

# I Will Multiply You Exceedingly

2013 Message

Church on the Park | Sunday, 13 Jan 2013

**Intro:** Today, I would like to share with you what God has put in my heart for 2013. But I also don't want to limit it to 2013. We want to discover the Father's grand scheme and purpose and how we fit into it. This is a message specifically for our Church on the Park, but it's also for all of God's people.

**1) The Father's plan has always been to multiply his people. It's important that we live inside of God's big picture, his heavenly perspective.**

## Discovering God's Plan to Multiply His People

"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be **fruitful** and **multiply**, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen. 1:28, NASB).

"And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, 'Be **fruitful** and **multiply**, and fill the earth" (Gen. 9:1).

"I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will **multiply** you **exceedingly**" (Gen. 17:1-2).

- **God's way of growth is generational.** Abraham never saw his descendants multiplied exceedingly. He did see quite a few children in his old age, but not the fullness of the promise. Even in Jacob's day (three generations later) there were only seventy of them that entered into Egypt. But in the next book of the Bible, Exodus, we see the promise of multiplication in full effect.
- As we see in Isaiah, God sees the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:9-10). **We cannot confine God's work to days and hours, even months and years. We cannot limit God to our generation.** God is a generational God. What he does today is for the generations.
- Jonathan Edward said, "We ought not to limit God where he has not limited himself."
- **When I thought** our church had shrunk, God said, "No, it's growing." He pointed the children to me and said, "That is the church and its growing." That's why I like to talk to the children; I need to squat down on my knees to see God at work.

"By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will **greatly bless** you, and I will greatly **multiply** your **seed** as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall **possess** the gate of their enemies. In your seed **all** the

nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (Gen. 22:16-18).

- God repeated this promise to both Isaac and Jacob (Gen. 26:4, 35:11).
- And today, I believe God wants to repeat it to us.
- God made known to us the **end**: John gives us his heavenly vision—in the end, God will have a multitude—it will be a **huge offering** not just a small company of people.

“After these things I looked, and behold, a **great multitude** which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out...” (Rev. 7:9)

- In Exodus we see the multiplication of God’s people and this multiplication happened through great **affliction**.

“But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that I may **multiply My signs and My wonders** in the land of Egypt” (Exo. 7:3).

\*Deu. 7:13 - Multiplication is part of the covenant that God has made with his children.

## **2) The New Covenant is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant. Consequently, God continues to multiply his people in our day.**

- The New Covenant does not **remove** the blessings of the Old Covenant, instead it fulfills them. The New Covenant only removes the element of works (human effort) to obtain God’s promises. The New Covenant removes the curse and man’s efforts to give us the blessing of God’s work through Jesus Christ.
- ***God’s will is multiplication.***

### **Multiplication in the New Testament**

Matt. 28:18-20

Disciples Multiplied (Acts 6:7)

The Church multiplied (Acts 9:31)

The Word multiplied (Acts 12:24)

Provision multiplied (2 Cor. 9:10)

Grace & Peace multiplied (2 Pet. 1:2)

Mercy, Peace & Love multiplied (Jude 2)

Multiplication of loaves and fishes (Matt. 14:13ff)

Multiplication of Talents (Matt. 25:14-30)

Filling God’s House (Luke 14:7ff)

## **3) Let’s not limit God to our present experience. We need to have faith in God’s ability to multiply (Isa. 54:2-5).**

- Walking in **faith** means we are believing God for bigger and better things. And these things are not primarily material but relate to the souls of people.
- God's way to multiplication is by us taking **God-inspired risks**
- Multiplication takes place when we take God-inspired risks. It happens when we live **beyond** ourselves.

***The words God has put on my heart for 2013:*** Faith, multiplication, servanthood, evangelism and new things

**Conclusion:** It's critical that we live in God's big picture, that we embrace his heavenly perspective. God does not just want individuals, but a people that will glorify him and reveal his glory. As we take God-inspired faith-risks God uses us to multiply what he has given us.

Being on the inside shining out rather than being on the outside reaching in.

END NOTES

"What the church has been used to, is not a rule by which we are to judge; because there may be new and extraordinary works of God, and he has [in the past] evidently [worked] in an extraordinary manner..."

"The prophecies of Scripture give us reason to think that God has things to accomplish, which have never yet been seen...The Holy Spirit is sovereign in his operation; and we know that he uses a great variety; and we cannot tell how great a variety he may use, within the compass of the rules he himself has fixed.

"We ought not to limit God where he has not limited himself." (Jonathan Edwards)