

**Optional Study and Practice Suggestions for Chapter 9,  
“Cast Thy Bread on the Waters,” in *I Stand on Holy Ground***

**Practice, Practice, Practice**

At the end of the source recording for Chapter 9, Joel says, “My students call me hard, and they tell me that I give them a rough time. But it is for this reason: I tell them honestly that I cannot take them into the kingdom of heaven, and I tell them honestly that my books won’t take them into the kingdom of heaven; that it is ***their practice of what is in those books*** that will take them into the kingdom of heaven.”

So as always, it behooves us to ***practice*** what Joel teaches in this chapter.

Joel says that the lessons in this chapter can be difficult ones. Like Chapter 8, Chapter 9 focuses on supply, but it puts an added emphasis on the reasons we experience lack and limitation and the importance of giving and pouring.

Sometimes we read a chapter like this and hear the source recording, but we might keep the lesson at arm’s length. In other words, we might agree with the teaching in the abstract, but might not take the opportunity to apply it to ourselves. This chapter invites us to reflect on our own life and practice.

If we are not experiencing the fullness of abundance in our life, we can ask ourselves whether we are really taking Joel’s words to heart and look honestly at how well we are practicing what he teaches. There are several ways to do this, and everyone should use whichever way seems best to them.

One way that has proven quite helpful for us is to ask ourselves questions, earnestly think about them, and be as honest as possible with ourselves in our answers. However, it is important to do this without self-criticism, self-judgment, or self-condemnation. We do it simply to see where we really are in our practice, and what we might do differently.

These are some suggested questions to choose from and contemplate. All of them come from the material in Chapter 9. As you work with the chapter, alternate or additional questions might stand out for you.

1. Am I still praying for material things, or even praying for spiritual things with the hope that it will get me the material things?
2. Do I realize that God is the life of my being, the soul of my being, the mind and intelligence of me? To what degree do I have an absolute conviction of this?
3. Do I understand that my state of consciousness governs my life, or do I still believe that other factors control what happens to me?

4. Am I sowing fulfillment, which reaps fulfillment? Sowing fulfillment means knowing and praying, *“I and the Father are one, and all that the Father has is mine. God is fulfilling Himself through me; God is fulfilling Himself in my experience, and all that the Father is, I am.”*
5. Do I still have any desire, other than for spiritual fulfillment?
6. Do I believe that God is withholding from me, or do I realize that all that God has is mine, and it is God’s pleasure to give me the kingdom?
7. Do I accept that supply can come only through giving? Do I feel that I lack anything? If so, am I *giving* that very thing?
8. What do I have to give? What am I giving? Forgiveness? Companionship? Money? Service?
9. Joel said, “if you are not enjoying abundance, search yourself and see where and how you are violating the laws of God.” Am I enjoying abundance? If not, am I violating any spiritual laws?
10. Do I believe that whatever I give is of myself, or do I believe that whatever I share and pour out is from God’s storehouse, not mine?
11. Am I seeking a return for whatever I give, or am I giving unconditionally, without any thought of what might come back to me?
12. Do I work for a livelihood, or am I working with the idea of perfection and self-expression, giving of my unique God-given talents?
13. Am I doing what is required to become “a child of God”? Do I love my enemies, bless them that curse me, do good to them that hate me, and pray for them which spitefully use me and persecute me? Do I pray in secret? Do I do charitable works in secret? Do I love my neighbor as myself?

Joel says that it is all up to us. What we put into life and into our spiritual practice is what we will take out. What we give will come back to us, pressed down and running over.

### **What Have You in the House?**

Joel’s class, “What Have You in the House?” (Recording 426A from the 1961 Holland Special Class) is a wonderful complement to our study chapter. In this class, Joel speaks further about *how* we can bring forth that which is already within us. This recording is the basis for Chapter 6, “What Have You in the House?” in [The Journey Back to the Father’s House](#). **Highly recommended!**

To listen to Recording 426A, [click / tap here](#).

To listen by telephone, call **1-641-715-3900** and enter **986363 #**.