

Jesse Rich Ministries

July '05 Newsletter

“Called to reach the World with the Word of Faith”

God's Prosperity Principles

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

Dear friend and partner,

In this newsletter, I want to share principles with you from God's Word on the subject of divine prosperity. As always, I want to encourage you to take the scriptures that I share and begin to apply them to your daily life. I'm going to start out with 3 John 2 and build from there. It says, **Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.** When I first heard this verse of scripture, I wasn't too sure if I was God's beloved, so it was even harder to try to believe God that He wanted me to prosper financially. My difficulty believing this scripture was all because my mind had never been renewed to God's Word.

What the World Says about Prosperity

Almost every Christian has had ill feelings about prosperity at one time or another in their life, because for generations, we've been taught the religious idea that poverty and godliness are linked together. Somehow, we've heard that the poorer you are, the more spiritual you are. We heard statements such as, "I'm just as poor as Job's turkeys," and "Money is the root of all evil." To make matters worse, that kind of thinking and teaching is reinforced in the secular world. We've been told that 'money doesn't grow on trees,' and have heard comments like, "I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go." Hearing these statements, whether coming from a religious or secular background, takes a toll on us.

What God Says about Prosperity

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

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18

These verses show us that it is God's will that we prosper

financially. Even concerning 3 John 2, many believers and ministers will tell you, (*and I'm sure they already have*) that the word, "prosperity" in this verse means *spiritual* prosperity and the word "health" means *spiritual* health. My question to that is, **Why can't you just believe what God has said?** The word "prosperity" means prosperity. It's in your covenant, just as the word "health" means health, and it is part of your New Covenant. But you will have to persuade yourself of that.

How are you, as a believer, going to prosper and have good health? It starts out with your thinking and believing, which is derived by your speaking.

For instance, if God wants me to prosper and have good health, I have to ask myself the question: **"How is it going to come about,"** if at the time I am not prosperous and do not have good health. So, how will this prosperity and good health come about? **The answer is in the Word of God.**

God said in Joshua 1:8, **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do. Deuteronomy 29:9

In life, what we get boils down to what we believe God for. How are you going to prosper? By **"...even as your soul prospers"** (3 John 2). Our soul is our mind, emotions, and intellect. We always have to get our thinking in line with God's Word. The laws of prosperity are laid out in God's Word. God told Joshua not to let the Word depart out of his mouth. The more we speak God's promises, the more able we will be to believe God's Word and what He has promised us.

For instance, when I first got a hold of 3 John 2, I put my name there, by the word, "beloved", so when I read that scripture from my Bible, or quoted it, I would read it this way: **Jesse, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and**

be in health, even as thy soul prospers.

By doing that repeatedly, day and night, it helped me become more persuaded that God wanted me to be prosperous. Let's face it- doing the Word takes a lot of effort and work on our part. To stay in debt and never having enough, or *just having enough*, doesn't take much Word effort. It's when we decide we're going to live in prosperity and set our goal to be debt-free and living in abundance that it's going to take a lot of effort on our part to meditate on the Word of God day and night.

I started saying, "*I'm prosperous, I live in abundance, I sow bountifully, therefore I reap bountifully, I'm debt-free,*" etc. These kinds of statements alone sounded peculiar to my thinking at the time. My head wasn't used to hearing me talk that way. Instead, my mind was used to hearing me make statements like, "*I can't afford that, That's too expensive, I don't make that kind of money, No one has ever given me anything*", and on and on ... So, you see, when I started saying what the Word said about me, and stopped saying what I used to say, it took a while before my mind began to accept it.

For instance, if over the past several years, you've always gotten up at 7:00 a.m., and now you decide you're going to get up at 5:00 a.m. and spend time in prayer and in God's Word, don't you suppose it would take a while for your body to adjust? Why is that? Because your body had a different routine. Your body is your flesh. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

Your body doesn't want to fast, pray, walk in love, or turn the other cheek. In the same way, your mind, or your intellect, is not going to want to think on the promises of God. Your mouth is not going to want to confess God's Word day and night. Your mind is not going to automatically think in line with the Word, nor is your mouth going to always automatically speak the Word. So, we have to reprogram, (*or renew*) our mind with the Word, as we read in Romans 12:1, 2: **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

AMP

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Cor. 10:4, 5

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. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long. Psalm 35:27,28

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Joshua 1:8

The preceding scriptures show us the importance of speaking God's Word constantly, as well as keeping our mind, thinking and thoughts on God's Word. So, as far as finances or health go (*as well as for anything else the Word of God promises,*) you have to train and discipline yourself to think and speak the Word only.

Why Jesus Came

Every morning and throughout the day, as well as every night, we have to make our mouths say what the Word says about us. In regard to prosperity, we need to speak the promises of God on prosperity so much that we get to the point that we believe we are prosperous and see ourselves financially prosperous. We have to get to the point that we see that we are God's child and believe He wants us to live in abundance. Jesus said in John 10:10, **...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

We have to see that we have been redeemed from the curse of poverty and sickness and redeemed into wealth, riches and divine health: **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: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.** Galatians 3:13, 14, 29

This is one of the reasons Jesus came to this world. Jesus came so we would have the abundant life... He didn't come so we would have just enough life, but **abundant life** - meaning, more than enough. One has to ask themselves the question: **"Am I really living the abundant life? Would people around me - my neighbors, friends, and loved ones say that I was living the abundant life?"**

We confuse the world when we tell them God is good and they don't see the goodness of God in our lives. Sinners should be envious of what we have - they should be envious and jealous of the blessings of God that we have in our lives. People listen and have respect for those who are prosperous and successful. It gets their attention.

Our Blessings Should Get their Attention

No one pays much attention to someone pouring milk into a glass. But when the person keeps on pouring to the point that it is overflowing and spilling out all over the place, that gets people talking and moving about. The Philistines were jealous of Isaac's blessings: **Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.** ¹³**And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:** ¹⁴**For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.** Genesis 26:12-14

Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. Ecclesiastes 9:16

God's Will for the Body of Christ

Jesus came not only to give you new life through the new birth by receiving Him as your Lord and Savior, but He also came to redeem you from all the curse, and so the blessing of Abraham would come upon you. He paid the price for your prosperity and divine health. It is the devil that doesn't want the church to know that.

Abraham's blessing was primarily financial, so not only did Jesus purchase you from the curse of poverty by redeeming you from the curse of the law, He also did this for you so the blessing of Abraham would come upon you. Again, Galatians 3:13 says, **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:** And, verse 14 goes on to say, **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

This tells us that all the blessings that God purchased for us have to be received by us, and we have to receive them by faith. So, this helps explain why some in the body of Christ seem to be doing better than others financially.

If you get the attitude that if God wants you blessed or to have something, He'll just give it to you, you are implying that there's nothing you have to do. You leave the impression that it's all up to God. But really, **nothing is all up to God!** Because, to every blessing, there is a God-ward part and a man-ward part.

God purchased salvation through the new birth for us, but it's up to each person to receive it and act upon it. You can't just go day after day and not be working on and developing your faith, because what happens is you're developing a lifestyle which will start out going day after day, which will lead into week after week, month after month and year after year. The next thing you know, you've wasted your faith and authority that God gave you, just like the man that hid the one talent. We can read about this in Matthew 25:14 -30

¹⁴**For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling 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 straved: ²⁷Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

²⁸Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

If you went into any church in America, and asked the born-again people who were married to raise their hand if they have marital problems, you'd get a few hands. If you asked that same audience to raise their hand if they are battling depression and can't seem to get the victory, you'd get a few hands.

If you asked that same congregation to raise their hand if they are sick in body or have something physically wrong right now, whether they are seeing the doctor or taking medications. Or, maybe they've been praying about their condition and for whatever the reason, they're still dealing with it. Now, depending on how much Word that pastor has preached to his congregation, you'll get about one-half to three-quarters of the congregation who are afflicted with something.

Now, ask the same congregation, *"How many of you can honestly say that you are living in financial abundance. You've got more than enough money and God has blessed you financially too much-I want you raise your hands."* You probably won't get one hand to go up, and yet there are almost 1500 scriptures in the Bible that have to do with money, finances, and material needs.

So, financial prosperity has never been a minor issue with God concerning His people. You'll find out, if you will study it out and research your Bible that more likely, it's a major issue, because God is not poor, and neither should His children be poor.

Many of the scriptures in which God did miracles in the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the New Testament were financial miracles. But, you can know for sure that Satan is behind the reason the body of Christ was deceived into thinking God doesn't want us to live in abundance. As long as you don't become haughty or high-minded, and as long as you always put God first and give Him the first portion of your income, He'll basically let you have anything you want and/or desire, as long as you can believe Him for it, for He said in Psalm 23:1, **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:4

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing. Psalm 34:9

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:24

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Matthew 7:11

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1:17

God is the One Who came up with the idea that He wanted His people prosperous and to have good health. Satan doesn't want you to have anything, and whether you realize it or not, he is your adversary and he's going to fight you day and night with worry, fear, doubt, unbelief, confusion, double-mindedness, guilt, condemnation and depression. All of this is to get you to quit believing God.

So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. Job 2:7

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? Luke 13:16

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38

Neither give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:27

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1 Peter 5:8,9

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

You Get to Choose... Abundance or Poverty

You can do so much more for God by being healthy and prosperous than you can by being sick and poor. You can pray in the spirit all the way to work in comfort, driving a luxurious automobile, singing in tongues, quoting scriptures and praising God and still take time out to witness to a sinner about Jesus Christ. You do not have to drive an uncomfortable piece of trash that has bald tires, no A.C. and a radio that doesn't work.

If you can believe God to have your needs met, you can believe God to have too much. Some people live their whole Christian lives not having enough to go around, when they could have

more than enough to go around. Some people are poor because they want to be poor. On the other hand, some people fly first-class because they want to fly first class.

There is nothing in the Word that even hints at the idea that if you have the comforts of this world they'll make you less spiritual. God wants you to have the best. If He didn't, He'd never have given you the best He had: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** John 3:16

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? Romans 8:32

Don't fall for the lie that the more miserable you are, the more spiritual you'll be, or for the lie that the less you have financially, the more pleased God will be. Never take a vow of poverty, for in so doing, you are agreeing to accept the curse of poverty. God would never lead you to live in poverty in order to please Him. In doing so, He would violate His covenant that He has with you. Here, again we have 2 Corinthians 8:9: **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.** We have to treat poverty, sickness and disease the same way we treat sin.

As long as you tolerate poverty and sickness, they will never leave you. You may be satisfied with what you have, but you have to ask yourself the question, is God satisfied? Because, if it's not abundance, it's not where God wants you, for Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. And Jesus didn't make us just conquerors, He made us **more than conquerors.** **Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.** Romans 8:37 He also came, according to the scriptures, to redeem us from the curse that was on mankind. Poverty is a curse, as described in Deuteronomy 28:29: **And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.**

Jesus came that the blessing of Abraham might come upon us. Part of the blessing of Abraham is wealth, riches, and prosperity, as we read in Deuteronomy 28:1-14:

1And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. 4Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. 5Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. 6Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

7The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. 8The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy

storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. 10And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. 11And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

12The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. 13And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: 14And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

God Has Made His Case for Abundance

You notice it was God that made Abraham rich. It was God's idea and not a man's idea.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: Genesis 12:1,2

And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses. Genesis 24:1,35

And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. Genesis 13:1,2

God prospered Isaac in Genesis 26:12-16: **12Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. 13And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: 14For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. 15For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth. 16And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.**

God prospered Joseph in Genesis 39:2,3: **And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.**

God prospered David in 1 Chronicles 29:27,28: **Thus David...
...died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour...**

God prospered His people when He delivered them from the Egyptians when they were still slaves. Just as they were leaving Egypt, the Egyptians turned over their wealth to the children of Israel. Talk about the wealth of the sinner laid up for the just! This is a good example! **And the people of Israel did as Moses said and asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. And the Lord gave the Israelis favor with the Egyptians, so that they gave them whatever they wanted. And the Egyptians were practically stripped of everything they owned!** Exodus 12:35,36 The Living Bible

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. Proverbs 13:22

Another translation reads: **A good man leaves an inheritance [of moral stability and goodness] to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner [finds its way eventually] into the hands of the righteous, for whom it was laid up.** AMP

God prospered Asa in 2 chronicles 14:7: **Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered.**

God also prospered Uzziah in 2 chronicles 26:5: **And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.**

And it was God that prospered Job and made him very rich. Satan had stolen practically everything from Job, and afflicted his body. **So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.** Job 2:7 But Job clung to God and God delivered him, giving him twice as much as he had before: a new wife and 10 more children and he lived another 140 years! But the kicker about this is that among all the things that God gave to Job, what stands out to me is the 6,000 camels! (Job 42:12) Can you imagine how many people thought that Job had *too much*? Do you suppose anybody asked Job, "*Don't you think you have too many camels?*"

Abraham had too many sheep and too many cattle. Abraham had so much that he and Lot couldn't dwell together. **And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.** Genesis 13:2-6

Abraham didn't get this stuff for himself, any more than Isaac, Joseph, David, the children of Israel, Job, Asa or Uzziah did. God blessed them with it. If these patriarchs of old were in the

body of Christ today, there would be people that would say they have too much stuff and they are too rich, and should give it away to the poor and needy.

But these dear folks fail to realize that these patriarchs were prosperous because of God. They believed God, obeyed God, and stood on their covenant. They made no apologies for their prosperity, and they were known for being a blessing to others. They were just as human as you and I are - they made mistakes, they sinned, they failed, but in the midst of all their traumas, they turned to God and chose to believe what He said about them and consequently, the blessing of God overtook them.

21And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: Genesis 14:21-23

When God blesses something, it would seem to others that He goes overboard. And God said if we tithe, *He would open the windows of heaven to us!* He said we wouldn't have room to receive it. As long as you and I have got room for more, we're still not in God's perfect will financially.

10Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, 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. 11And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. 12And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:10-12

10And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

11Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.

12So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

13He had also seven sons and three daughters. 14And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch. 15And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.

16After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. 17So

Job died, *being old and full of days.* Job 42:10-17

In Luke 5:6,7, God gave them too much fish -- so much that their ships began to sink! When God turned the water into wine in John 2:2-11, God's wine was better than all the rest. And in John 6:5-13, when God fed the 5000 people, not only did the people eat until they were filled, but when they collected the remainder, they filled 12 baskets! Keep in mind that they started out with five loaves and two fish!

All these testimonies we have in God's Word is what God wants to do today.

God has always wanted His people to have good health and live a long life in prosperity without sickness or disease, for it says so in His Word.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:4,5

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Matthew 8:17

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 1 Peter 2:24

We have the same God these people had, and we have a better Covenant than they did: **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.** Hebrews 8:6

Religious Thinking Unrenewed to God's Word

Not long ago, a lady phoned me, all upset because she'd heard on the news that a minister had spent \$10,000 on a hotel room. She let me know that she thought that was too much to pay for a room, and *'what kind of witnesses is that?'*

My response was, *"First of all, that's none of your business."* I immediately thought about what Judas said about Jesus in John 12:5. *Today's value on this perfume would be about \$25,000. Judas thought that was far too much to be poured out on Jesus' feet. To him, it was apparently a waste of money. That's how the carnal mind thinks when it's not been renewed to God's Word.

*** NOTE:**

If a believer is going to prosper financially, and have good health physically, You can't judge other people. Jesus said in Matthew 7:1-5: **1Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5Thou**

hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

And that is before He said this:

7Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Matthew 7:7-11

A big reason why many believers don't prosper and have good health or get their prayers answered is that they may think they know the Word, but they're not doing it. When you are critical of others and judge others, the first thing you lose is your divine protection. Everyone finds that out when they start living by faith, because the first thing you learn in the faith message is that faith it works by love.

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Galatians 5:6

If you judge others, you're going to get sick.

For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:30-32

Each person is responsible to God for what they do with their money. I don't know about you, but the ministries that brought me the Word of God, all the way from pastor James Helton, who got me saved (under Jesus and through Him) all the way to today with the ministers that feed me God's Word-I wanted to be a blessing to them. I wanted them to have the best of this world's goods, whether they were a pastor, a Bible teacher, a missionary, a prophet or evangelist - whomever- I wanted them to have the best suit, the best house, the best car, the best hotel, and the best restaurant.

I've always been honored to do anything I could for them. I always tried to find out - and still do - what they enjoyed. What was their favorite restaurant, favorite cologne, favorite airline, when were their children's birthdays and what their families liked. I wanted to be the first one to do something for them without them even knowing I did it. There's no greater blessing than being a blessing to someone else! I supported ministers and ministries that I agreed with what they preached, and some that I totally did not agree with what they preached. But I knew they were God's servants and I wanted to bless every one of them that I could.

It's a way that I could show God that I appreciate his servants,

and at the same time, it helps stop strife and discord among the body of Christ.

Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? ⁸Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? ⁹For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? ¹⁰Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

¹¹If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? ¹²If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. ¹³Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? ¹⁴Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. ¹ Corinthians 9: 7-14

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. ¹ Timothy 5: 17, 18

So, we are admonished from God's Word to take care of His servants. He said that they were worthy of double honor .

We shouldn't be judging others that all, but we need to judge ourselves. I know a pastor that used to preach against me and tell people not to come to my meetings. I wanted to do something good for him based on what Jesus said in Matthew 5:44: **But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

I wanted to do something good for that pastor. So I found out where he got his hair cut and I went in to talk to the stylist. I told him I wanted to anonymously take care of this pastors hair cut. I didn't want the pastor to find out I was the one doing it. Let him think what he wanted to think of me. I just wanted to be a blessing to that pastor, as well as stop Satan in his tracks of sowing discord and strife.

We have to come to the place, as believers, that spiritually speaking, we become as adults and not act like babies. We can't allow our feelings or emotions or what people say about us to dominate us. When Satan has people say mean things about you, just counter him back by walking in love and not allowing your feelings to be hurt. Our feeling are our responsibility and not someone else's. If Satan can get involved with our emotions, he can discourage us in the process. As we love other believers and bless others, God will bless us back!

Who is to be Blessed, You or Them ?

If a believer is not to have the room that cost ten thousand dollars, **who is?** - **Who** is supposed to have the best of this world? Mr. and Mrs. sinner, or the child of God?

- **Who** is supposed to have the most expensive house, the nicest cars and clothing? The ungodly, or the righteous? The representatives of Satan, or the ambassadors of Christ?

Judas got all upset because of what Jesus allowed that lady to do. When people start down the road of thinking someone spent too much money, or that the wasted money could have been used for something more important, they fail to realize that financial prosperity and divine prosperity is a New Covenant blessing. It belongs to each and every believer! You are not pleasing God by going without or by spending less money, or by cutting costs and settling for something less than the best.

When a believer starts down this road thinking they're being a "good steward", it's just another word for poverty and doubt. By only buying the sale items, the 50% off bargains, cutting coupons and buying all the cheap stuff and buying in bulk, by waiting until it goes on sale before buying it may be somewhere for a believer to start, but not for a believer to stay. All the money they think they're saving by buying the cheap items and bragging about how much they saved is no indication of being a good steward. It can be an excuse for a lack of faith, an unrenewed mind, or a lack of knowledge of their covenant with God.

Doing these things usually develops into a poverty mentality that they carry throughout their whole life. People will gossip about you if they think you've paid too much for something. You can try to justify your rationale of why you buy the cheap stuff and all the generic brands instead of the name brands. They may really think they're getting a good deal, but what it usually comes down to is a person that is trying to meet their own needs. They are not using their faith to believe God for the best. Anything that is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). It's very dangerous for a believer to get themselves in a position that they're not growing and developing their faith.

I was raised in a home that my mother saved all the newspapers, grocery bags, used gift wrap, plastic butter tubs, and bread wrappers, just in cast they were ever needed. **What we were doing was believing God for harder times to come than what we were experiencing at the time!** It sounds so good when you hear people living like this, but it is a poverty mentality.

We are not believing for harder times to come! We don't hoard in fear and call it being a good steward. We freely receive, we freely give away (Matthew 10:8). We don't save broken washers, dryers, refrigerators, stereos, or worn out lawnmowers, thinking that someday we might need them. That stuff served its purpose, and now it's junk. We just replace it with the new and better, because the Lord is our Shepherd, and we do not want (Psalm 23:1)

Almost every cult has come out of a poverty mentality with people living the way they did 200 years ago. Our God is a God of increase, and not decrease. **So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. ¹ Corinthians 3:7**

God is El Shaddai, not El Cheapo. He's the God that is more

than enough! We are to be thankful for every blessing we have, but never satisfied until we're pleasing God. And to please God financially, we must live in abundance. God was not well pleased with the children of Israel living in Egypt, nor was He pleased with them living in the wilderness, wearing the same shoes and clothing for 40 years! **Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.** Deuteronomy 8:4 He wasn't pleased until they got over into prosperity – to the land that flowed with milk and honey! (1 Corinthians 10:1-13 & Hebrews 3:7 - 4:2)

Returning God's Tithes to Him

The world, and many times the church world, seem to rejoice when a wealthy person is indicted for embezzlement or misappropriation of funds. But we've all been guilty of that in some form or another when we did not tithe and give God what belongs to Him. People are quick to judge others in regard to financial matters. When you hear people make statements like, "They paid too much for that, That's too expensive, That costs too much," it's usually coming from somebody that has never taken the time to renew their mind to God's Word.

I thought about the lady who was critical of the minister and what he spent for his hotel room. Yet, that very same lady told me herself that she did not tithe. She used her tithe and offering to send her grandchildren to private school. In her mind, she was justified in doing what she did, while the minister was wrong to do what he did. In her mind, it was terrible what that minister spent for a hotel room, but it was O.K. for her to rob God of His tithe. When you get off the Word, and stop doing the Word, you begin to deceive yourself. **But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.** James 1:22

The tithe is the first 10% of our income. It does not belong to us; it belongs to God. **And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.** Leviticus 27:30

One way we can put God first as Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, is to give God our first fruits. **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. Prov. 3:9,10

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, 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. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your

ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? Malachi 3:6-14

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. 1 Corinthians 16:2

And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. Hebrews 7: 8

We don't have to cheat God in order to pay our bills. He doesn't automatically withhold His portion from our income the way the government does. He asks us to bring it to Him. **This is where we can prove to God that we're good stewards! By giving Him His portion first!**

What I found out early in my Christian life is that if I am going to prosper and have good health, I'm going to have to put God first. And, the way we do that financially is to honor God with our firstfruits. So, before we pay our rent or buy groceries or fuel for the car, we give our firstfruits. If we will be faithful in our tithe toward God, He will open up the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing. A blessing is anything that blesses you. Good health is a blessing. Divine protection is a blessing. The salvation of a loved one is a blessing.

Cornelius' whole family got saved and baptized in the Holy Ghost. One of the reasons it happened, the angel said, is because Cornelius gave money to help people. God saw what Cornelius did and blessed him for his endeavors.

A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. Acts 10:2,31

When we withhold our tithes from God, and not give what we should give, the scripture says it brings on poverty. **There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.** Proverbs 11:24,25

When I first got started tithing soon after I was born-again, it caused some repercussions that seem to be very uncomfortable to handle. My accountant never understood it, and my father said I gave too much. My saved relatives cussed me and told me off, saying all the money I was giving was going to buy that preacher a new car. They thought I needed it more than the minister did. So, by tithing, I stirred the devil up. (You do, when you step out on the Word). When you hear the Word and begin to do it, Satan comes immediately to stop you from acting on God's Word. He uses afflictions and persecutions to intimidate you (Mark 4:13 - 20).

Satan is not going to sit back and let you enjoy your inheritance

and blessings of God. He's going to all he can to discourage you from going on and believing God. He'll distract you from the Word of God to hinder you with every onslaught he has at his disposal in order to destroy your faith in God's promises.

As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 2:18, **Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.** But notice what Paul didn't say: that Satan *stopped* them!

I knew that my accountant, my dad, and my relatives did not know what I knew: no matter how much I suffered financially at the time, *(and I sure was)* I'm never going to get out of this financial dilemma of poverty and lack, unless I stayed faithful with my tithe. Things can get a lot worse if you don't obey God! So no matter what people say, or how they treat you or misunderstand you, you stay faithful to God and honor Him with your firstfruits, and His blessings will overtake you!

I want to pause and say something here that we all must come to in this life, as believers. Each one of us must sooner or later, (and the sooner the better) prove God's promises out for ourselves to the point and degree that we have our own testimony and we know that God's Word works and never fails in the area of finances. Your foundation is Matthew 6:33: **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

Put God first. Financially, that means giving Him your firstfruits and just keep doing it, and doing it and doing it and doing it, and never stop doing it. Tithing has got to be established in your life. It has to become "Uno -# 1". That is why God said in 1 Corinthians 16:2, **Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.**

For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Hebrews 7:1,2

¹⁰**Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, 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.*** ¹¹**And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.** ¹²**And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.** Malachi 3:10-12

And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. Hebrews 7:8

Abraham didn't even make it home after his great conquest that he didn't take the time to put God first and pay his tithe as he returned home.

It takes faith to tithe, and your faith will never grow to the place

that it needs to as long as you don't tithe faithfully. No matter how many offerings we give - and thank God for offerings - we haven't done anything until we tithe first!

Able gave the firstfruits of his flock in Genesis 4:3, and Cain gave an offering from his crops. Abel put God first with his firstfruits, and Cain didn't. God received Abel's gift and didn't receive Cain's, even though Cain gave.

I don't know about you, but I keep my monthly bills in a container. On the top of them, are the envelopes I use for my tithes and offerings to support the gospel. Brothers and sisters, it's always best that you and I put God first, because we'll never have peace in our heart until we do. Your greatest miracles and breakthroughs will come by using Malachi 3:10-12.

The #1 reason a believer does not tithe is usually because of a lack of faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word and hearing and hearing. Ministers have always got to feed the sheep and teach them God's Word so our faith will be built up. Give God a dime out of every dollar. Take the tithing challenge, and when problems come, stand on God's promises and just stay faithful in putting God first.

I want to challenge you to begin listening to what you've been saying, how you've been acting and what you've been thinking about in the area of financial matters. Ask yourself, *"Have I been faithful with the Lord's tithe? Am I really believing God's promises for my prosperity, or have I just been settling for whatever has come and accepted it as His will?"*

It is our responsibility to hear the Word and do the Word. It's God's responsibility to confirm the Word.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. Mark 16:20

We do our part, and He'll do His part. Keep standing on His promises and believe God for your financial increase, in Jesus' Name.

Your partner in faith,

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