

THE PURPOSE OF PROSPERITY

April 19, 2015

Biblical prosperity has two purposes.

1. God wants to bless His children and meet their needs.
2. The Lord wants to give you an abundance so you can share it with others and help meet the needs of others.

Ways we can use our money for the purposes of God.

1. The purpose in **tithing** is to support the ministries of the local church (storehouse), which provides spiritual food for you and your family.
2. The purpose in giving to the **Missions Offering** is to support our missionaries and extend the Kingdom of God.
3. The purpose in giving to the **Benevolent Fund** is to meet urgent needs of people in the church.
4. The purpose in giving to **charity** is to meet the critical needs of unbelievers. One of the greatest testimonies of the Christian church is to provide food, clothing and shelter for the poor and those in crisis.
5. The purpose of giving to a **brother or sister in need** is to demonstrate the love and compassion of Christ, remembering that it is only by God's grace that we are not in their place.
6. The purpose of **giving liberally** is to release the spirit of hilarity and rejoicing among the Lord's people.
7. The purpose of **success in business** is to provide for our families, employ good people, bless others in need, support our church through our tithes, and give liberally to special and influential projects.
8. There is purpose in prospering. **Prosperity** brings blessing to those who use it to bless others. It releases the gift of giving in the Church, bears the fruit of joy and builds faith in all who observe.

The Bible on the price (cost) of our redemption:

God spared no expense when He sent His only Son to die in our place for the punishment of our sin.

He spent the greatest treasure He possessed for our salvation.

How much more does He desire to help us be successful and prosperous, so that we can participate with Him in extending the kingdom of God, and His blessing of salvation to all the people of this earth!

When we view prosperity from this kind of divine perspective, then it takes on great purpose and meaning. We see our money as something sanctified for use in God's wonderful and eternal plan.

Consider the following verses about the value, price or cost of salvation.

Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Rom 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Jn 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

1Cor 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, (1Cor 3:21-23)

1Cor 7:23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

Gal 3:13 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"--

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Col 1:13-14 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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.

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Tit 2:13-14 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession,

Heb 9:12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Heb 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

1Pt 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

2Pt 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

56 Ways that God provided for people in Scriptures

Adam

1. God created a marriage partner (help meet, helper, companion,) for Adam.

Gen 2:18 ... "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

Adam and Eve

2. God clothed Adam and Eve, at the expense of an animals life.
Gen 3:21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

Hagar

3. God provided a well for Hagar and Ishmael as they prepare to die of thirst (Gen 21:9-21).
Gen 21:19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the skin with water and gave the lad a drink.

Abraham

4. God provided a ram (in the thicket) for Abraham, and spared the life of Isaac.
Gen 22:13-14 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. 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."

Jacob

5. Jacob became wealthy working for his father-in-law (Gen 31:1, 16; see Gen 28-31).
6. Jacob's sons took the wealth of the city where Shechem lived (Gen 34:25-31; see Gen 34).
7. Jacob and his family are provided for by Joseph in Egypt (Gen 45:11; 47:27; see Gen 45-50).

Israel in Egypt

8. Israel left Egypt with much wealth (Ex 3:22; 11:2-3; 12:35-36).
Ex 12:36 and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Israel in the wilderness:

9. God provided manna for 40 years (Ex 16:31-36; Num 11:4-9; Deut 8:1-3; Jos 5:12).
10. Three times He gave provision for water:
Ex 15:22-27 God provided a tree to sweeten the bitter water of Marah

Ex 17:1-7 God provided water from the rock when Moses struck the rock with his rod.

Num 20:8-13 God still provided water from the rock, when Moses disobeys and strikes the rock (Moses was supposed to speak to the rock), Moses is disqualified from entering Canaan.
11. Daily, the Lord protected them in the cloud by day and fire by night
(Ex 13:21-22; Num 9:16; 14:14; Deut 1:33; Psa 78:14; Neh 9:12, 19).
12. God provides for building the tabernacle through the offering of the people. The people gave so much that they had to ask them to stop giving (Ex 35:20-29).
13. God provided enough meat (quail) for them to eat for one month (Num 11:21-34; Psa 105:40).
14. Their clothes and sandals never wore out for 40 years (Deut 8:3-4; 29:5; Ne 9:21)

Samson

15. Samson drinks water from a rock (Jg 15:18-19).

David

16. David is given provision by Barzillai when fleeing from Absalom (2 Sa 17:27-29; 19:31-39).

Solomon

17. Deputies provide for King Solomon, taken from foreigners tribute 91Ki 4:21-28);
He probably learned this from his father, David (2Sam 8:2-6).

Elijah

18. Provided for by ravens - 1Ki 17:1-6.

19. Provided for by a widow of Zarephath, (she was making a last meal for herself and her son before they died of hunger - (1Ki 17:8-16).

Elisha

20. Elisha provides for the debt of a widow - with a jar of oil, filling empty vessels (2Ki 4:1-7).

21. Elisha is fed by a prominent Shunammite woman (2Ki 4:8-10).

The woman is rewarded by having a son, and having him raised from the dead (2Ki 4:11-37).

Elisha feeds the prophets:

22. By removing the poison from the stew (2Ki 4:38-41).

23. By multiplying the bread (2Ki 4:42-44).

24. Elisha refuses to take money from Naaman the leper, whom he heals (2Ki 5:1-19).

His servant (Gehazi) seeks the reward, and consequently becomes a leper (2Ki 5:20-27).

Samaria

25. God provides for the city of Samaria through 4 lepers, and by causing their enemy (the Aramaeans) to flee in fear (2Ki 7:1-20)

Jehoshaphat

26. Jehoshaphat wins a war through praise and also take valuable spoil (2Chr 20)

Hezekiah

27. God gave great prosperity to Hezekiah (2Chr 32:27-31).

Ezra

28. King Artaxerxes provided for Ezra to return to Jerusalem from the king's treasury (Ezra 7:1-26)

The righteous

29. Inheritances & wealth is laid up for the righteous (Prov 13:22).

Jesus and His disciples

30. Gifts of the Magi provide for the family of Jesus while in Egypt (Mat 2:11-15, 19-23).

31. Angels ministered to Jesus after He overcame the wilderness temptations (Mat 4:11).

32. Peter and Andrew follow Jesus after they catch their nets full of fish, following the instructions of Jesus (Mat 4:18-11; Mk 1:16-20; Lk 5:1-11).

33. Jesus turns the water into wine for people and a wedding, who already had too much (Jn 2:1-11).

34. Jesus sends out His 12 disciples; they were not to take any provisions, but trust God for their needs as they minister the gospel, they were to receive from the people because, "the worker is worthy of his support" (Mat 10:5-15). He does the same when he sent out to 70 (Lk 10:1-16).

35. Jesus instructs Peter to go catch a fish, in order to pay taxes for them (Mt 17:24-27).

36. Jesus instructs the rich young ruler to sell his possessions and give it all to the poor, and to come follow Him (Mat 19:16-26).

37. You can't out give God – Disciples of Jesus will be rewarded both in the next life and also in this life (Mat 19:27-30).

38. Jesus initiates the borrowing of a colt for Himself, to ride into Jerusalem (as a conquering King, in fulfillment of prophecy; Mat 21:1-10).

39. Jesus says that we are to pay taxes to whom taxes is due (Mat 22:15- 22).

40. In the "Parable of the talents," and in the "Parable of the minas," the Master declares that the man who was given one talent should have put the money in the bank and had collected interest on it (Mat 25:27; Lk 19:23).

41. Jesus feeds 5,000 men (not counting women and children) from 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish; with 12 full baskets of leftovers (Mt 14:15-21; Mk 6:35-44; Lk 9:12-17; Jn 6:1-14).

42. Jesus feeds 4,000 men (not counting women and children; with 7 loaves of bread and a few small fish) they collect 7 large baskets full of leftovers (Mat 15:32-38; Mk 8:1-10).

43. In the parable of the sheep and goats, how we use our financial resources (to help needy people) marks us as either a sheep or goat (Mat 25:31-46; see also Lk 10:30-37).

44. Jesus, and His disciples, are provided for by the private means of wealthy women (Lk 8:1-3).

45. The body of Jesus is prepared for burial by very costly perfume (Mat 26:6-13; Jn 12:1-8).

46. Jesus eats the Passover with His disciples, in a borrowed room (Mat 26:17-19; Mk 14:12-16; Lk 22:7-13).

47. The body of Jesus is buried in a rich man's tomb, fulfilling prophecy (Mat 27:57-60; Isa 53:9).

48. The disciples caught so many fish (153 large fish) that they are unable to haul the nets in the boat (Jn 21:61-11).

The New Testament Church

49. Believers held all things in common and began to sell their property, land & possessions (Ac 2:44-47; 4:34-37).

50. Deacons are chosen to meet the needs of widows (Ac 6:1-7).

51. The church sends financial relief (due to famine) to believers in Judea (Ac 11: 27-30).

52. Paul supplemented his income as a tent-maker (Ac 18:3; 20:33-35; 1Cor 4:12; 1Thes 2:9; 2Thes 3:8-9).

53. Believers who were healed and helped by Paul, provided for him (Ac 28:7-10).

54. Churches provided for the poor Jewish believers (Rom 15:26-29; 2Cor 8:1-6).

55. Paul preached the gospel without charge to the people he was seeking to reach, he was supported financially by other churches (2Cor 11:7-11).

56. Paul was supported by the Philippian church (Phil 4:15-19).