

Biblical Keys

**NO technology will be able to break the curse of poverty
over the continent.
Both Word and deed need to be applied**

God's Word is the ultimate authority for the truths we live by and turning to His Word brings the revelation and enlightenment that the yoke is first and foremost a spiritual yoke. If we only deal with the technical and management keys we will not be able to deliver the poor.

- Hosea 4:1-3
- Psalm 107:33,34
- Jeremiah 23:10b

In this section the 6 Biblical keys will unveil the mysteries of why Africa is bound under the yoke of poverty and reveal the Godly solutions for breaking this yoke.

Key 1: Acknowledge God and God Alone

Problem:

The people of Africa have enormous strongholds of witchcraft and ancestral worship. Witchdoctors and wizards are found in great numbers in every village and are consulted on most things, at all critical stages of life including birth, sickness, adolescence, circumcision, weddings and funerals. The witchdoctors are also brought in to pray over the land so that it will produce a bumper harvest. Here they perform rituals including sacrificing chickens, sprinkling of animal blood, spreading bones, placing potions and putting of animal skulls on corner posts.

The practise of ancestral worship is the honouring of one's dead ancestors through sacrifices, ritual rites and ceremonial oaths. This worship is not practised out of love but out of fear and terror.

- Isaiah 8:19-22
- Leviticus 19:31
- Deuteronomy 18:10
- Deuteronomy 5:7,8
- Matthew 6:24
- Psalm 24:3

Solution:

There is only one true God and we come to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ, who died on a cross for us to have the free gift of eternal life. We are now no longer of this world's system and traditions but we have been adopted into His family and we have the privilege of knowing God as our Father.

We have to come back to worshipping God and God alone in **all** areas of our lives, not just at our Sunday church services. God is not mocked.

*Proverbs 3:5,6: "Trust in the LORD with **all your heart** and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

This scripture gives us the guidelines to the breakthrough.

Trust in the Lord with all of your Heart:

Whomever we trust in, we will consult.

Lean not on your own Understanding:

Jesus fulfilled all that He could, not through independence but rather dependence on His Father. His Father showed Him what to do, He did it and succeeded.

- John 8:28
- John 8:38
- John 5:19

What a glorious life we would live if we fulfilled His every desire for us.

In all Your Ways Acknowledge Him:

In all our ways means just that – every area, work, word, action and thought. This means we acknowledge Him in birth, adulthood transitions, weddings, funerals, healing, pre-planting, rainfall, harvest – everything.

And He will make your Paths Straight:

In the African continent we desperately need the Lord to straighten out our crooked and hopeless path which has been taking people on a journey to nowhere for too long. God's straightening will lead us into the fullness of His promised abundant life.

- Deuteronomy 8:18
- Deuteronomy 7:13-15

If we believe that it is indeed Africa's time, then we have to tear down the high places of ancestral worship and set aside the traditions of witchcraft which have kept us in bondage.

Then we can come and ascend the hill of the Lord with clean hands and pure hearts to worship Him alone, in Spirit and in truth.



Key 2: Consider your Ways

Problem:

The temples of our lives are in ruins because we have been serving our own selfish ambitions and futile ways and not walking in God's ways. If we, as the children of God, are the temple of God as God has said, then the state of our temple is something to consider.

We must consider our ways!

Haggai 1:2-11 Consider your ways – My temple lies desolate

A few examples of the curses we live under because our ways are not aligned to God's ways:

a) The Curse through Bloodshed and Violence

- Story of Cain and Abel
- Many examples in Africa
- Isaiah 59:3

b) *The Curse of a Short Life*

Ave life expectancy in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique is under 37.

- Psalm 34:12
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- Romans 6:23

c) *The Curse on What the Land Produces (poor yields)*

In Haggai it is interesting to read that it is God who is the One to withhold the rain and the produce from the ground.

Solution: Restoring the Temple

In our efforts to find the Godly solutions to difficult questions like the abject poverty around us, we begin by considering our ways for we are the temple of the living God.

We may not be able to change our nation, but we can each consider our ways, change our own lives and influence the lives of our families and communities, which collectively can make a significant difference.

- 1 Peter 2:5
- Haggai 2:18-19
- 1 Thessalonians 2:12
- 2 Corinthians 6:16

Let us as His sons and daughters be committed to rebuild the temple of God in our lives, by considering our ways and aligning them to God's ways, not just in Spirit, but in mind and body as well.

Key 3: Understanding God's All Sufficiency

Problem:

The dependency syndrome has been created over many years of handouts and expectations and yet the demand seems to increase yearly. There is absolutely no way that Africa will realize its potential, unless Africans do.

Isaiah 58 reminds us that we should be fulfilling the true fast, to loosen, remove and break the yoke. One of the buckles of the yoke of poverty is the dependency syndrome.

Since the beginning of man's creation, he has always tried to be self sufficient, doing things his own way, relying on his own wisdom rather than following the Lord's wisdom. This has led to his downfall in so many ways.

Solution: *Knowing God's All Sufficiency*

In Farming God's Way we do not advocate self sufficiency, but rather embrace God's all sufficiency which leads us to make a profit.

He is our source of everything and in Him we find increase. God's all sufficiency is never ending, with no limits to His reserves, as He has no limits.

- 2 Corinthians 9:8

Breakthrough comes as we repent for depending on man, including ourselves, lay aside our pride, humble ourselves and acknowledge that He truly is the source of everything we need.

We need to open our eyes to see what is available to us.

Knowing God's all sufficiency shatters the dependency syndrome.

- 2 Chronicles 14:11

God's All Sufficiency in YOU

- Deuteronomy 8:18

God's All Sufficiency with Agriculture

- Gen 2:15

God's All Sufficiency with the Land

The land has been given to us by God to steward, cultivate and to care for. It doesn't belong to us, it is His.

- 1 Corinthians 10:26
- Leviticus 25:23

God's All Sufficiency with Seed

When God created vegetation He created it to be able to reproduce of its own kind.

Hybrid vs. Open Pollinated Variety (OPV) seed

- Genesis 1:11-13

God's All Sufficiency with God's Blanket

God's Blanket is such an amazing provision that allows for so many wonderful benefits – see details in 20 reasons why we do the how.

God's All Sufficiency with Inputs:

(Manure, Anthill Soil, Compost)

In order to reap a good harvest there has to be a determination to sow of one's own available inputs.

God's All Sufficiency in Tools

Exodus 4:2 God asks Moses the question "What is that in your hand?"

Moses replied "a staff."

What do we have in our hand, as the instrument to break poverty and the food crisis in this continent?

The answer is "A hoe."

God's All Sufficiency in Rain and Increase

In His provision of rain God blesses His children and with it He brings seeds to life and increases the harvest.

Key 4: What you Sow you Will Reap

Problem:

Many communities are living in areas that have no opportunities for any development at all. These people have settled for less, simply because of the availability of free food and have never left. They have become comfortable in the security of knowing that their provider will be there when they are in need again. If we continue to perpetuate dependency on man, we encourage the poor to look to the wrong source of provision, man and not God.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10 "if a man will not work then neither should he eat."

Work is not a curse it is a blessing. Most of these poor people have land in the rural areas which is lying idle.

Africa is known as the begging bowl of the world, however God can turn that around, transforming the begging bowl into a bread basket.

God's way is that people should develop according to His principles, where He rewards based on sowing and reaping, on stewardship and being faithful with what you have been entrusted with.

Solution: We Need to Give in Order to Receive

Once we understand that God is our source and that His all sufficiency is truly available to us, we can look at giving our way out of dependency and into His promise.

- Acts 20:35 "it is more blessed to give than to receive"

The transition from a receiving to a giving mentality has far reaching effects, even extending into the reaching of the nations with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Luke 6:38
- Proverbs 28:19

In farming there is no greater example of this principle where we continually need to be giving and sowing in order to reap a harvest. We need to sow our seed, fertiliser and other inputs, labour, time, management and capital.

We can't keep on taking and not giving something back. The Bible says we will reap what we sow. $0 \times 0 = 0$, $0 \times 100 = 0$, 0 inputs in 22,222 holes equals 0. If you give nothing to even good potential soil, you get nothing in return.

Ways that one can sow:

Sow Bountifully

Corinthians 9:6 "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Sow Knowledgeably

In most of Africa it is not a case of idleness or apathy that is causing the dire poverty levels, it is often a lack of knowledge.

- Hoseah 4:6 "My people perish for a lack of knowledge"

Sow Faithfully

A secret of Farming God's Way is to **start small & be faithful with little.**

- Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much;"

Sow with Joy

The attitude with which we give is crucial.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Nehemiah 8:10b

Our joy is firstly founded in the Lord, but that same joy should move through every part of our lives and into the work of our hands.

Key 5: Bringing the Tithes and Offerings to God

Considering God's character, power and resources, how can it be possible to steal from Him? According to the scriptures in Malachi 3, it is possible to rob God through our tithes and offerings. This scripture was written in an agricultural society and the hearts of the people in their giving back to God has significant agricultural consequences.

- Malachi 3:7-12

The tithe, although implemented by giving to the church or wherever ones leading is to give, is actually a giving back to God. God really doesn't need our increase or wealth, but it shows Him where our hearts lie as we acknowledge Him first in our giving.

- Matthew 6:21

Whether we give the widows 'mite' or millions of dollars a month, is irrelevant to God. He knows what we have and how much it costs us to give to Him. Often times a widows 'mite' is more costly than a multi-million cash injection into the Lords' house. The Lord knows the state of our hearts before we give and He will measure the blessing based on this heart evaluation and not the amount.

The incredible part of this giving back to God is that it is all for our benefit. It was not orchestrated by God for the storehouse's sake but rather the givers blessing. The blessing comes to the giver threefold:

- 1) God promises He will open up the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing until it overflows. Proverbs 3:9**
- 2) God himself will rebuke the devourer so that he will not destroy the fruits of the soil...**
- 3) God will cause all nations to call you blessed because you will be called a delight.**

Giving to the Lord brings Him honour and acknowledges Him in a way we can't understand. Giving to the Lord forces us to consider a cause

outside of ourselves and begins the journey into selflessness where we put His Kingdom before our own selfish end.

Key 6: Stake your Claim

We should be taking God into all areas of our lives, including our farms. We need to reclaim our land and this comes through us acknowledging our idolatries, witchcraft, shedding of innocent blood and other evil ways which result in living under the curse.

- James 5:14 "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."
- Proverbs 15:29 "The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous."
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 "if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

As those who have become the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus, we should be praying, believing God for His word and promises, so that our farms and community can prosper.

We stake our claim as sons of God by taking Jesus into every area of our lives. Jesus taught us to pray "let your Kingdom come on earth even as it in heaven."

How to Stake Your Claim

- Humility is the Starting Point (James 4:10)
- Seek His Face and Not His Hands (Deuteronomy 4:29)
- Confess and Repent
- Ask and You Will Receive (Matthew 7:7 James 4:2)
- Pray
- Stand Firm (Ephesians 6:10, Romans 8:37)

God is for us, not against us and He desires for our farms to be blessed. Take back the ground that is under enemy territory.