

Lesson 6 – Finance 2

Prospering In The Kingdom

Read these Scripture verses below and then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (Pr 11:25 NIV)

A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper. (Pr 28:25 NIV)

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. (3 Jn 1:2 NKJV)

Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. (2 Cor 11:23-27 NIV)

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Phil 4:11-13 NIV)

Therefore do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matt 6:31-33 NKJV)

When our hearts are set on the Kingdom of God, we have the promise that our needs will be met. But we have even more than that. We are promised prosperity. The problem with prosperity (along with many other Biblical principles) is that we often start with man's definition rather than God's.

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First of all, prosperity is rooted in trust in God, not only in His ability to provide for us but also His willingness rain down blessings upon us. We must have a generous spirit. Unlike the world, the Kingdom teaches, "How can I prosper unless I'm giving my stuff away?"

We can see from Paul's writings in 2 Corinthians & Philippians above the true threshold for prosperity is quite low. Paul recognized when he had plenty because he knew how to be "content in any and every situation." Contentment is the foundation of prosperity.

1. Biblically, is it God's will to prosper you? To bless you with stuff? To show the world that you are one of His own? (Please offer support for your answers.)
2. Share an example of a time where, as a Christian, you lacked contentment when you had far more than the impoverished in foreign countries.
3. What can you do to find the "blessing" in pork casserole, chicken ala king, or shepherd's pie? (You know where we're coming from here.)
4. Share the different ways a person can prosper (from a Kingdom point of view) and what that currently looks like in your life.
5. Noting your answer above, what areas in your life lack true prosperity and what changes do you think you should make in your life in order to live in the fullness God intends for you.