

PRINCIPLES OF PROSPERITY

Address the Mess: Conclusion

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“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1:1–3, ESV)

PRINCIPLES OF PROSPERITY

1. **EXAMINE** your condition.

“Abraham was now a very old man, and the LORD had blessed him in every way.” (Genesis 24:1, NLT)

“I thought about my life, and I decided to follow your rules.” (Psalm 119:59, NCV)

2. **ESTABLISH** your cause.

“One day Abraham said to his oldest servant, the man in charge of his household, “Take an oath by putting your hand under my thigh. Swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac.”” (Genesis 24:2–4, NLT)

a. Beware of **VAGUE** goals.

“No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,” (Philippians 3:13, NLT)

b. Beware of **UNWORTHY** goals.

i. Will it help me serve God better?

“So we make it our goal to please him...” (2 Corinthians 5:9, NIV)

ii. Does it call on me to give my very best?

“So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I'm not just...playing around.” (1 Corinthians 9:26, The Living Bible)

iii. Can I ask God unashamedly for His help?

3. **EXPECT** problems.

"The servant asked, "But **what if** I can't find a young woman who is willing to travel so far from home? Should I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives in the land you came from?" (Genesis 24:5, NLT)

"A wise man **thinks ahead**; a fool doesn't and even brags about it!" (Proverbs 13:16, The Living Bible, Paraphrased)

"Any enterprise is built by **wise planning**, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by **keeping abreast of the facts**." (Proverbs 24:3–4, The Living Bible)

4. **ENCOURAGE** your confidence.

"...For **the LORD**, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and my native land, **solemnly promised** to give this land to my descendants. He will send his angel ahead of you, and **he will see to it** that you **find a wife** there for my son." (Genesis 24:6–7, NLT)

- a. Stand on God's **PROMISES**.
- b. Trust in God's **PROVISION**.
- c. Keep your eyes on the **PRIZE**.

"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise." (Hebrews 10:23, NLT)

5. **ENFORCE** your commitment.

"So the servant **took an oath** by putting his hand under the thigh of his master, Abraham. He swore to follow Abraham's instructions." (Genesis 24:9, NLT)

"O LORD, God of my master, Abraham," he prayed. "**Please give me success** today, and show unfailing love to my master, Abraham." (Genesis 24:12, NLT)

"The man **bowed low and worshiped** the LORD." (Genesis 24:26, NLT)

"When Abraham's servant heard their answer, he **bowed** down to the ground and **worshiped** the LORD." (Genesis 24:52, NLT)

Prayer reveals:

- Our **DESIRES**.
- Our **DEPENDENCE**.

"Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you." (Psalm 37:5, NLT)

6. **EXECUTE** your plan.

"Then he **loaded** ten of Abraham's camels with all kinds of expensive gifts from his master, and he **traveled** to...the town where Abraham's brother Nahor had settled. He made the

camels **kneel** beside a well just outside the town. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water.” (Genesis 24:10–11, NLT)

“This is my request. I will ask one of them, ‘Please give me a drink from your jug.’ If she says, ‘Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!’—let her be the one you have selected as Isaac’s wife. This is how I will know that you have shown unfailing love to my master.” Before he had finished praying, he saw a young woman named Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham’s brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah. Rebekah was very beautiful and old enough to be married, but she was still a virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again.” (Genesis 24:14–16, NLT)

“You need to keep on patiently doing God’s will if you want him to do for you all that he has promised.” (Hebrews 10:36, The Living Bible)

7. **EXERCISE** discipline.

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7, NIV84)

a. Discipline your **DECISIONS**.

“Running over to her, the servant said, “Please give me a little drink of water from your jug.” “Yes, my lord,” she answered, “have a drink.” And she quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and gave him a drink. When she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough to drink.” So she quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw water for all his camels. **The servant watched her in silence, wondering whether or not the LORD had given him success in his mission.** Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he took out a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists. **“Whose daughter are you?”** he asked. **“And please tell me, would your father have any room to put us up for the night?”** “I am the daughter of Bethuel,” she replied. “My grandparents are Nahor and Milcah. Yes, we have plenty of straw and feed for the camels, and we have room for guests.” The man bowed low and worshiped the LORD.” (Genesis 24:15–26, NLT)

b. Discipline your **DESIRES**.

“Then food was served. But Abraham’s servant said, “I don’t want to eat until I have told you why I have come.” “All right,” Laban said, “tell us.”” (Genesis 24:33, NLT)

c. Discipline your **TIME**.

“But we want Rebekah to stay with us at least ten days,” her brother and mother said. “Then she can go.” But he said, **“Don’t delay me.** The LORD has made my mission successful; now send me back so I can return to my master.”” (Genesis 24:55–56, NLT)

8. **EXACT** the cost.

“Then he brought out silver and gold jewelry and clothing and presented them to Rebekah. He also gave expensive presents to her brother and mother.” (Genesis 24:53, NLT)

“But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?” (Luke 14:28, NLT)

9. ENJOY the reward.

“Then I bowed low and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master, Abraham, because he had led me straight to my master’s niece to be his son’s wife.” (Genesis 24:48, NLT)

“Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the LORD has directed.” (Genesis 24:51, NLT)

“A dream fulfilled is a tree of life.” (Proverbs 13:12b, NLT)

ACTION STEP

Financial Peace University