



make room for it!

BY EDWINA FINDLEY

making room for the new things that God is trying to do in *YOUR* life!

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you used, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:30

Have you ever wondered how some people can sacrifice enormous amounts of their time and money, and always have more left over, while others pinch and save yet never appear to have enough? We're often taught that the more time and resources we reserve for our own exploits, the greater and more prosperous we'll be in the end. As one financial analyst recently admonished me, "If you gave less, you'd have more!"

But last week I was confronted with a vastly different perspective. Following a flood in my bathroom, I had to replace my bathmat. When I reached the store, however, I fell head over heels in love with the beautiful accessories on display and felt inspired to redecorate my bathroom completely! But my enormously thrifty side won out and I returned home, determined to make do with what I already had.

On my way back, I "happened" upon a neighbor who'd been living in a virtually empty apartment over 20 years due to a lack of finances. Her story impacted me so much that my friend and I immediately began bringing her bookshelves, dressers, dishes, pictures, bedding, candles, and anything we could think of from my apartment to decorate her place. I even felt led to give her the bathroom set I was trying so desperately to hold on to! Miraculously, the more items we brought to her, the more there was to give! And by the time we were finished, I had no choice but to go back to the store and get the new furnishings I had desired all along!

God taught me so much through that experience, and made this week's scripture on giving very real to me. I saw that the longer we hold on to the old- possessions, people, perspectives, etc.- the more we hinder God's ability to do a new thing in our lives! Stubbornness, reluctance, and fear actually stifle God's ability to remove our self-imposed limitations and bring increase into our lives. Consequently, God challenges us to move to a higher level of giving, a higher level of trust, and a higher level of obedience, believing in faith that He will

honor, reward, and restore the sacrifices He is calling us to make.

I challenge you this week to make a list of all the things, people, etc. you know that the Lord is calling you to release from your life and share it with a friend who will support you and hold you accountable. Exercise confidence, knowing that if God's asking you to give it up, it's because He has something more powerful and beneficial to store. Your task now is to **MAKE ROOM FOR IT!!**

Recommended Readings: Matthew 9:16-17, Malachi 3:10-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Proverbs 28:27, Proverbs 11:25

© Edwina Findley 2006 All Rights Reserved. Edwina Findley is an actress and inspirational speaker, most recently known for her roles on *ER*, *The Wire*, *One Life to Live*, and *Law and Order*. She is the founder of *Abundant Life Creative Services*, a vibrant company which seeks to inspire, equip, and empower people of all ages to maximize their God-given potential through dynamic workshops, motivational materials, performances, and individual consultations. For more information or to receive her weekly e-column, "Edwina's Words of Wisdom", visit www.EdwinaFindley.com