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Seven Steps to Receiving God's Rewards

#1

Our Father will reward you when...

You renew your mind every morning - It is so so very important that your very first moments of the day are spent with God. Why? First, you need to cleanse yourself from the previous day and start with a fresh, clean, slate. Say good morning to your Father, and remind yourself not only who you are, but whose you are. Do not just pray to the Lord, but pick out scriptures to confess over yourself to remind you of God's promises. Lastly, confess and ask to be forgiven of any sins from the day before and say the salvation prayer and rededicate your life to Christ every morning. Then, it will truly be a new day for you to rejoice and be glad in. Our Father's Mercy and Grace are renewed every morning in our lives and, therefore, we should be too.

Remember: We fight a daily battle against the enemy and he is awake before you even open your eyes in the morning, planning and plotting how he is going to steal, kill, and destroy your day. Don't allow him to deceive you! Turn the tables on him when you first wake up!

Scripture -

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

#2

Our Father will reward you when...

You are Faithful - We know that Faith is the substance of things that are not yet seen, and that is just what our Faith in God is all about. He wants to know that you **love Him**, even though you may not have received the answers to your prayers yet. He wants to know that you **trust Him**, even though you are running low on food, or don't have the money for your car, rent, or mortgage payments. He wants to know that you **believe in Him**, even though you may have never seen Him. **If He showed himself to everyone, then everyone would believe, but how would that make them worthy to receive the incredible blessings that He has for us?** Although, we will never be worthy of all the great things that Our God does for us, by showing our faith in Him, we make Our Father proud to call us His children.

Scriptures -

2 Thessalonians 1:11 "With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith."

1 Corinthians 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

#3

Our Father will reward you when...

You are Obedient - It is one thing to have faith in Our Lord and speak His Word, but it is another (and very important) thing to **LIVE** according to the Word and His Will. Jesus saved us from the Law and we now live under Grace. And Jesus said that the two most important commandments were to Love Our God above all else, and secondly, to Love your neighbor as you Love yourself. But, I personally believe that although we are free from the Law, we still need to understand how the Lord would like for us to behave and live our lives. We are examples to everyone around us of the Lord's goodness. We will not save others (or ourselves) simply by what we preach. The "**LIFE**" that we live will speak louder than any words that will ever come out of our mouth. We must teach by example.

A few things we need to do to begin to be obedient:

- We need to separate ourselves from those that may hinder our walk with the Lord.
- We need to turn from our wicked ways - that means no more R rated movies or music that talks about sex and violence.
- Do not go to places that do not honor God like clubs or bars.
- Do not smoke, do drugs, or drink alcohol (even a little bit). You must understand that, not only is your body a temple for the Holy Spirit to dwell, but anything that may alter your mind (even one glass of alcohol) is an open door for the enemy. You should yearn for the Holy Spirit to fill your body, and He **MUST** have a clean, healthy temple to dwell in.
- **AND HERE'S A BIG ONE - YOU MUST NOT WORRY OR STRESS ABOUT ANYTHING.** Worry and Stress is not only disobedient, but it is also the opposite of faith! The enemy has done well deceiving everyone to make them think that we are "only human" and that worry and stress are just a part of everyday life. **BUT WE ARE NOT "ONLY HUMAN"**, we are Children of the Most High God. It is not OK to worry.

Jesus said it plainly and clearly:

Matthew 6:31-34 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. "

Scripture-

Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living **sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

#4

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You Tithe - The first tenth of your income belongs to the Lord. It is written that you are to give Him your first fruits. Not whatever you have after you pay all of your bills. It is the only time in the Bible that the Lord actually says "TEST ME ON THIS" and He promises to open up the floodgates of heaven and pour you out blessings that you cannot contain. This is the ultimate test of your faith, because we have grown to believe that we need money above all else. By giving your tithe, you are declaring that you are independent of the world's system and that you need and trust God above all else to supply your needs.

Scripture -

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**" says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

#5

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You Sacrifice - Although we live under grace and it is not necessary to offer sacrifices, consider this:

We no longer live in the days of walking through the desert in sandals searching for food and water. We now live in a luxurious time when everything is handed to us on a silver platter. Even on our toughest days when we think things are so hard, it's nothing compared to what it must have been like before cars, TVs, and what about air conditioning. Can you imagine what it must have been like without air conditioning? And even back then, when a goat or a lamb was all they had to eat, they sacrificed it to the Lord. What do you sacrifice to the Lord? Don't say your tithes, because that is the Lord's already, it wasn't yours to begin with. If you really want to show your Father that you Love Him, and that you Trust Him, and that you are Grateful to Him and Appreciate ALL that He does for you, do you think it would make Him happy to know that you Love Him soooo much that you would sacrifice the very thing you hold most dear? If you love watching TV, then fast from TV for a week as a sacrifice to the Lord. If you love eating certain things, fast from them as a sacrifice. What ever it is that you love to do, that is what you should sacrifice to the Lord. I can testify that anything that I have sacrificed to the Lord that I thought was so important to me, He has ALWAYS given me back so much more than I even had to give in the first place. HE WILL REWARD YOU FOR YOUR SACRIFICE. And, He will reward you with something that you could have never gotten on your own. He never ceases to amaze me. **After all, the Lord has already given us the ultimate sacrifice - He sacrificed His only begotten Son for You.** I think we should show our gratitude.

Scriptures -

Deuteronomy 12:11 "Then to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name—there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and **sacrifices**, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the LORD."

John 3:16 "For **God** so **loved** the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

#6

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You Forgive - This is the first thing we must do as Christians. We must forgive everyone for anything they have done to us, no matter how bad or how wrong it may have been. Can you imagine where we would be if we were not forgiven our sins? Always remember it is never up to you to get even or punish anyone for what they have done. Your job is to walk in Love at ALL TIMES. The Lord your God will take care of anyone who wrongs you in His own way. And, by forgiving and letting go, and not getting revenge, you are telling your Father that you trust in Him. Unforgiveness can hinder and stop your blessing, so you must be very careful not to hold grudges. Remember, it may not even be that person's fault, the enemy may be using them to get to you to stop your blessings. If you allow that to happen you are not only letting the enemy win, but you are giving up the power you have in the Lord.

Scriptures -

Matthew 6:15 "But if you do not **forgive** men their sins, your Father will not **forgive** your sins."

#7

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You Walk in Love - This, Jesus says, is the second most important commandment of all, to Love your neighbor as you Love yourselves. God is LOVE. If we walk in Love at ALL times, we will be safe from the enemy's snares and traps. I could speak more on this, but Paul said it best:

1 Corinthians 13:2-8 "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.** If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, **but have not love, I gain nothing.**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails."

Mark 12:33 "To **LOVE** Him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to **LOVE** your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

These are just some thoughts pertaining to what I believe, based on my interpretation of the bible, would make God happy. I believe we should want to make Him happy and want to make Him proud of us, not feel like we need to. My wife and I do our best to live as I've outlined above and we can testify that we ARE LIVING every promise that God gave to us. We are not waiting for Him to answer our prayers, He answers them right away because we walk in the Spirit and are ever ready to hear His voice. We are living the life of abundance and my hopes are that you will too. May God Bless you.

Alex DiSaggio