* are two very different things.

p. 165 In God's kingdom...success is measured by how much you give and how many people you serve...

p. 168 ...don't let what you cannot do keep you from doing what you can.

p. 168 ...what you leave *for them* (children) isn't as important as what you leave *in them* – a legacy of generosity.

p. 171 **The Eighth Wonder of the World**

p. 173 What if the joy of blessing others was the only honor we sought? What if all we wanted was to add value to others?

p. 178 If you don't take inventory, you won't restock the blessing by flipping it.

p. 180 ...sometimes it's our religious routines that cause us to miss the divine appointments God puts right in our path.

p. 181 May God give us peripheral vision to spot the divine appointments that are around us all the time.

p. 185 **Playing the Long Game**

p. 186 Thinking long enables you to give big!

p. 186 Generosity is born of optimism.

p. 186 Generally speaking, pessimists are past-tense people. They let the negative things that have happened in the past overly inform their prognosis of the future.

p. 187 Too many Christians consume culture, condemn culture, or copy culture.

p. 188 As Christ followers, we should be more known for what we're *for* than what we're *against*. Translation? Quit cursing the darkness and start lighting candles.

p. 189 What God wants to accomplish through your life is larger than your life span.

p. 191 There are those that look at things the way they are, and ask *why*? I dream of things that never were, and ask *why not*? – George Bernard Shaw

p. 193 You do not have because you do not ask God. – James 4:2

p. 193 Blessing is yours for the asking, but the only way to *keep it* is to *give it away*.

p. 195 **The Year of Blessing**

p. 196 ...it's impossible to fully inventory the blessings of God.

p. 197 ...God needed to *grow me* before He could grow our church.

p. 200 Count your blessings. Flip your blessings. Repeat as often as possible.