Faith for Divine Prosperity

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 2

Divine prosperity belongs to each and every born-again child of God; it's part of the believer's inheritance in the new covenant. It is a blessing and not a curse, as well as a benefit that carries an awesome responsibility along with it. As the apostle Paul, inspired by Holy Spirit, said in 1 Timothy 6:17 - 19,

- ¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
- ¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate:
- ¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

And, we are warned in Proverbs 1:32,

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

For us to live in divine prosperity, we first have to believe that it is God's will, and secondly, we have to act like we are what the Word of God says we are. This is what pleases our heavenly Father.

Before I got saved, I had a job of installing floor covering. I went to church every Sunday, and was very religious, but didn't know Jesus as my Lord and Savior. One day, I was scheduled to carpet a parsonage of a pastor. His house was beautifully decorated with very expensive furnishings. It made me very angry that a minister lived this way, and I let him know that I totally disagreed with his lavish lifestyle. What made me even angrier is that he didn't try to explain to me, or reason or argue with me, or give me some excuse as to **why** he had these things. Instead, he said something that seemed to penetrate my heart, and I never got over it. He said something to the effect of, "Son, how is it that you'd want me to live? And, if I got rid of all these things, would you follow Jesus?" His words seemed to melt my heart.

I'm not too sure why I said what I did to him— maybe I was just jealous and envious. There seems to be no one more opinionated than a religious person. But, blessings and prosperity come from the Lord, and should be received and not resisted, simply because the Lord loves His children and just wants to bless them. When it comes to receiving all that God has for you, Satan, and many people who profess to be Christians, do not want the body of Christ to walk in victory or live as over-comers, or to walk in divine health or prosperity.

In order for a believer to prosper financially, they'll need to renew their mind to God's Word . This will come about by daily confessing prosperity scriptures and meditating on them day and night; casting down every thought that is contrary to the Word of God, and diligently seeking the Lord for wisdom and guidance in the affairs of this life. Receiving prosperity is like receiving divine healing. You have to purpose in your heart that it is for you and you cannot be bogged down in your walk of faith by those who go without (for whatever their reason may be). Just as there are a 'gazillion' people who haven't received divine healing, there will be that many or more, who don't receive divine prosperity.

You cannot allow the misfortunes of others keep you from inheriting the promises of God. You will have to be determined and take the bold stand that you will not compromise or permit poverty and lack to stay in your life. Though as believers, we will all be faced with temptations, tests and trials, the Lord will get us through **every one of them** if we will not waver in faith. As long as a person copes with poverty and lack, they'll always have it. But, once a believer gains the knowledge and revelation of God's Word, and builds their spirit man up with those promises, faithfully obeying the Lord, there will be nothing that Satan can do to prevent them from prospering. God will permit us to live in poverty, just as He will permit us to live in sin and sickness —**it's just not His will**.

Jesus tells a story of three individuals in Matthew 25, verse 14-30:

- ¹⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.
- ¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.
- ¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.
- ¹⁷ And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.
- ¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.
- ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.
- ²⁰ And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.
- ²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
- ²² He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.
- ²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
- ²⁴ Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:
- ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.
- ²⁶ His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:
- ²⁷ Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.
- ²⁸ Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.
- ²⁹ For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

³⁰ And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

It's very important, in your walk of faith and spiritual growth and development, that you take the time to renew your mind to God's Word to the point that you can believe in your heart that your Father God wants you to prosper and be successful in every area of your life. You need to be able to cast down all feelings of being undeserving and unworthy that cause you to think, 'why have the best when the other will do?' In any area that you allow doubt, fear, worry, unbelief, double-mindedness, or feelings of unworthiness to creep in, it will hinder and affect you in other areas of your Christian life.

What God requires of us is that we **believe His Word** and **act** as though it's true. We need to obey Him and always put Him first, and always remember to be thankful for everything He's done for us. Remember that all of our blessings and every good thing have come from Him.

Deuteronomy 8:18

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for <u>it is he that giveth</u> thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and <u>all these things</u> shall be added unto you.

James 1:17

<u>Every good gift</u> and every perfect gift is from above, and <u>cometh</u> down <u>from the Father</u> of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Philippians 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving <u>let your requests be made known unto God.</u>

It's easy to be influenced by the news of the world's economy, just as it is easy to be affected by the cultish false doctrine that poverty is godly. The usual reasons that a believer does not prosper financially are that they're too lazy to work and use and develop the talents that God gave them, or they think that they're pleasing God by going without. Or, they refuse to fight the good fight of faith and stand against poverty, which is one of the curses of the broken law, (* page. 5), or they're just scripturally ignorant of what belongs to them in their new covenant through Christ Jesus. Satan

does not want any believer to prosper financially, so he is going to do everything he can to keep a person scripturally ignorant of God's Word.

When I first received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I began tithing and giving offerings the night I got saved, and was honored to do so *just because* ministers said you should tithe and support the gospel. I knew little or nothing about believing God for financial breakthroughs, job promotions or other financial blessings. It wasn't until I started to hear people testifying about receiving financial miracles from the Lord that I began to look to God to bless me back for my obedience in supporting the gospel. Those testimonies helped inspire my faith and build my expectations that God would bless me back for my tithing and giving because He promised in His Word that He'd do so. Still, I didn't really know how to believe God personally for financial breakthroughs and returns.

Between the time that I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior and when I began to be taught the Word of faith, I had lost everything in the area of finances and had to move in with other people to keep from becoming homeless and living on the streets. During this time of financial famine, I heard everything preached from the pulpit by seemingly every kind of minister, from: 'you ought to thank God that you're unemployed'; 'money is the root of all evil'; 'the reason you lost everything is that God took it from you to try to humble you', to 'poverty pleases God'. When you are taught things like that, you have the tendency to back off from believing God for anything to the point that you pick up religious poverty spirits.

Thank God, just in the nick of time, the Lord got someone to me to teach me the Word of faith. As I became acquainted with the Word of faith, I started to learn how to apply the faith principles to put my faith in action and release it in God's Word. That is when I began to see miracle returns. I grabbed a hold of the faith principles that are laid out in the scriptures and I began to apply them to my circumstances. I took the Word and spoke to the financial mountains of unemployment and debt in my life to where I could believe God to open up the windows of heaven and pour me out a miracle job.

God always reaches out to us with His Word. If we welcome it and receive it, we enable God to work and perform the miracles in our lives that we so desperately need. Many people in the body of Christ have had an opportunity to be taught the Word of faith which would have helped them to walk in victory, divine health, healing and financial prosperity — but for whatever the reason was, they chose to reject it, not realizing that they chose to reject the power of God to change their lives from failure to victory!

It took me a lot of time and work to renew my mind to God's Word in the area of divine prosperity, because all of my life, I'd been taught that it is a blessing to be poor. Finally, as a process of time went by, God came through with a huge financial miracle – a miracle job. Through that miracle job, I was able to give much more in tithes and

offerings to support the gospel and help the minister deliver the message of the Word of faith.

Financial tests and trials come to all of us – but each one of us must discipline ourselves and pass every trial. God will always come through with a financial prosperity miracle, as well as every other kind of miracle. Reading these scriptures and praying in tongues every day, along with worshiping God on your knees with your hands lifted up to Him will help keep your faith strong and active, and at the same time, you will be showing the Lord that you're trusting in Him and in His Word, and not in yourself or the world economy. Doing this also enables God to work on our behalf to change the circumstances to our favor.

I want to encourage you to begin to look to God as your <u>Great Provider</u>. If you find yourself becoming discouraged in your walk of faith because the tests and trials seem severe, just make yourself keep doing what the Word of God teaches you to do, such as:

- -walk in love.
- -be led by the Holy Ghost,
 - -forgive others who have wronged you,
 - -repent of any sin or wrongdoing that went unconfessed,
 - -fervently, and earnestly pray for others, and
 - -help God build His kingdom by faithfully tithing and giving to the gospel.

Just keep on thanking and praising God and rejoicing in the Lord that:

- -every need is met in abundance and that the windows of heaven are opened up to you,
- -that God is pouring out blessings to you,
- -that the devil is bound from your finances,
- -that every bill is paid, in Jesus' Name, and
- -that God wishes above all things that you prosper.

Do not give up or quit; feed your faith every day on the promises of God, and every day, spend time on your knees, lifting your hands and sacrificing praises and thanksgiving

unto the Lord. The Lord will never fail to come through, nor will He ever let you down. For, as the psalmist said in Psalm 37:25,

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

So, no matter how the circumstances may seem, I want to encourage you to just keep standing on the promises, claiming your inheritance, always obeying the Lord in whatever He'd ask you to do, and thanking the Lord that He is your Great Provider.

Remember, prosperity belongs to you; it's part of your new covenant.

Reading and confessing these scriptures on a daily basis will help ignite your faith to believe God for financial prosperity and His favor with the creditors, as well as challenge you to step out in giving for you to receive your bountiful miracle return.

Psalm 35:27

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

Isaiah 1:19

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Job 36:11

If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

Hebrews 7:8,22

Hebrews 8:6

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Mark 11:23,24

⁸ And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

²² By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

- ²³ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.
- ²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Romans 8:17,32,37

- ¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
- ³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
- ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

- ⁶ But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
- ⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
- ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:
- ⁹ (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.
- ¹⁰ Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)
- ¹¹ Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

Galatians 3:13,14,29

- ¹³ Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
- ¹⁴ That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- ²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 6:6-9

- ⁶ Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.
- ⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
- ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
- ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

2 Peter 1:3

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

* Some curses of the broken law are listed here:

Deuteronomy 28:38,39;43,44;47&48

³⁸ Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it.

- ³⁹ Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.
- ⁴³ The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.
- 44 He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.
- ⁴⁷ Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;
- ⁴⁸ Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Pastor Jesse Rich

JESSE RICH MINISTRIES (212) 501-8839 P.O. Box 237170 NYC N.Y. 10023 www. JesseRichMinistries. Org JRM ©2004

April 2001