

Prosperity is Promised to Us

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

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

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

Prosperity: It's in the Bible

Receiving or Rejecting it is up to You

Prosperity is a Bible word, so no matter what your opinion of it is, God wants His children to prosper spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially. Most Christians usually agree that God wants people to prosper spiritually, but a controversy seems to arise when it comes to healing and financial prosperity for everyone. While the body of Christ argues over whether it is God's will to prosper financially, and whether it is God's will that every person be healed, the devil is able to keep us divided over these issues in the body of Christ. Consequently, many believers fail to receive all that God has for them in this life through Christ Jesus.

God Wants You to Prosper Financially

The reason I am so confident that God wants His children to prosper financially is because He said so in 3 John 2. It doesn't make any difference who in the

Bible prospered, and who didn't. Prosperity is in your New Covenant, and you have the choice to accept it or reject it. God didn't choose a few people to prosper and others not, because He's no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

Some Examples NOT to Follow:

Just as there were people in the Bible who didn't receive their healing, there were also people in the Bible who didn't prosper financially. But that was not God's fault.

Some people in the Bible didn't receive their healing for various reasons: some because of unbelief (Mark 6:1-7), and some because they wouldn't judge themselves: **For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 1 Corinthians 11:30,31**

The Importance of Heeding the Lord's Voice:

Proverbs 1:24-33: **Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.**

(Read also 1 Corinthians 11:23-31)

Reasons for Failing to Receive Covenant Prosperity

Some people in the Bible didn't prosper financially because they didn't tithe: **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.** Malachi 3:6-12

Reasons for Failing to Receive Covenant Prosperity

I. Others didn't prosper because they spoke against what God told them to do in regard to tithing: **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 3:13,14

II. There were people who didn't prosper financially because they murmured and complained and failed to act on what God told them to do (Read Numbers, Chs. 13 & 14).

III. Others lost everything they had because they failed to use the abilities that God gave them (Matt.25:14-30 - See p.4).

IV. Some lived in poverty because they refused to work. They would rather live off somebody else. The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing. Proverbs 20:4

V. Others lived in poverty just because they weren't diligent and wouldn't stir themselves up to do what they needed to do (Proverbs 13:4).

More Examples of Disobedience to God's Word

VI. Some people in the Bible committed suicide (Matthew 27:5).

VII. Some people in the Bible chose not to follow God; they thought that following Jesus was too hard. They didn't like doing what He told them to do (John 6:66). While many of Jesus' disciples left because the message was too hard, they are not our examples to follow.

Are You Disobedient to God's Word?

There are a lot of people today who don't like to go to church (Hebrews 10:25). Their reason for not going is that the preacher receives an offering. They are being rebellious to tithing and supporting the gospel. They think more of their bills than they do the work of God. But you will reap what you sow, praise the Lord! It's that way, and it should be. That makes it fair for all of us. The people who tithe, give and serve the Lord should be the ones who get the rewards.

If you don't have any more than you do financially, it's your fault, not God's. God's Word never fails when we become doers of the Word. A lack of knowledge of God's Word will cause a person to live in poverty and lack. If a believer does not know God's Word in any given area of their life, there will be a lack in that area.

A lack of attention to God's Word can cause a person to become weak spiritually and cause them not to recognize Satan's devices. Some dear believers do not make the necessary effort to build themselves up in the promises day and night. God makes it very plain that if we want to prosper, we have to meditate on His Word day and night. But if we hang around the wrong people, we can become scornful (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:1-6

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

Pastor Jesse Rich

**Jesse Rich Ministries
P.O. Box 237170
New York, NY 10023**

PHONE: (212) 501-7999

Email: www.JesseRichMinistries.com/contact.htm

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