



Genesis 1:28

DEEP DIVE

'Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" Genesis 1:28

This is a scripture that is often quoted, but not always understood in depth. It's the extent to which you understand a scripture that you can walk in it. Over the next few days we will do a deep dive into this verse and by the help of the Holy Spirit go beyond the surface and get into some of the depths available in this scripture.

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Day 1 The Blessing

'And God blessed them....'

As we begin understanding the power in this statement alone then we will begin to see that we already have within us all we need to excel in life to God's glory. When God blesses, He puts something in you that will cause you to succeed regardless of whatever circumstances may ever exist.

"The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it." Proverbs 10:22

"Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it." Numbers 23:20

"Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed." Isaiah 61:9

"Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request." 1 Chronicles 4:10

When God blesses you He endows you with the capacity to excel in every area of your life without any sorrow. And not just that, He causes the distinction He's made in your life to extend beyond you to your descendants. As though that wasn't enough, the Bible also makes clear that who God blesses cannot be cursed by any man. The patriarchs in the Old Testament understood this, which is why you'd see that even though they may have had material things, they would still pronounce blessings upon their children because of the power behind the blessing. If the blessing of a man has an impact, how much more the blessing from God.

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ' Ephesians 1:3

Reflect: When we read, "And God blessed them" we now have a sense of the magnitude of what God did. Remember, God doesn't set people up to fail. Before commanding man to be fruitful, He first of all equipped with His blessing.

Day 2

The Word

“And God said to them...”

Throughout the Genesis 1 a recurring phrase is, “and God said...”. Whenever the Lord wants to see something created, He speaks it into existence. Whatever God says will come to pass – whether we understand how it will happen or not. And as we were created in His image, He expects us to function in the same manner, which is why there is power in what we say.

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Proverbs 18:21

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12 NLT

God’s word has the power to change things in the spiritual and physical. When God gave the instruction to be fruitful, etc. His speaking it meant He had already created the possibilities for everything He was saying to come to pass and nothing was going to stop the manifestation.

‘...Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.’ Isaiah 46:11b

God’s word is not limited by space or time. The fact that He said it thousands of years ago does not render that word ineffective. The command He gave in Genesis 1:28 wasn’t to a specific demography, race, tribe, etc. He spoke it to ‘man’ which means anyone who receives this word with understanding and acts on it in faith will see the manifestation of the word.

Reflect: God will do what He has said he will do.

Day 3

Be Fruitful

“Be fruitful...”

Fruitfulness in the Bible speaks of productivity, increase, abundance, growth. This growth doesn't just happen in a vacuum, it stems from from a seed planted by God. This means that for something to bear fruit, there must already be a seed within it that can cause it to yield the desired fruit. When God gave the instruction to be fruitful, it was because He had already placed the seed for fruitfulness in us. Fruitfulness isn't limited to having children, which appears to be the most frequent interpretation of being fruitful. It covers every aspect of life.

So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Colossians 1:10

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

Everyone walking the face of the earth has the capacity to be fruitful. The seed for producing fruit is already in you. The question is: what are you doing with the seed? Are you burying it like the servant in Matthew 25:14-30? Or are you submitting yourself to God to allow Him bring out the fruitfulness in you?

Reflect: Look at every aspect of your life and ask yourself: Am I fruitful? Am I productive?

Day 4

Multiply

“And Multiply...”

When God waters a seed and makes it produce fruit, we can say that the seed has become fruitful i.e. produced returns. The interesting thing is this, each ‘fruit’ also has seed in it which when it is gathered and re-planted also produces a more bountiful harvest. Multiplication is simply bearing fruit consistently and continuously. The Lord doesn’t want our productivity to be a one-off or once in a while. It’s supposed to be ongoing. As we continue to multiply, that’s when the capacity to fill the earth and subdue it comes about.

'And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.' Deuteronomy 7:13

'and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have increases....But you shall remember [with profound respect] the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore (solemnly promised) to your fathers, as it is this day.' Deuteronomy 8:13,18

'This means the one who plants is not anybody special, nor the one who waters, for God is the one who brings the supernatural growth.' 1 Corinthians 3:7

We see that the Lord is interested in us multiplying across every aspect of our lives. Multiplication does not happen by accident – often the Lord helps us establish systems and structures that will enable us to consistently be productive. Let’s look at this illustration: Imagine a carpenter receives an order to produce a set of dining room chairs and does so successfully. That can be likened to bearing fruit. Now the same carpenter receives an order to produce 20 of such dining sets and must do so to the same standard and quality – that’s multiplication. This level of growth calls for systems, structures, teams, equipment, training, etc. that will bring about the required results. The carpenter can make all the plans and investments, but if he neglects to seek the counsel of the Lord on how to proceed, then he has limited himself to increasing at his own pace rather than God’s pace.

Reflect: Fruitful is just step one, we must also multiply



Day 5

Subdue

“Fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion...”

Continuous and consistent productivity powered by supernatural growth is what provides the capacity to fill the earth and subdue it. To subdue means to overcome or bring under control. Whatever is being multiplied is what will fill the earth and bring it into submission.

'and fill the earth, and subjugate it [putting it under your power]; and rule over (dominate) the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living thing that moves upon the earth.' ' Genesis 1:28b

The heaven, *even* the heavens, *are* the LORD's; but the earth He has given to the children of men. Psalm 115:16

'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'" Acts 1:8

When the Lord gave us the command to fill and subdue the earth, He had already filled us with His template of how the earth was to be run. As we were made in His image and likeness, the Lord's expectation is that we handle the affairs of the earth as He would. Even after Adam fell, the Lord made provision for our continued dominance first by the sacrifice of Jesus which by reconciled us to Him and then by giving us the Holy Spirit as our helper.

We aren't meant to be witnesses to Jesus by words alone, our lives are also meant to reflect the superiority of the God's kingdom in all aspects. Our dominion isn't meant to be just in the place of family or business, but also in the place of taking over the systems and structures of the world.

As an illustration, when we walk in holiness and purity, our immediate environment is better for it. When we teach others to do the same and they also consistently exhibit holiness and purity, it's expanded beyond our immediate environments to the larger city. When the numbers of those who consistently walk in these grows even beyond our nation's borders, then they begin to fill the earth and subdue/overcome the systems of the world that make it appear it's okay to lie, cheat or steal, etc.

Reflect: Dominating starts with you: what fruit are you bearing and what are you multiplying?



Day 6

Dominion

Walking in dominion is meant to be the posture of a believer because we have a divine mandate to do so. If it was not important to the Lord, He would not have said it. Notice that we are not meant to dominate people by oppressing them, thinking ourselves to be superior. Rather our dominion should first be over sin, the flesh, anything that tries to distance us from a close walk with God.

Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have *dominion* over me. Psalm 119:133

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10 NKJV

As we are conformed to the image of Christ, we give more room to the Holy Spirit to function in our lives unhindered. As He moulds us we receive the capacity to enforce the plans of God's kingdom here on earth.

'Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?' Job 38:33

'Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.' Luke 10:19

As we grow in understanding and spiritual maturity by the help of the Holy Spirit, we come into a greater knowledge of the deeper dimensions of how the Lord operates and how to extend His authority over circumstances, systems and structures as His representatives here on earth.

Reflect: Dominion is a life-long journey as we progressively grow in the revelation of who God is, how He functions and how we can accurately represent Him here on earth and ensure His will is done according to His plans. As He opens our understanding, He reveals more to us and takes us further. Dominion is very deep and our prayer is that the last few days have brought some more clarity on the mandate of Genesis 1:28, and that this will just be the stepping stone to greater understanding by the help of the Holy Spirit.



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