

God's Desire for You

I. God wants you to prosper

A. Prosperity means a successful life journey, a flourishing condition, especially in financial aspects; good fortune! *Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, even as your soul is well.* — 3 John 2 MEV

B. Worldly prosperity costs you sorrow and regret, your relationship with God and others, your peace of mind and even your health. *The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.* — Proverbs 10:22

II. God is intrinsically good and benevolent!

A. He is faithful!

Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not remove from him nor be false in My faithfulness. My covenant I will not violate nor alter the word that has gone out from My lips. — Psalms 89:33,34

B. He is merciful!

O LORD God of Israel, there is no God like You in the heavens or on the earth, who keeps covenants and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their heart. — 2 Chronicles 6:14 MEV

C. He cannot lie!

God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He spoken, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? — Numbers 23:19 MEV

D. He makes good on His promises!

Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to His people Israel according to all that He promised. Not one word of His promises which He gave by the hand of Moses His servant has failed. — 1 Kings 8:56 MEV

E. He gives good things!

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no change or shadow of turning. — James 1:17 MEV



The Blessing of Abraham

I. God's will for your prosperity has been established through covenant

F. God's Covenant with Abraham was based on an unconditional promise that is still in effect today.

1. The Blessing to Abraham. *I will make of you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless them who bless you and curse him who curses you, and in you all families of the earth will be blessed.* — Genesis 12:2-3 MEV

2. The Blessing upon Abraham's descendants. *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am Almighty God. Walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between you and Me and will exceedingly multiply you... I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you."* — Genesis 17:1-2,7 MEV

3. Abraham was called the friend of God because of his faith (Genesis 22:16-18). *The Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.* — James 2:23 MEV

G. God added a conditional covenant with the Nation of Israel for a promised land. This covenant would be the basis for the Nation's peace and prosperity.

1. God revealed Himself to a Nation in bondage as the Lord, ie Redeemer. *I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by My name, The LORD, I was not known to them.* — Exodus 6:3 MEV

a) LORD—(Jehovah or Yahweh) meaning redeemer

b) GOD ALMIGHTY—(El Shaddai) meaning all sufficient one

c) God reveals Himself to Moses as "I AM THAT I AM" (Exodus 3:14,15). Moses instructed to tell Israel who is the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? His name is "I AM" meaning "Yahweh". He is the self-sufficient, self-sustaining God who was, who is, and who will be. His name implies a promise, "I will be with you".

d) Jesus declared, *"Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM."* — John 8:58 MEV. **Jesus IS Lord!**

2. This conditional covenant came with...



- a) The blessing of obedience—Deuteronomy 28:1-13
- b) The curse of disobedience—Deuteronomy 28:14-66

H. Today the blessing of Abraham is passed on to every believer in Jesus Christ.

1. *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by being made a curse for us—as it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—so that **the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ**, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith—Galatians 3:13-14 MEV*
2. *Now the promises were made to Abraham and his Seed. He does not say, "and to seeds," meaning many, but "and to your Seed," meaning one, who is Christ.—Galatians 3:16 MEV*
3. *If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.—Galatians 3:29 MEV*



Trusting God as Your Source

- I. Tithing was initiated by Abraham as a faith response to God's promise of blessing.
- A. The blessing came on Abraham, he believed and was counted righteous by God, later we see his faith in his act of tithing.—Genesis 14:18-20
 - B. The blessing came on Isaac, it is safe to assume that he practiced what his father taught him, to tithe.—Genesis 26:12-24
 - C. The blessing came on Jacob, we see his response in making a vow to God at Bethel to give the Lord 10% of all that would come into his house.—Genesis 28:11-22 Leviticus 27:30,32
 - D. The blessing came on Joseph.—Genesis 37:5-11
 - E. The blessing came on the Nation of Israel who was in captivity, they partook of the Passover meal and received healing and left Egypt with their gold, silver and jewels.—Psalm 105:37-45
 - F. There is a pattern here, God bestows the blessing His people respond with the tithe. Here is the principle that will change your life! Tithing is a faith response to the promise of blessing.
 - G. Today the blessing has come upon the believer! *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.— Ephesians 1:3 MEV.* How do you respond to the Gospel? With faith we are made righteous! Tithing then is a natural faith response to the blessing!
- II. What about tithing today? So many Christians struggle with this. Tithing today is a faith response to the New Covenant.
- A. Jesus acknowledged the importance of tithes under the Old Covenant.—Matthew 23:23
 - B. Paul acknowledged the importance of tithes as inclusive to supporting the Gospel ministry. *Do you not know that those who minister unto holy things live from the things of the temple? And do you not know that those who wait at the altar partake of the altar? In the same way, the Lord has ordained that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.—1 Corinthians 9:13-14 MEV*
 - C. Jesus present day ministry as our high priest in heaven is described as one who receives tithes of believers order of Melchizedek.—Hebrews 6:16-7:28



D. The Old Testament pattern is now a reality in Christ. Christ is that the Father's right hand to offer up gifts and sacrifices (read Hebrews 8). *For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this priest also have something to offer. —Hebrews 8:3 MEV*

E. God's law is now written in our hearts to love and obey Him—Romans 8:1-4

F. We should follow the faith of Father Abraham, whom Paul put forth as our spiritual father and example of faith.—Romans 4:12

G. *If there is any doubt in the believers mind about tithing to the Lord then consider the appeal the Lord makes to Israel who turned away from the Lord.—Malachi 3:8-11*



The Tithing Principle

- I. The book of Deuteronomy teaches a Nation how to prosper
- A. God makes a covenant with a Nation at Sinai—Exodus 19:5
 - B. God instructs Israel that the tithe is to be set apart for God—Leviticus 27:30
 - C. Israel's 40 year learning experience. *For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the works of your hands. He knows your wanderings through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing.*—Deuteronomy 2:7 MEV
 - D. Israel's instructions to prosper in the land of promise can be summed up in the Book of Deuteronomy. (Deuteronomy means "second law" in the sense of a copy or repetition of God's Word. It is a review of the Law given to Moses at Sinai. If you get a copy of God's Word in your heart you will prosper!).
- II. Here are the keys to Israel's prosperity.
- A. Love God with all your heart. Fill your heart with God's Word and disciple your children—Deuteronomy 6 reveals God's heart for Israel and gives a clear admonition.
 - 1. "that your days may be prolonged" —verse 2
 - 2. "that you may multiply greatly" —verse 3
 - 3. "that He might bring us in, to give us the land" —verse 23,
 - 4. "for our good always, that He might preserve us" —verse 24
 - B. Don't forget the Lord after you have experienced His favor, provision, and blessing, but keep Him first in your life!—Deuteronomy 8:1-18
 - C. Love and obey the Lord, disciple your children—Deuteronomy 11:13-28
 - D. Acknowledge God as your source with the tithe. The purpose of the tithe was to... (Deuteronomy 14:22-26)
 - 1. Teach the fear of the Lord, to keep God first.
 - 2. Remember and rehearse their redemption from slavery, poverty and oppression.
 - 3. Support the tribe of Levi who in turn tithed to the priests.



4. Care for the poor in their midst (A second tithe every 3rd year was designated to the poor in Israel.—Deuteronomy 14:27-29; 26:12-14
 5. The tithe was holy, something dedicated with a specific purpose, that is to acknowledge God as the source of all blessing. *Any tithe of the land, whether seed of the land or fruit of the trees, belongs to the LORD. It is holy to the LORD.*—Leviticus 27:30 MEV
- E. Worship the Lord at His 3 annual feasts.—Deuteronomy 16:16,17
- F. Make room for the poor every year. Allow them to glean from your harvest fields. In other words a portion of God's blessing in your life should minister to the poor.—Deuteronomy 24:19-22
- G. Instructions on bringing the tithe.—Deuteronomy 26:1-15
- H. Israel was admonished on how to keep the blessing and avoid the curse! (Read in full Deuteronomy 28-30)
1. Listen and obey! *Now it will be, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I am commanding you today, then the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings will come on you and overtake you if you listen to the voice of the LORD your God.*—Deuteronomy 28:1-2 MEV
 2. Keep and do His Word! *Therefore, keep the words of this covenant and do them, so that you may prosper in all you do.*—Deuteronomy 29:9 MEV
 3. Keep the Word in your heart and mouth! *But the word is very near to you, in your mouth, and in your heart, so that you may do it. See, today I have set before you life and prosperity, and death and disaster. What I am commanding you today is to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, so that you may live and multiply. Then the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.*—Deuteronomy 30:14-16 MEV
- I. Moses' prediction of Israel's future in Deuteronomy 30-33
- J. God calls Israel to repentance in their latter days. *Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, "How have we robbed You?" In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, your whole nation, for you are robbing Me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the LORD of Hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it.*—Malachi 3:8-10 MEV



Successful Endeavors

III. Study the Kings of Judah who prospered by keeping God's Word

A. God's instructions for the Kings of Israel. *It must be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write a copy of this law for himself on a scroll before the priests, the Levites. It must be with him, and he must read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, and carefully observe all the words of this law and these statutes, and do them, that his heart will not be lifted up above his brothers and so that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or to the left, to the end, so that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children, in the midst of Israel. — Deuteronomy 17:18-20 MEV*

1. Observe and do the Word

2. Joshua 1:8

3. Psalm 1:1-3

B. God chooses David over Saul as King, who brought Israel into a place of security from their enemies.

1. *But now your kingdom will not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over His people, because you have not kept that which the LORD commanded you. — 1 Samuel 13:14 MEV.*

2. *David was successful in all his ways and the LORD was with him. — 1 Samuel 18:14 MEV*

C. King Solomon reigned at the height of Israel's peace and prosperity. *Keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in His ways, keeping His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn. — 1 Kings 2:3 MEV*

1. *Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him. — 1 Chronicles 29:23 MEV*

D. The reforms of King Asa. *Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. — 2 Chronicles 14:2 MEV*

E. The reforms of King Josiah. *Josiah took away all the detestable things from the lands that belonged to the people of Israel and caused all who were found in Israel to serve their LORD God. And all his days they did not turn away from the LORD God of their fathers. — 2 Chronicles 34:33 MEV*



F. The reforms of King Hezekiah. *He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to everything that David his father had done.—2 Kings 18:3 MEV*

G. The reforms of King Jehoshaphat. *Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, for he walked in the previous ways of David his father, and he did not seek out the Baal cult. For he sought out the God of his fathers and walked in his commandments, rather than the deeds of Israel. So the LORD made firm the kingdom in his hand, and all Judah gave a tribute to Jehoshaphat. So he had an abundance of riches and honor.—2 Chronicles 17:3-5*



Learning to Trust God with Your Money

- I. Lessons in the wilderness
 - A. Get praise and thanksgiving in your heart!—Exodus 15:21 (Day of Deliverance)
 - B. Get bitterness out of your heart!—Exodus 15:22-27 (3 DAYS LATER)
 - 1. Marah means bitter, “choler”, sickness is a bitter pill to swallow. The tree applied to the bitter experience of sickness and disease brings healing making life sweet.
 - 2. God’s leading brought Israel to 12 springs and 70 palm trees spoke of provision and healing in the desert, OASIS!
 - C. Acknowledge God as your source—Exodus 16:32-36 (2 MOS. LATER)
 - 1. The omer is one tenth of the ephah, i.e. they were to bring the tithe to worship!
 - 2. The tithe did not rot like the extra manna they hoarded for themselves.
 - D. Fight the good fight of faith!—Exodus 17:8-16 (3 MOS. LATER)
 - 1. Amalek attacked at Rephidim, remember John 10:10.
 - 2. God does not send or use the Devil in any way against His kids! See Ex. 17:14 for God’s attitude toward Amalek
 - E. Follow God’s plan to your promise land!—Numbers 10:33,34 (2 YRS LATER)
 - 1. Israel followed the cloud every time it moved.—Exodus 40:36-38
 - 2. Israel stayed, Israel journeyed—Numbers 9



Making your way prosperous

- I. How to make your way prosperous
- A. Put God first
1. Tithing opens the windows of heaven over your life resulting in a flow of God's wisdom within and God's favor upon—Malachi 3:10-12
 2. The principle of first fruits under the law taught Israel to put God first in everything. First fruits represented the beginnings of the harvest that were brought to the Temple during the Lord's feasts. First fruits are a type and shadow of Christ—Proverbs 3:9,10; Exodus 23:14-19
 - a) Passover—first fruits of Barley
 - b) Pentecost—first fruits of Wheat
 - c) Tabernacles—first fruits of the Grape
- B. Fill your heart with God's Word
1. As your soul prospers—3 John 2
 2. Make your way prosperous—Joshua 1:8
 3. Whatever you do will prosper—Psalms 1:1-3
- C. Have a liberal attitude—Proverbs 11:24,25
- D. Be Diligent: “persevering and careful in work” —Proverbs 10:4,5
1. Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and [hath] nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.
 2. Proverbs 21:5 The thoughts of the diligent [tend] only to plenteousness; but of every one [that is] hasty only to want.
 3. His hand, His soul, His thoughts bring increase. Diligent—incisive (well-honed, sharp, clear eyed), eager, full of determination.
- E. Be Faithful: be true in your relationships having your priorities in order.
- Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to



be rich shall not be innocent.

1. Faithful - firm, steady, through calm & storm be a steady Eddy
 2. Be loyal and true to your convictions and relationships.
 3. Abound - superabundant in quality & quantity
- F. Fill your heart with Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge: the greatest investment you have is you.

Proverbs 24:3,4 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.



What Jesus taught about Money

- I. Where do you put your trust?
 - A. Your heart and money
 1. Heart follows money—Matthew 6:19-21
 2. Your heart can not be divided—Matthew 6:22-24
 3. A care free heart—Matthew 6:25-34
 4. Don't let things control you—Mark 10:17-27
 5. Let things follow you—Mark 10:28-30
 6. Don't let fear control you—Luke 12:32-34
 7. Life is about relationship not things—Luke 12:13-21
 8. Make your heart good ground—Mark 4:13-20
 9. Give attention to God's word—Mark 4:21-25
 10. Trust in the goodness of God—Matthew 7:7-11
 - B. Money follows ministry
 1. God provides for ministry—Mark 6:7-10; Luke 10:1-11
 2. God multiplies your resources when you get involved in His ministry—Matthew 14:15-21; Matthew 15:32-38; John 21:15-19
 3. Money and spiritual things—Luke 16:1-14
 4. Cultivate the spirit of generosity towards others—Luke 6:27-38



The Spirit of Generosity

- I. Knowing God as your source
 - A. The grace of giving—2 Corinthians 8 & 9
 - 1. Model of Grace Giving—2 Corinthians 8:1-8
 - 2. Jesus example—2 Corinthians 8:9
 - 3. Tapping into God's financial favor—2 Corinthians 9:6-11
 - B. Tapping into God's unending supply—Philippians 4:10-19
 - C. Paul's admonitions...
 - 1. Be free of the love of money—1 Timothy 6:6-10
 - 2. Be generous like God—1 Timothy 5:17-19
 - 3. Be a producer for the kingdom—1 Thessalonians 4:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

