

GOD'S PLAN FOR PROSPERITY

Today we are going to talk about God's plan for prosperity.
Encourage to read Dr John's boo, "How to produce abundance in your life."

Gen 13:2 NKJV it says that Abraham was rich in cattle, silver and gold.
Bible scholars say that Solomon was the richest man in the world.
Historians say that there was so much silver in Israel that it was like stones in the street.
We see prosperity, so the question many have is does God want us to prosper?

Josh 1:8 NKJV "This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it both day and night, that you may observe to do all that is written in it, for then you will make your way prosperous and have good success."

Deut 8:18 NKJV "And you shall remember the lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth that He may establish His covenant."

3 John 2 NKJV "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."

We see in His Word He wants us to be prosperous and today we will cover 3 points:
PROMISE OF PROSPERITY
PROCESS OF PROSPERITY
PURPOSE OF PROSPERITY

To cover these points, we first must understand what the word 'prosperity' means.

I. What is prosperity?

In the Hebrew, the word is tsalach- (salach) and it means, to progress, to advance, succeed, and to push forward.

You may be attaining things on your own, but then God is going to cause you to advance, succeed and push you forward in your marriage, your relationships, your job and in your money.

How do we know that God's wants us to walk in prosperity? Does He promise this to us?

Let's look at the PROMISE OF PROSPERITY.

II. PROMISE OF PROSPERITY- The places we can see the promise are:
He showed us in the garden- He saved us on the Cross

A. He Showed us- In the Garden

God's plan for man is revealed in the Garden of Eden. God set up the Garden of Eden so we would have a picture of our lives if we will obey His Word.

Gen 1:26-29 NKJV “ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, let them have dominion over the fish in the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle and all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his Own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “See I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of the earth and every tree whose fruit yields seed –to you it shall be for food.”

This is a picture of the prosperity that God desires for us.

Let’s look at a few words here in this passage so we can have a greater understanding. In verse 28- We see the words ‘blessed them’ and that means empowered to prosper. We are blessed. We are empowered and have the ability to prosper- to progress, advance, succeed, and push forward. If you’re a child of God, then His plan is that you live in prosperity. Let’s say it- Progress- Advance- Succeed- Push forward

Be fruitful- means to INCREASE!

God created us to increase.

Psalm 115 says we are to increase more and more we and our children.

God generational!

We are to subdue it. This means if something gets out of line we put it back. We have the authority and ability to put it back!

In verse 29- the Amplified says we are to use all of its vast resources in the service of God and man.

All that Adam knew was prosperity.

God set up the Garden of Eden so we would have a picture of what our life could be like if we obey His Word. In the garden of Eden all their needs were met without sweat. ALL THEIR NEEDS WERE MET WITHOUT SWEAT- Am I saying that God doesn’t want us to work? NO- God gave man work. See we can work, and God wants us to but there is a level of prosperity that God wants us to get- and that’s where God supplies all of our needs according to HIS RICHES IN GLORY!

God designed Adam’s environment. While Adam slept, fresh vegetation, fruit was growing all around him. Could it be that God has designed an environment for us that maybe we aren’t living in?

Some may be saying, well then sin entered and we aren’t in Eden now, so how can I be prosperous?

B. He Saved us- On the Cross

Can I tell you that prosperity wasn't just for the Old Testament? It wasn't just for Adam. See God made Adam and he sinned, but then The second Adam came and He restored- He saved us from Sin, He saved us from sickness and He saved us from poverty.

God's plan for us is prosperity.

Rev 5:12 NKJV "Worthy is the Lamb who is worthy to receive power, riches and wisdom."

We are in Christ- we are heirs and joint heirs with Him.
If Jesus had it, we can have it!

Gal 3:27-29 NKJV "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

God's promise to us is that we live in prosperity. How do we get it? Now we will cover the

III. PROCESS OF PROSPERITY- I'm going to give you 4 ways to walk out the process of prosperity. The first way is to seek

A. Seek

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." What things will be added? Housing- Clothing- Bling Bling- How do we seek Him first? We put Him first with the tithe. Some may wonder what is a tithe? The word tithe means 10 so a tithe is 10% of our income. So if we make \$1000 a week- then it's \$100. It's 10% of our income. Now let's look back at the Garden.

Gen 2:9 NKJV "And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:17 " but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

God told Adam you have all your needs met, and you can have the whole garden. God is saying he can anything in the garden but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for the day you eat of it you shall surely die.

This tree is divine portion.

Their discipline over this one tree is how they were to show love to God.

Divine portion.

The same thing is about the tithe.

The tithe is the divine portion.

If we eat the tithe, if we consume the tithe, the Bible says we are cursed with a curse. So how do we get out from under the curse? The way to break the curse is to tithe. Where do we tithe? The local church – Because Malachi says Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse- the storehouse is the local church. Why do we tithe? When I was a child my parents may direct me to do something, and at times I would ask why. Because I said so. The reason God wants us to tithe is two- fold. First it's so we HONOR HIM!
Mal 1-

The second reason is because He promises that He will open the windows of heaven over us and pour out a blessing that we can't contain.

Part of the process of prosperity is to seek Him first and another way in the process is to

B. Sow

The kingdom of heaven is liken unto a man who owned a field and sent his servants into his field to sow good seed into the field.
God is teaching us kingdom principles. The kingdom operates a lot like a garden-And sowing and reaping is an important part.

The seed has within it what it will become.

If we desire more money, then we need to sow money.

Gal 6:7 NKJV "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Tithe is not sowing.

We need to sow seed into good ground. How do we know it's good ground? What is it producing?

2 Cor 9:10 NKJV "Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have *sown* and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

And I can promise this, according to His Word, He says that He will MULTIPLY THE SEED YOU HAVE SOWN!

How much are we to sow? What you purpose in your heart.

2 Cor 9:7 NKJV "*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*"

It's what we decide- what we purpose in our heart.

What happens when we sow?

Gen 26:13 NKJV - he's talking about Isaac, He began to prosper, and continued prospering, and he became very prosperous.
What caused this in Isaac's life?

GEN 26:12 NKJV - He sowed in the land and in the same year, reaped a hundredfold return. WE CAN EXPECT THIS IN OUR OWN LIVES-

We may be praying for the

fruit and God has been answering with seed. SOW THE SEED!

Luke 6:38 NKJV “Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

AMOS 9:13 NKJV plowman shall overtake the reaper. What does this mean?
PLOWING AND HARVESTING AT THE SAME TIME!

When we give, this is how God gives back to us. If we keep what we have, that's what we have, but if we sow, it will grow.

Sowing is a way in the process of prosperity, next way is SAVING.

C. Save

There are over 2000 Bible verses on how to handle money-

What does the Bible say about saving?

Prov 6:6-8 NKJV “ Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise. Which having no captain, overseer, or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in harvest.”

We see the ant saving when it's time for it to be used. Wisdom is doing NOW what you'll be happy with later on.

Prov 21:20 NKJV “There is desirable treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it.”

Prov 21:5 NKJV “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those that are hasty surely to poverty.”

10-10-80 plan- This makes it so easy to save.

10% tithe 10% save- live on 80%.

D. Say

What are we saying?

“Death and Life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat the fruit thereof.”

We have to come into agreement with God's Word, because our words produce what we say.

When we sow a seed, what we don't want to do is then say well I don't think that will work. That's digging it up. We speak words of life and blessing over that seed. After we sow, then we say, I thank you Lord that I sowed this seed and it's going to bear much fruit.

Now- we see the Promise of prosperity- the Process of prosperity and now we will see the purpose-

IV. PURPOSE- He wants us to enjoy it and employ it.

1 Tim 6:17-19 “**NKJV** Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

We see in this verse we are to

A. Give us all things to enjoy. Enjoy it- God is ok with us having things- He wants us to enjoy while here on this earth. Remember, we talked about Adam and how God created the Garden for Adam’s enjoyment. It’s ok for you to go skiing, take vacations, go to restaurants. He is wanting us to enjoy the fruits of our labor.. He gives us all things to enjoy.

The next thing He wants us to do is to employ it. We work and walk in prosperity, not only to enjoy it but to sow it – put it to work-

B. Employ it

“Do good- ready to give- willing to share- storing up”

How do we do that? There are so many things we can place seed-

- Missions
- Poor
- Local outreaches
- political parties

Deut 8:18 NKJV “You shall remember the Lord your God for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant.”

If you’ve got the power- the provision is coming!

Every time we sow seed, give to missions, local outreaches, we are remembering that it is God who gave us our wealth. As a result, God is able to establish His covenant in the earth. Others can see – it opens their eyes and heart to the gospel.

Prov 11:10 NIV “When the righteous prospers, the city rejoices.”

Prov 11:25 “A generous person will prosper.”

God looks and says if that’s the attitude you’re going to have toward those things, then I’m going to give you more.

Today, we have learned that God promises us prosperity but there’s a process and a divine purpose for the prosperity we walk in.