

**Russell Kelfer**

# **God's Boomerang Laws**

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**Series: Let God Be God**

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230 • (210) 226-0000 / 1-800-375-7778 • [www.dtm.org](http://www.dtm.org) • [dtm@dtm.org](mailto:dtm@dtm.org)

# God's Boomerang Laws

Like it or not, we live in a world of cause-and-effect, a world in which, if you violate certain laws, certain things always happen. If you don't believe it, try it! Violate the law of gravity and see what happens. The results are predetermined. Stop watering the plants around your house and see what happens. The results are predetermined. In fact, God's universe is so perfectly designed with unchanging laws that the entire scientific world (though it may not realize it) is only able to operate because of God's perfect design of cause-and-effect.

These physical laws, the Scripture teaches us, have two basic purposes. The first is to give order to a universe in which sin would otherwise produce nothing but chaos. But that is not God's primary reason for cause-and-effect. God's primary reason is to teach the world, through physical principles, the reality of spiritual truth. God did not first design the tree and then think, "Hey, that would make a good illustration of the cause-and-effect of spiritual growth." God designed the tree *for that very purpose!* God did not design thunder and then wake up one day and think, "Hey, that would be a good way to illustrate My power." God created thunder for that reason: *to demonstrate to man the thunder of His power.*

Yes, our God is the Master Craftsman in the physical realm, but He is spirit. And His priorities are still spiritual. This physical world is but His classroom. It is here that man is allowed, *through exposure to God's physical principles*, to come to grasp spiritual reality. And the very fact that the world we live in is a world of cause-and-effect, a world of irrevocable physical laws, ought to teach us, in itself, a great deal about how our God works.

The problem is that somehow we have taken our Gospel of Grace and become so enamored (and rightly so) with the fact that salvation is free, undeserved, unearned and eternal that we have confused *resting in God's finished work with ignoring God's eternal laws*. The result is devastating. It produces a world full

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of useless, disobedient, out of fellowship saints...on their way to heaven but living as though God had no parameters for them between now and then.

Beloved, the spiritual Kingdom is also a realm of cause-and-effect. If you take in the Word of God continually, certain things will happen to you. You will become like a tree, planted by rivers of living water. If you don't, you won't. It's that simple. If you confess your sins, you will be forgiven. If you don't, you won't. It's that simple. If you humble yourself, you will be exalted. If you exalt yourself, you will be humbled. It's that simple. If you wait upon the Lord, you will renew your strength; you will mount up with wings as eagles. If you don't, you won't. It's that simple. If you draw nigh unto God and resist the devil, the devil will flee from you. If you don't, he won't. It's that simple. If you ask, you will receive. If you seek, you will find. If you knock, the door will be opened. If you don't, it won't. It's that simple. If you seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, the "all these things" will be added unto you. If you don't, they won't. It's that simple.

God has endeavored to make it simple, for we are a simple-minded people. Why we can accept God's physical laws and still ignore His spiritual laws, I do not know. But through that manmade phenomenon called rebellion, we have succeeded in doing just that. We would never miss feeding our physical bodies because we know we would lose our energy, become faint and eventually become useless. Spiritually, however, we assume that law does not exist. We treat the plants in the yard in total harmony with God's eternal plan or they lose their beauty. Yet, we will knowingly violate specific predetermined Scriptural laws concerning our own spiritual lives and somehow expect God to overlook it and rewrite the rulebook to conform to our arrogance. We have taken His mercy and ground it underfoot with self-righteous presumption. God forgive us.

The Word of God has a lot to say about cause-and-effect. Paul stated the basic principle in Galatians 6:7-9. It is so familiar, the very familiarity of it might cause the intensity of it to escape us. Look at what it says in the Amplified Translation:

Do not be deceived and deluded and misled; God will not allow Himself to be sneered at, (scorned, disdained, or mocked by mere pretensions or professions, or by His precepts being set aside.) [He inevitably deludes himself who attempts to delude God.] For whatever a man sows, that and

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that only is what he will reap.

For he who sows to his own flesh (lower nature, sensuality) will from the flesh reap decay and ruin and destruction, but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint. (Galatians 6:7-9 Amplified Bible)

The Word of God says the plan of God is written on the foundation of the law of cause-and-effect. It teaches that once a man or woman has been ushered into the Kingdom by grace through faith, that man or woman now lives in two worlds at the same time. His body lives in a physical world, bound by physical laws and, contrary to much modern theology, those laws will not be revoked simply because he is a Christian. He still has to feed his body or it will die. He still has to operate according to the law of gravity or he'll fall. Just because he is a Christian, the sun will not automatically stand still for him, nor will the storms of life necessarily bypass his house. His physical body will still suffer and will one day die. The laws of the universe still apply to him.

But now a new dimension has been added. As a born-again child of God, he or she has a living Spirit, the Holy Spirit, living inside him or her. And with his spirit awakened, he is subject to a whole new spiritual universe of laws that, like their physical counterparts, cannot be violated or else certain cause-and-effect principles will immediately be invoked. Most of the New Testament is devoted to explaining those laws.

There were a number of them that Jesus seemed to indicate were of primary importance. They were so primary that while He was teaching His discourse on the Kingdom on that hillside, He stopped to emphasize them specifically. Some dealt with the heavenly benefits of earthly obedience. Those who were persecuted, for instance, were told to "rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven." They were told that laying up treasures in heaven would one day produce great benefits, for "neither moth nor rust can corrupt, nor can thieves break through and steal" those treasures.

But at the outset of Matthew 7 and the corresponding passage in Luke 6, we find our Lord explaining some spiritual laws that appear to have even more *direct cause-and-effect results*. These

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are results that would always come back to the Christian *in exact measure* and in exactly the same area of the Christian's life. These, then, were laws with immediate results. These laws will also have predictable results in predictable parts of our lives and our ministries. I think it might be appropriate to call them "God's Boomerang Laws". This is appropriate because like boomerangs, they always come back to the place from whence they originated. The Bible is full of boomerang laws, but we will concentrate in this lesson on the four that Jesus wrapped in this one powerful package. Our outline then, will reflect those four laws: "God's Boomerang Laws".

- I- Judging
- II- Condemning
- III- Forgiving
- IV- Giving

In Luke 6, Jesus condenses these four laws into a series of brief but life-changing statements. He said this:

— Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

(Luke 6:37-38)

### I- THE BOOMERANG LAW OF JUDGING

In rapid-fire order, Jesus took four of the most crucial areas of Christian behavior and tied a string to them saying, "Cast them out and they will simply return to you...and they will return to you in the *exact measure* and to the *exact place* you let them go."

The first boomerang law was the law of judging. It is a law we discussed in the study on Proverbs in some detail. But we cannot totally overlook it in this lesson, for it speaks volumes about how God's boomerang principles work. It has to do with a Christian's *attitude* toward the character of others.

Here, Jesus is refuting man's qualifications for being a judge. Judgeship, you see, is an *appointed position*, and God the Father in eternity past, appointed only one judge for this age. His name is Jesus Christ. He has *all the facts*. He is *impartial*. He is *merciful*. He is *just*. He is *unaffected by circumstantial evidence*. And He has the *supreme qualifications*. He is able to look upon the heart.

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Therefore, Jesus and Jesus alone is suited for the role of judging the character and motives of the Christian.

So Christians are admonished not to judge their fellow believers under any conditions. They were not to sit in judgment of the motive or character of another. They could make relative judgments about the fruits of one's ministry, or even about the integrity of one's doctrine, but were commanded not to ever attempt to read into that judgment an opinion about the motives of one's heart. The reason is simple. We don't have all the facts. We can't see the heart. All we can judge on is hearsay and circumstantial evidence. Neither is enough to convict in an eternal court.

So important is this principle to the health of the body of Christ that Jesus turns it into a boomerang law. He says simply and clearly you will be judged by the same measure you judge others. If your judgment of others is harsh and critical, unrelenting and unmerciful, you can just bank on it, you will receive like judgment in your own life. You ask, "By whom? God or man?" It doesn't matter. Both amount to the same. If God disciplines you by allowing others to judge your heart the way you've judged theirs, is He not invoking His boomerang law? God's judgment will no doubt be reflected through others, but we will nonetheless be judged proportionate to our judgment. It is a law of the Spirit. It is irrevocable. God can't change His mind and it is not subject to circumstance. God listed no exceptions. The measure you judge is the measure by which you'll be judged. It is a boomerang law.

### II- THE BOOMERANG LAW OF CONDEMNING

Jesus follows law #1 with law #2. It is so closely intertwined with the first that some wrap them into one, but the fact remains that Jesus made a distinction. Therefore, so should we. The first law was a promise of retribution for judging, for questioning the character or motives of another. The second carries it to its next logical step, the condemnation that comes when one seeks to wrongfully attempt to fulfill the role of a judge.

To "condemn" is to "pronounce guilty based on the evidence at hand." It is to act upon your judgment. When you judge, you question another's character. When you condemn, you assign, at least in your mind, a sentence commensurate with the judgment. You pronounce them guilty as charged. It is to take from the hands

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of an omniscient God the right of condemnation and retribution. God says, "Don't ever do that; if you do, I will see that the same level of condemnation will come upon you." It is divine law. It is a boomerang law.

### III- THE BOOMERANG LAW OF FORGIVING

The third statement in this passage, from the lips of our Lord, moves from the negative expression of the law to the positive, but the results are the same. We studied this one in great depth just a few months ago. It is the boomerang law of forgiveness. It says that God will forgive you in direct proportion to the manner in which you forgive others. No "ifs, ands or buts". It is just a statement of fact. It is a boomerang law.

And it is, as you may recall, one of the most penetrating, one of the most sobering principles in all of Scripture. For what it says is simply this: your loving, omniscient God, whose very life was given to forgive you of your sins and usher you into the Kingdom of God, the One who ever lives just to make intercession for you, that same precious God, has by an act of His sovereign will, limited His forgiveness of you as a Christian, to the degree which you forgive those who trespass against you. It is more than just a precept to observe. It is a boomerang law.

### IV- THE BOOMERANG LAW OF GIVING

Which brings us to the final boomerang law in this passage. I say final because it is the last, but definitely not because it is the least. It is one of the most incredible principles concerning man's interaction with God and God's response to man's obedience found in the Word. It is the boomerang law of giving.

It is not found in the Matthew passage, but it is the only one of the four mentioned in the Luke passage that our Lord took the time to explain in detail. Just quickly, let's read again, this time from the Amplified Translation:

Give, and [gifts] will be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will they pour into [the pouch formed by] the bosom [of your robe and used as a bag]. For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others], it will be measured back to you. (Luke 6:38 Amp)

Now the precepts concerning giving in the New Testament are like an underground river that flows throughout the entirety of

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both the gospels and the epistles. Again and again they surface. Even when they are not being spelled out, you can see the impressions made by them upon the shorelines of every other major doctrine. The reason is simple. The gospel is basically the story of God giving Himself away. It is, in essence, a living lesson on giving. It is an expression of giving so supreme, so magnificent, that it, by example, makes all other gifts vanish into nothingness. It is a holy God giving His life without any reasonable explanation except love, for men and women who not only do not deserve it, most of them will not even accept it, even though it is free. That, Beloved, is giving. "And as the Father has sent Me," Jesus tenderly whispers, "so send I you." God is sending us into a hostile world to give ourselves away.

And for the most part, we don't know how. We know how to give token gifts based upon man's distorted concepts of charity; but we do not fully grasp God's unbelievable gift of grace, nor do we grasp how to let that grace flow unhindered through us into the lives of others. So God, the Holy Spirit, wrote it all down for us. He spelled it out. He wrote us a love letter teaching us how to give ourselves away.

Now you have basically three things to give away.

1- You have time. Your life consists of 24-hour segments that you can either use for yourself or use to give yourself to others. Time is a givable commodity. And those who pour themselves unselfishly into the lives of others enter into a holy covenant with their God in which He promises that in the measure that they have relinquished their time for His sake, to that degree, a loving God will see to it that the amount of time and then some will be returned to them. You say, "That isn't possible." Are you implying that God is a liar? Of course it's possible. He does it in three ways.

a) He multiplies the effectiveness of the time you have left.

b) He gives additional grace for the time remaining, or

c) He simply lays up treasures for you in heaven, where the alarm clocks of life will never go off, and the sands in life's hourglass will never run out.

Your God can out-give you, hands down. No place is it better demonstrated than in how He gives you His time. Time is not a problem for God. He has all He needs. He has all you need, as well. Jesus never feared for His time. He had only 33 years to build the

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church. He spent the first 30 years apparently doing nothing. But He wasn't doing nothing. He was "about His Father's business." Then, with only three years left, and the whole of history hanging in the balance, Jesus had all the time He needed for a paralytic, a leper, a blind man, a centurion. He had time to go to a funeral and turn it into a celebration. He had time to plan a retreat on a hillside for His inner core of followers. He had time to go away again and again and just spend time with His Father. Jesus didn't clutch His time because it wasn't His time! But time is something we all have to give.

2- We all have love to give. The definition of love is giving, so it's hard to separate the two. But those expressions of Christ-likeness that so communicate what it means to give yourself away that may not be tangible, but are so valuable...these we all have to share. And these are the things that we are either too busy to stop for, or too afraid of being vulnerable to allow them to place us in a position Jesus was in. Had Jesus not been willing to be vulnerable, Beloved, you and I would be lost and on our way to hell. Learn to give your love away.

3- The boomerang law of giving applies to our money and our possessions. This is perhaps the most tangible one. It is a difficult subject to approach in this age of cash register evangelism and high profile fund raising. It is true that Satan has invaded this, the most sensitive area of Christian commitment, and so cheapened it that those who want to simply teach truth are afraid to do so for fear of being considered part of the "beggars for God brigade." The Word of God is a book on giving. It has more to say about a man or woman's responsibilities concerning stewardship than almost any other subject.

What it says in this passage is at the heart of it all. What you have, my friend, is not yours. I do not care how hard you worked for it. Work is your responsibility as a child of God. Whatever you have, God gave you. It is not yours, but God's. How you give it away is the basis upon which God is judging your gratitude. Clutch it and you'll lose it. Give it away, and it will come back to you a hundred-fold. It is the boomerang principle! What Jesus is saying here is that it will come back to you "pressed down, shaken together and running over." The Jew in Jesus' day wore flowing robes, the front of which formed a pouch that was often used to store things or carry things or hold things. Many would buy their grain and carry it home this way. Jesus was saying,

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“You give away what you have and it will be returned to you in such measure that even pressed down and packed down it will so run over that you won't be able to hold it.” The more you give, the more God will give to you. You say, “You mean if I give more away I'll get richer? What kind of motive is that for giving?”

No, I'm saying that if you give yourself away, and your money is the most tangible expression you have to give, God will multiply His grace in your life faster than you can give away what He has already given you.

He may just give you more. He may multiply the value of what you have. He may just make what you have last. Or He may open the windows of heaven and pour out so much on you that you'll think it's raining dollars. He may. The issue isn't how He will pay you back. The issue is that the God of eternity has made a covenant with you. In love, He begs you to try Him out. In fact, in Malachi 3:10, He gently dares us to try Him out. He says:

“Prove Me,” says the Lord of Hosts, “and see if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

(Malachi 3:10 paraphrased)

The reason you are struggling so in your Christian walk, or the reason you may be struggling financially, may well be your unwillingness to take God at His Word. He has asked you, no, He has commanded you to give yourself away—your time, your love and your possessions. You may be struggling with any one of the three. I beg you, on the authority of the Word of God, to let go right now. Stop clutching at what is not yours. God dares you to try to out-give Him. How dare we refuse? Can we ever give as He gave? Never!

Why not go home today and deed over in your heart all you own to its rightful owner, the Lord Jesus Christ. And then, as the Lord leads you, to give yourself away, your time, your love and your possessions. Let's try something new. Let's take God at His Word and not limit what we give by what we can afford to give, nor even by what we think we have to give, but rather by what our Father in heaven has told us to give...everything.

He did it. As a result of that giving, you and I will live forever. Dare we not let Him do the same through us? And isn't our God wonderful? For with the commandment to give, there comes the promise so precious...He'll give it back in His own way. He'll give

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it all back and then some...pressed down, running over; He'll give it back. Like a boomerang, it will come back to bless us again and again and again and again.

That, Beloved, is the kind of God we have! He gives and He gives and He gives. Then, all He asks us to do is return to Him what is His so He can multiply it and give it back to us again!

Why would any of us hold anything back?

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### Boomerang Laws: An Assignment

1- Think about God's amazing physical laws of cause-and-effect. What things happened in your life today that were the reflections of those laws? Can you think of corresponding laws in the spiritual realm that God might have had in mind when He developed the physical laws?

2- Meditate on Galatians 6:7-9. Paraphrase it, write it out in your own words. Can you explain, in language simple enough for a child to understand, why this is in harmony with salvation by grace? What bad seeds have you sown in your own life that are now reaping a harvest? How can you use that experience to counsel young people? Why do you think verse 9 was placed here in Scripture? Memorize verse 9.

3- Can you think of other "boomerang laws" in addition to these four? Ask God for wisdom to understand the importance of obeying these laws to victorious living.

4- Make a list of the people you have "judged" or "condemned" in the past few weeks. Ask God to forgive you. Ask them to forgive you if necessary. Ask God to take from you that judgmental spirit and replace it with the mind of Christ. Can you see how that attitude has come back like a boomerang in your own life?

5- Assess your attitude towards giving in the light of this passage. Do you "give freely" or is giving "work" to you? Do you give "cheerfully" or "grudgingly"? Do you believe that if you turn loose and give your life away that God will give it back to you "pressed down and running over"? Are you willing to try it? Get alone with God and confirm that you are committing yourself to this "boomerang principle". Then, quietly go about the business of giving your life away and watch God keep His word!

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