

Prosperity and Success Is the Heart of God

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I. Our Promised Land

Through the substitutionary death and resurrection of Christ, we receive the benefits of redemption. The Bible specifically details three things that Jesus did for us in taking our place. Jesus Christ became sin, sickness and poverty so that we might become righteous, healed and prosperous.

A. Salvation - He took our sins and we take His righteousness!

We are born again, our spirits are joined with His Spirit, and we are partakers of His divine nature and are being changed from the inside out.

1 Jn 3:5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins;

2Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

B. Healing - He took our sicknesses and we take His healing!

God desires that we be healthy and healed when we experience sickness. Our bodies need to be healed and healthy so we can fulfill God's will with our lives.

1 Jn 3:8 The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Heb 2:14 ... that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Ac 10:38 and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,

Jesus often healed all who were ill. (Mt 2:24; 8:16; 12:15, 22; 14:14; 15:30; 19:2; Mk 1:34; 3:10; 6:5; 5:15; Lk 6:18)

By healing the sick, Jesus actually fulfills Isaiah 53 (Mt 8:17).

God also desires good health for all of us (3 Jn 2)

C. Prosperity - He took our poverty and we take His riches!

The curse of poverty is broken, so that we would have all the resources necessary to accomplish the great commission; to evangelize the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-18; Lk 24:46- 49; Jn 20:21; Ac 1:8).

2Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Gal 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"-- 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

We are the seed of Abraham and destined to be blessed in order to bless the nations of the world (Gen 12:2); Thus it is God's desire to bless and prosper us to accomplish His great plan.

II. Biblical evidence of God's desire to prosper us

1. Abraham learns that God's name is "Jehovah Jireh"
Gen 22:14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide , as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."
2. The blessings of obedience in the old covenant was great financial blessing.
Dt 7:12-16, 21- 26; 28:1-14;
3. God desires to remove poverty and being in debt.
Dt 15:4-6 "However, there will be no poor among you, since the LORD will surely bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, 5 if only you listen obediently to the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all this commandment which I am commanding you today. 6 " For the LORD your God will bless you as He has promised you, and you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; and you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you.
4. God desires to bless you in your work.
Dt 14:29; 15:10; 24:19; 2Chr 15:7; Jer 31:16; Col 3:23-24;
5. He gives us power (ability) to make wealth.
Deut 8:18 "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 1
6. Prosperity and success comes from daily meditation.
Josh 1:8 " This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
7. Riches and honor come from God
1 Chron 29:11-12 "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. 12 " Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.
8. Our Shepherd (Jesus) meets our needs and quenches our thirst
Ps 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Ps 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.
9. He desires to give us good things.
Ps 34:10 ... they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.
10. He wants us to enjoy what He has given to us.
Ps 37:11 But the humble will inherit the land and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
11. His desire is that we would have enough to be gracious and give to those in need.
Ps 37:25-26 I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread. 26 All day long he is gracious and lends, and his descendants are a blessing.
12. He gives what is good and makes us productive.
Ps 85:12 Indeed, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.
13. He satisfies our desires.
Ps 145:15-16 The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time. 16 You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

14. His blessings make us rich.
Prov 10:22 It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.
15. Prosperity is a reward for the righteous.
Prov 13:21 Adversity pursues sinners, but the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity.
16. He wants us to have great wealth.
Prov 15:6 Great wealth is in the house of the righteous, but trouble is in the income of the wicked.
17. Jesus taught us to pray for our daily need.
Mt 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.
18. Pursuing Jesus and His kingdom is financially sound.
Mt 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
(Mt 6:26-33)
19. God our Father enjoys blessing us.
Lk 12:32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.
Lk 12:22-32
20. Jesus tells His disciples of the rewards (for both in this life and in eternity) of following Him.
Mk 10:28-31 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." 29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 "But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."
21. It would blow our mind to know all that God has prepared for us.
1 Cor 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."
22. The Holy Spirit desires to show us the things that God freely gives to us.
1 Cor 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,
23. Prosperity is unequivocally God's will for your life!
3 Jn 2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health , just as your soul prospers.

III. Why people don't prosper:

1. We don't believe that God is a good God and that He wants to bless us.
Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Mat 7:11; Ps 35:27)
2. We react to extremes of prosperity teaching.
Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
3. We have heard stories of believers who have abused the teaching of the Scriptures.
1Ti 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.
4. We don't know or believe God's Word regarding finances and biblical prosperity.
Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Isa 5:13 My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge;

5. We don't build our faith from the Scriptures.
Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
The New Testament church gave sacrificially (Ac 2:45; 4:34-35; 11:29; Phil 4:10-19; 2Cor 9:1-15).
6. We have been afraid of covetousness but not believed for true prosperity.
2Cor 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness . (2 Cor 9:6-12)
7. We don't tithe (give 10%).
Mal 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. (Mt 23:23; Heb 7:6-10)
8. We are fearful.
Prov 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.
9. We have neglected the gift of giving as a legitimate ministry.
Rom 12:8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (1 Tim 6:18)
10. We haven't experienced the blessing of giving to the poor.
Prov 19:17 One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his good deed. (1Jn 3:17)
11. We lack passion or vision for evangelism
Mk 1:17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
(Lu 5:10; 8:3; Mat 17:27; Pr 27:23, 26-27)
12. We haven't embraced a good confession.
Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
(Prov 6:2; Mt 12:36-37)
13. We have not used wisdom in handling our financial affairs.
Prov 21:20 There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it up. (Prov 23:4-5)
14. We have misspent our money consequently incurring unnecessary debt.
Prov 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave.
(Prov 22:26-27)
15. We are reaping for past sowing of seeds of greed or unethical business practices.
Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
(Prov 15:27; 21:5; 22:8)
16. We have not meditated on God's word.
Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. (Ps 1:1-3)
17. We have failed to overcome in faith and allowed the enemy to have the victory.
Jn 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (1Jn 5:4)
18. We don't have because we don't ask!
Jas 4:2 ... You do not have because you do not ask.

Study note: In his book, *Prosperity with Purpose*, Wendell Smith made a list of Bible words that has something to do with prosperity; he identified 25,746 such words that have some reference to prosperity. He concludes this list with the following summary:

Highest number of use of certain words:

Offerings, 826; Blessings, 458; Gold, 421; Water, 416; Silver, 284; Sacrifices, 272; Inheritance, 265; Food, 196; Poor, 194; Rich, riches, 194; Fruit, 175; Labor, 137; Money, 131; Possessions, 131; Redeem, 122; Abundance, 122; Increase, 118

Categories of precious stones or metals:

Agate, 2; Alabaster, 4; Alloy, 1; Amethyst, 2; Beryl, 8; Bracelets, 8; Bronze, 138; Chalcedony, 1; Copper, 7; Coral, 1; Crystal, 6; Diamond, 4; Emerald, 6; Gems, 1; Gold, 421; Iron, 87; Ivory, 13; Jacinth, 3; Jasper, 7; Jewels, 9; Marble, 4; Onyx, 11; Ore, 2; Ornaments, 17; Pearl, 8; Precious, 75; Quartz, 1; Rubies, 8; Sapphire, 9; Sardius, 5; Silver, 284; Topaz, 5; Turquoise, 4

Specific words related to forms of money:

Alms, 9; Coins, 13; Currency, 2; Denarius, 15; Drachmas, 5; Gold, 421; Mina, 11; Mites, 3; Money, 131; Offerings, 826; Possessions, 131; Prosperity, 95; Provision, 81; Quadrans, 1; Redeem, 122; Revenue, 6; Reward, 59; Riches, 194; Sacrifices, 272; Shekels, 90; Silver, 284; Talents, 44; Treasure, 98; Wages, 41; Wealth, 40

Number of Smiths listed in the Bible:

Goldsmith, 3; Metal smith, 3; Silversmith, 4; Smiths, 4;

Negative words regarding covetousness or poverty:

Abased, 18; Beg, Beggar, 4; Borrow, 10; Confiscation, 2; Consume, 123; Covet, 33; Creditors, 11; Crumbs, 3; Cursed, 149; Debt, 7; Despoiled, 1; Devour, 129; Dross, 7; Drought, 9; Exacts, 1; Extortion, 3; Famine, 90; Greed, 25; Hoard, 1; Idle, 14; Impoverish, 3; Lack, 37; Lazy, 16; Less, 20; Loss, 14; Miser, 2; Mortgaged, 1; Need, 87; Needy, 39; Peddling, 1; Pilfering, 1; Plundered, 104; Poor, 194; Poverty, 21; Rags, 4; Robbery, 26; Seize, 56; Slothful, 1; Squanders, 1; Stealing, 24; Stingy, 2; Surety, 10; Thief, 41; Usury, 10; Want, 83; Waste, 82; Withhold, 16

Words related to Tithing:

Tithe, tithing, 35; Firstfruits, 32; Tenth, 55;

Words not listed in this study, but that also relate to the need for finances in Christian ministry:

People, 2052; Souls, 341; Went, 316 (NT); Preach, 142 (NT); Teach, 108 (NT); Disciples, 259 (NT); Multitudes, 262 (NT); Go, 245 (NT); Love, 223 (NT); Churches, 107 (NT); Sent, 193 (NT); Baptism, 75 (NT); Witness, 69 (NT); Nations, 64 (NT); Ministry, 30; Compassion, 19 (NT);