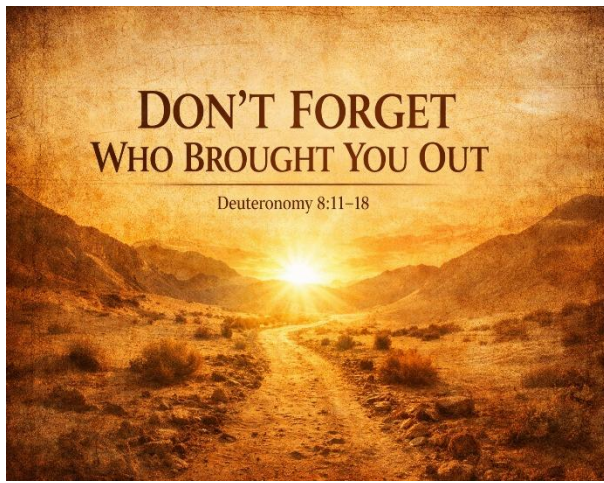


Stepping Forward Economically: Don't Forget Who Brought You Out Deuteronomy 8:11-18



INTRODUCTION - Deuteronomy 8:11–18 calls God's people to examine the spiritual risks that accompany progress and prosperity. Moses warns Israel that success can quietly shift the heart—turning gratitude into self-reliance, dependence into pride, and blessing into forgetfulness.

When life becomes comfortable, it is tempting to believe that achievement is the product of our own discipline, intelligence, or effort alone. Moses confronts that mindset head-on. He reminds the people that every good thing—including the ability to produce wealth—comes from the Lord.

1. THE WARNING: DO NOT FORGET THE LORD (Deut. 8:11–14)

11. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. **12.** Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, **13.** and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, **14.** then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.



Summary – Moses warns Israel that abundance can produce spiritual amnesia. Forgetting God is rarely sudden—it happens gradually when comfort replaces dependence and routine replaces reverence.

Key Insights:

- Comfort can make us careless.
 - “When you have eaten and are full...” Fullness can dull dependence.
- Prosperity can make us prideful.
 - “Your heart becomes lifted up...” Pride says: *“I did this.”*
- Success can make us self-sufficient.
 - You forget the God who brought you out.

Application: As God elevates us, we must intentionally cultivate gratitude. Regular remembrance—through prayer, generosity, and testimony—keeps success from becoming a substitute for God.

2. THE REMINDER: GOD BROUGHT YOU OUT (Deut. 8:15–16)

15. He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. **16.** He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

Summary – Moses anchors Israel in their history. Their survival was not the result of strength, strategy, or luck—it was the result of God’s faithfulness.



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Key Insights:

- God delivered Israel from oppression.
- God provided supernaturally when resources were nonexistent.
- God protected them from danger, drought and uncertainty



Application: Before celebrating where you are, revisit where God found you. When we remember how God has provided, we become better stewards of what God is providing now.

3. THE TEMPTATION: CLAIMING THE CREDIT (Deut. 8:17)



17. You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.

Key Insights

- Pride reassigns ownership. What God enabled, pride claims.
- Hustle without God becomes idolatry. Work is honorable, but work without worship is dangerous.
- Skill is not sovereignty. Ability does not equal authority—God remains the Source.

Application: Check your inner dialogue. When success comes, discipline yourself to say, “This is what God enabled me to do.” Gratitude is the antidote to pride.

4. THE REVELATION: GOD GIVES POWER TO GET WEALTH (Deut. 8:18)

18. But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

Summary: Moses clarifies that wealth is neither accidental nor self-made. God provides the capacity—the creativity, opportunity, discipline, and wisdom—to generate increase.

Key Insights:

- Wealth is God-enabled, not self-produced.
- Economic empowerment is part of God's plan for His people.
- God's design for wealth is generational; not merely personal.

Application: View every financial decision as a stewardship moment. Wise obedience today can position future generations to walk in freedom you may never personally see.

5. PRACTICAL STEPS FOR STEPPING ECONOMICALLY

Stewardship is both spiritual and strategic. Faith requires action.

Practical Commitments:

- A. Stewardship: Track spending and create a realistic financial plan.
- B. Debt Reduction: Reduce debt intentionally and consistently.
- C. Savings & Emergency Funds: Build margin for stability and peace.
- D. Generational Planning: Establish wills, insurance, beneficiaries, trusts.
- E. Economic Justice: Support Black businesses, advocate for fair systems and teach financial literacy.
- F. Faith-Driven Courage: Joshua 1:9 - Step forward with courage, even when the numbers feel intimidating.

6. Closing Thought

We step forward economically not in fear, but in faith — remembering the God who brought us out.

