

Building Your Faith for Prosperity

May 3, 2015

I. Our good heavenly Father

Our perception or understanding of the nature of God will determine our level of faith in His ability or desire to help us. When we believe that God is harsh, stern or austere, (Ps 18:25-26; Lk 19:21-22) we will hold back from asking for anything from Him. Likewise, we will not hesitate to ask Him for what we need when we believe that He is a good, loving, kind, gentle, giving and generous God (Mt 7:11). In fact the Bible connects the name of God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit with "good" or "goodness" about 370 times. Let's examine a few:

A. Faith and Repentance

Faith is built on the premise that God rewards (He is good) seekers!

Heb 11:6 But 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 diligently seek Him (2Thes 1:11).

Repentance comes from understanding His kindness (goodness).

Rom 2:4 the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

B. Old Testament

- 1. Praise God (give thanks) for He is good** - give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
(1Chr 16:34; 2Chr 5:13; 7:3; Ps 100:5; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1, 29; 135:3; 136:1; 145:6-7; Jer 33:11; Na 1:7; Ezk 3:11)
- 2. God does good things for His people**
Ps 23:6 surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life (Ps 103:1-5; 107:9).

Ps 85:12 The Lord will give what is good (Ps 34:10 ; 84:11; 104:28).
- 3. The Lord promised good to Israel** (Ps 73:1; Zech 8:15);
Moses attempts to persuade his father-in-law to join them (Num 10:29-32).
Israel is tested in the wilderness; God's plan was always to do good for them (Dt 8:16).
While Israel was in Egypt, God gave them the best of the land (Gen. 45:20; 47:6, 11).
God brought Israel into the land of Canaan - an exceedingly good land (Num 14:7; Dt 1:25; 8:7)
Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed;
all came to pass (Jos 21:45; 1Ki 8:56).
- 4. Taste and see that the Lord is good.** - Ps 34:8
Ps 31:19 How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You,
Lam 3:25 the Lord is good to those who wait for him
Ex 33:19 (God says to Moses) "I will make my goodness pass before you."
Ps 27:13 I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living
Jer 31:14 my people will be satisfied with my goodness
- 5. God is good, even to the wicked**
Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way (Ps 25:8).
Job 22:18 God has filled the houses of the wicked with good things
Ps 107:9 he fills the hungry with good things
Ps 145:9 the Lord is good to all
Mat 5:45 God sends sun and rain on all (Ac 14:17).

6. Even in the OT God gives prosperity and forgiveness - for He is good!

Prosperity

Dt 30:9 Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, ... for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers;

Ps 85:12 ...the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.

Ps 104:28 You give to them, ... You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good.

Forgiveness

Ps 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You. (Neh 9:17; Ps 130:5; Isa 55:7; Dan 9:9; Mic 7:18)

The New covenant.

Jer 32:40-42 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good (Jer 31:14; Lk 2:10; Mat 4:23; 11:4-5; Mk 1:15)

C. We have salvation because - God is good!

Father

Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (2Cor 9:15)

Mat 7:11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (Lk 6:35-36)

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?

Son

Mat 20:28 ... the Son of Man (*came*) to serve and to give His life a ransom for many

Jn 10:11-14 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep

Ac 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, (Jn 7:12; 10:32; Mk 7:37)

Spirit

Psa 143:10 ... Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Ne 9:20 You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,

Mt 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good (*the Holy Spirit*) to those who ask Him!"

D. New Testament

There is none good but God (Mat 19:17; Mk 10:18; Lk 18:19).

God's nature is good (Ac 14:17; Rom 2:4; 11:22 Phil 1:6).

God's Nature has never changed (Heb 13:8; Gen 1:31; Ex 33:18-19).

The Gospel (Good News) - God is a good God, (Ac 8:12; 13:32; 14:15-17)

The gospel changes everything:

Everything created by God is good , and nothing is to be rejected (1Ti 4:4).
Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, .. from the Father ... (Jas 1:17).
God is causing all things to work together for good to those who love God ... (Rom 8:28).
God's will is good (good acceptable and perfect; Rom 12:2).

E. God's goodness has an impact on Christians

Goodness (living in righteousness and truth) **is the fruit of a changed life** (Eph 5:9).

Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).

We are (His workmanship), **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, (Eph 2:10).

Our hope is fixed on God, we can enjoy what He gives And Use It for his purposes (1Ti 6:17-19).

II. The Wealth (Riches) of God

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

A. The riches of God are:

Unsearchable

Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Unfathomable

Eph 3:8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

Abound to all - who call on Him

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

B. God is rich in:

Mercy

Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Rom 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Grace

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

Eph 2:7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (2 Cor 8:9)

Glory

Rom 9:23 ... to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy ...

Eph 3:16 ... according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

Phil 4:19 (God will supply all your needs) ... according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Col 1:27 ... the riches of the glory of this mystery ...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Glory of His inheritance

Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

III. Scriptures to build your faith - God desires to bless His people

1. God's name is "Jehovah Jireh" - "the Lord provides." (Gen 22:14).
2. Financial blessing was the promise of obedience in the Old Covenant (Dt 7:12-16, 21-26; 28:1-14).
3. God gives us the power (ability) to make wealth (Dt 8:18).
4. God desires to remove poverty and being in debt (Dt 15:4-6)
5. God promises to bless us in our work (Dt 14:29; 15:10; 24:19; 2Chr 15:7; Jer 31:16; Col 3:23-24).
6. We will prosper wherever we go, as we daily meditate on God's Word (Jos 1:7-8; Psa 1:1-3)
7. Riches and honor come from God (1Chr 29:11-12).
8. We will spend our days in prosperity as we listen to & serve the Lord (Job 36:11)
9. God wants to give us good things (Psa 34:10)
10. God takes pleasure in our prosperity (Psa 35:27).
11. God wants us to enjoy what He has given to us (Psa 37:11).
12. God makes us productive and gives what is good (Psa 85:12).
13. He will satisfy our desires (Psa 145:15-16).
14. He will cause us to inherit wealth (Prov 8:21).
15. It is His blessings that will make us (prosperous) rich (Prov 10:22).
16. The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous (Prov 13:22).
17. God desires to give to His people great wealth (Prov 15:6).
18. Tithing allows God to open up the windows of heaven for us (Mal 3:10).
19. Seeking God's kingdom first, will release everything we need to our lives (Mat 6:33).
20. Our heavenly Father gives good things (Mat 7:11).
21. Followers of Jesus will receive rewards both in this life, and in eternity (Mk 10:28-31).
22. God our Father enjoys blessing us (Lk 12:32).
23. God freely gives us all things (Rom 8:32).
24. We can't even imagine all the things that God has in store for us (1Cor 2:9).
25. The Holy Spirit shows us the things that God freely gives to us (1Cor 2:12).
26. Through His poverty we are made rich (2Cor 8:9).
27. We have an abundance financially, for every good work (2Cor 9:8).
28. He supplies all our need (Phil 4:19).
29. He richly gives us all things to enjoy (1Tim 6:17).
30. We will prosper as our soul prospers (3Jn 2).

IV. Faith for Finances

A. Faith is the only thing that pleases God.

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.

B. By faith we:

1. **Live** (Gal 2:20; 3:11; Rom 1:17; Heb 10:38; Hab 2:4)
2. **Walk** - and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7)
3. **Pursue faith** (1Tim 6:11; 2Tim 2:22)
4. **Fight** - the good fight of faith (1Tim 6:12)
5. **Abound** - (in) faith (2 Cor 8:7)
6. **Accept** - those who are weak in faith (Rom 14:1)

7. Rest - our faith on the power of God and not on our abilities (1 Cor 2:5)

8. Grow (2 Cor 10:15)

9. Feed - our faith on the Word of God (Rom 10:17)

Meditate on Scriptures, believe for insights & revelation from the Word (Jer 33:3; Jos 1:8).

10. Give tithes & offerings - believing we will prosper (Mat 21:22; Lk 6:38; Jn 16:24; 2 Cor 9:6-10; Phil 4:15-19; 1Jn 3:22; Dt 15:10; Prov 3:9-10; 19:17; 22:9).

God's economy is based on Giving:

Tithing - Gen 14:18-20; 28:22; Mal 3:10-11; Heb 7:5-10

Offerings - Lk 21:1-4; Ac 24:17

Giving to the poor - Rom 15:26; Gal 2:10

Meeting the needs of the saints - Ac 2, 4, 6

11. Pray - (ask) in faith; (Mat 7:11; Mk 11:23-24; Jn 16:24; Jas 1:6).

Prayer for Provision "Whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive" (Mat 21:22)

As you pray over the following areas of your life, ask God in faith to open the windows of heaven for you and your family and pour out a blessing greater than expected.

1. Jobs, better jobs & promotions
2. Raises, bonuses and benefits
3. Sales & commissions increase
4. Business opportunities
5. Estates, settlements & inheritances
6. Rebates, returns & checks in the mail
7. Scholarships and favor
8. Interest, royalties & matching funds
9. Gifts, surprises & finding money
10. Wisdom & self control in spending
11. Bills decrease & income increase

12. Brainstorm with other creative believers, ask for their input (Prov 13:20; 24:6)

13. Position yourself in the anointed atmospheres of Church and Bible classes where the wisdom of the Holy Spirit is more easily manifested and take notes on what the Lord says to you (1Jn 2:27; Isa 30:21; Eph 1:17)

14. Don't limit your thinking within the perimeters of what you can do. Remember that with God all things are possible and nothing is too hard. There may be other creative ways, outside the box of your normal thinking, whereby God can provide for you (Lk 18:27 Jer 32:17,27)