

# Thoughts to Ponder

## Abundance is Yours

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[www.jeanwarner.com](http://www.jeanwarner.com)

At one time humankind had the consciousness to manifest all one's needs, using the power of love. However, when we saw ourselves as separate from God, we lost this capacity. Jesus demonstrated this ability many times and promised that we would someday be able to perform even greater works than he. However, until we develop the consciousness that the Master portrayed, we will have to depend on God's grace. We must reconnect with the love that lives within our Sacred Heart in order to command that power. The challenge is, we have to know without a shadow of doubt that this is possible.

We are children of a loving Father who, like our Earthly father, wants to provide for us all that we need to be healthy, happy, and fulfilled. But, like our Earthly parents, He is discriminatory in the gifts He bestows upon us. What we receive will depend upon: (1) our willingness to receive, (2) harmony with what is for our highest good and the highest good of all concerned, and (3) in accordance with what we give.

Let's start with number 1, *Our willingness to receive*. Graciousness in accepting is as important as graciousness in giving. You should not block a gift because of feelings of unworthiness. Of course you are worthy! You are the Father's child, whom he dearly loves, and it is His pleasure to provide you with all good things. Sometimes we punish ourselves out of feelings of guilt. We feel it would be wrong for us to accept abundance when others around us are in lack. And yet that abundance is available to them as well. Would you refuse a new car from your Earthly father who is excited over the joy of giving it to you? Would you hurt his feelings by saying, "No thanks, Dad, I haven't done anything to deserve it"?

Often we turn away from an opportunity or an open door because we feel inadequate, undeserving or unqualified. We forget that we have a partner within us that will see us through if we but trust in that help. If we consider this a gift from a Heavenly Father who loves us, we can accept it with a grateful heart. Sometimes we don't recognize a gift when we are given it. Look for the good in every situation, even when you think you have received a lemon. What you may consider an unwanted challenge may actually be a gift of love from your Creator. Precious jewels might come wrapped in ugly brown paper.

Number 2: *The Gifts bestowed will be in accordance with our highest good*. Like any good parent, the Father is selective in bestowing His gifts. Aren't you the same with your children? If your six-year-old son asks for a pair of ice skates and the lake might be only partially frozen, are you going to hand him the skates? Don't expect unreasonable gifts from you Creator just because you have expressed your desire for such. Receiving what you think you want or need may not be in your best interest. The Creator already knows what your needs are, and not giving what you requested may be the greatest gift. So ask only for what is for your highest good, and never forget to express your thanks.

Faith also enters in, not just in knowing that you are the rightful heir to God's abundance, but faith that your needs will be met in harmony with what will make you feel truly fulfilled and happy, not necessarily what you think would make you happy. Gifts of great wealth and power do not always provide happiness or fulfillment in life. Sometimes what seems to be a disaster in



your life is actually a gift. The greatest gifts are those that contribute to your growth and understanding and help you realize your oneness with the Father. So when disaster strikes, look for the corresponding good and recognize the light that comes out of the darkness. Realize it is a circumstance that can make you a stronger, more self-sufficient and wiser person. Remember that when God takes away he will always give more in return if you have kept your faith.

Number (3) Receiving in accordance with what we give. Many of us have been taught that we will reap what we sow. The seeds of plenty must be planted within our heart, mind, and consciousness. Our seeds must be fertile with love. Just giving an order to receive won't do it, nor will giving out of a sense of duty. Give with no expectations of return--not for recognition, not for show, not because we think we should, nor to fill a pledge or tithe--but give out of the joy of giving, the desire to help, or to make someone happy. In other words, to give with love is the secret of receiving abundance.

Giving doesn't necessarily mean to give money or material things. Giving of one's self, one's time or energy is a true gift of love. Offerings of encouragement and support, or fruits of one's creative talents, are loving gifts. Something as simple as a hug, when needed, can be a precious gem. Giving out of love will come back to one in some manner. But the satisfaction of aiding another is remuneration in itself and adds to the giver's inner contentment.

The above secrets are keys to acquiring abundance. But here are two more secrets that are important.

Positive thoughts attract positive effects. This too is an aspect to be considered. If we believe in limitation, we will be limited. Unfortunately our pattern of living seems to be controlled by our mind instead of our heart. The ego is a product of the mind. It always tries to bypass the heart in order to maintain control. Wisdom comes from the heart, and wisdom teaches us that we are limited by our negative thoughts and perceptions. We can let our thoughts control our destiny, or we can listen to our heart.

Thoughts as well as words are creative and magnetic energy. If we are constantly thinking or speaking in terms of limitation or lack, we will create that lack. We have all known people who seem to have good jobs or sources of income yet are always broke. Even if they receive a windfall, the funds seem to evaporate, or else the recipients hoard it and are afraid to spend for fear of some future need they might not be able to meet. Others seem to have the proverbial Midas touch. Even if they lose everything, through some unforeseen disaster, in no time they are thriving again. Are they just lucky, or are they positive thinkers? Observe those around you, the haves and the have-nots. What kind of outlook do they have?

Of course, there is much truth to the old adage, "God helps those who help themselves." We can't pray for abundance and then sit back, doing nothing while waiting for it to fall into our laps. We may be given opportunities, but it is up to us to develop them. This goes back to the adage that we receive in accordance with what we give. When we work hard with cheerful devotion and expectation, we are much more likely to receive the fruits of our labors, unless, of course, we allow our thoughts to attract a state of lack, or feelings of unworthiness to block our gifts. What we fear we draw to us. That is an example of the magnetism of thought.



*You may have chosen a lack of abundance.* There are other influences affecting one's affluence or scarcity. Learning to live a productive life in poverty might be a karmic lesson that we chose to experience. All of our life experiences are aimed toward a growth in consciousness. Our soul is always directing us in developing greater strength, patience, faith, or acceptance. If when you incarnated you had a desire to build these characteristics, you may have decided you could better accomplish this if you were challenged by a lack of material assets.

Consider also that your chosen life's purpose might be more effectively served if you were living in humble circumstances. In such a situation you may be more able to influence those in similar situations who are most in need of help. Communication, understanding, and empathy with such groups would be more attainable. Realize that you have free will and can ask to renege on any choice you had agreed upon in your life plan, and it will no doubt be granted if it is for your highest good and soul's desire.

Contemplate these six keys if you feel you are lacking in abundance. Any one or any combination of these examples could be involved. Ask your inner guidance for understanding. Whether or not it would be wise for you to try to change your situation or to accept its limitations and work with them might be taken into meditation or prayed about. Let your soul direct you. Look at possible advantages and disadvantages to consider in regard to what you would like to accomplish as far as serving mankind and self, or developing a higher consciousness, is concerned. Determine what your goal in life is and how material assets, or lack thereof, might influence that goal. Consider what you actually require to meet basic needs, or what you may think is required to satisfy ego.

Also, take time to recognize and appreciate the blessings that you have: the beauty around you, the love that is given to you, the joys of simple pleasures. We often take for granted so many of God's gifts. Ask yourself, are you really in lack?

You were created in love; love is your true essence. Divine love dwells within you. Throughout eons of time, mankind has separated himself from the indwelling love, the inner God Spirit that is an indivisible and immortal part of his makeup. Reconnecting with that love, that wisdom, that union with the Source of all that is, will awaken one to his true beingness and reinstate the power within to manifest all that is needed for a full and joyous life. Until then, your Creator is constantly prodding you toward that goal, and through His grace, bestowing the necessary opportunities and endowments to help you along the way if you choose to accept them.