Walk Your Talk

Unexpected Abundance

Rooted in Gratitude · Talk Three · Rev. Blaine · Unity on Maui · November 15, 2026

Have You Ever Found a Twenty-Dollar Bill?

Most of us know the jolt of joy that comes when we reach into a jacket we haven't worn in months and find a twenty. Yet nothing actually arrived. The money had been in the pocket all along; the only thing that changed was that we noticed it. Much of our good works the same way. It is already present, waiting to be seen.

Abundance Is Something We Tune Into

Wayne Dyer wrote that abundance is not something we acquire; it is something we tune into. Think of a radio. Dozens of stations fill the air around us right now, yet we hear only the one we're tuned to. So the real question isn't "How do I get more?" It is "What am I tuned to?" Gratitude is the hand on the dial.

Unexpected Abundance: It Flows From You

We often picture our good arriving like a delivery truck from a distant warehouse of blessings, so we wait by the window. Unity reverses that picture. The brochure says it plainly: "You may think it flows to you, but it does not: it flows from you. You are the place where the Divine Supply appears." You are not the mailbox. You are the spring.

Divine Substance Is Everywhere Present

In his book *Prosperity*, Unity co-founder Charles Fillmore taught that divine substance is everywhere present. It is not rationed or stored somewhere far away; it surrounds us and takes form through our consciousness. Our supply is shaped less by circumstance than by awareness. As Jesus said, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Affirmation

God is my source, and a consciousness of God is my supply.

Elijah and the Widow Gathering Sticks

In 1 Kings 17, during a long drought, the prophet Elijah meets a widow gathering sticks. She has one handful of flour and a little oil, enough for a last meal for herself and her son. Elijah asks her to bake him a small cake first. She does, and the jar of flour is not used up and the jug of oil does not run dry for as long as the drought lasts.

The Abundance Appeared Through the Generosity

Notice the order. The widow did not receive plenty and then give. The abundance appeared through her giving; she became the place where the supply appeared. Like ʻĪao Stream, which stays clear and alive because it keeps flowing, we stay open to supply by letting good move through us. A pond that only receives goes stagnant.

Scarcity: The Mind Locks Onto the Shortage

In their book *Scarcity*, economist Sendhil Mullainathan and psychologist Eldar Shafir found that feeling we don't have enough, whether money or time, narrows our attention. They call it tunneling. The mind locks onto the shortage and loses the bandwidth to see anything else. The fear of lack doesn't just feel bad; it shrinks what we are able to see.

Richard Wiseman's Newspaper

Psychologist Richard Wiseman studied people who saw themselves as lucky or unlucky. He asked them to count the photographs in a newspaper. A couple of pages in, a large message read: "Stop counting. There are 43 photographs in this newspaper." The "lucky" tended to spot it in seconds; the "unlucky," anxiously counting, tended to miss it. The answer was on the page for everyone.

Remain Sensitive to the Movement of Divine Ideas

Step Four asks us to "remain sensitive to the movement of divine ideas" and to courageously explore the opportunities that appear. Gratitude keeps us sensitive. It loosens the tunnel of scarcity, relaxing us enough to notice the good, and the nudges, already in front of us.

The Negativity Bias

Our brains evolved to scan for danger, so we notice the bad more readily than the good. Psychologist Rick Hanson calls the brain Velcro for negative experiences and Teflon for positive ones. Gratitude retunes the scanner, telling the brain, "Look for good, too," and the brain, bless it, finds what we ask it to find.

Gratitude Completes Itself by Giving

Once we notice the good and give thanks, nearly every spiritual path says the same thing: we give. A thank-you that stays in our pocket is only half a thank-you. Research by Elizabeth Dunn agrees: spending on others makes us happier than spending on ourselves.

The Buddha on Giving

In Buddhism, the first of the perfections is *dāna*, generosity. The Buddha taught that if people knew, as he knew, the fruit of giving and sharing, they would not eat without sharing, not even their last mouthful. Generosity is not loss; it is clear seeing.

The Sage Does Not Hoard

The final chapter of the Tao Te Ching teaches: "The sage does not hoard. The more the sage gives to others, the more the sage has." What we circulate multiplies.

The Unexpected Abundance Prosperity Project

The *Unexpected Abundance* brochure invites us to test the prosperity principles that are the foundation of a life of security and well-being, in five simple steps:

1. **Say Yes.** Fill out the enrollment form and place it in the offering or drop it by the office.
2. **Pray Daily.** Hold the Prosperity Prayer in mind and heart. Our prayer team prays with you.
3. **Share a Tenth of Your Surprise Good.** Give 10% of the unexpected income and surprise blessings you receive during the project to Unity on Maui.
4. **Watch for Divine Ideas.** Look for opportunities that bless others and you, and act on them.
5. **Simply Be Who You Are.** You are a generous, giving being who does not fear tomorrow. Seek not results, but greater awareness of God in every breath.

Prosperity Prayer

God is my source, and a consciousness of God is my supply.
I am the place where the Divine Supply appears as I express my generous and loving nature.
Lack has no power over me. I banish it from my life as I give thanks for what I have.
I start the flow of unparalleled good into my life and the world as I share the unexpected, surprise good that comes to me.
It is done. And so it is.

Affirmation

I am grateful for what I have, open to what may come, and generous with what is mine to share.

Blessing

May you notice the good that's already here, and may you leave a little room for the good you never saw coming.
When a kindness finds you, may you pause long enough to take it in. And when you have a little extra, may you find joy in passing it along.
May God's good flow to you in unexpected ways, and through you in ways you may never know.
And so it is.