

**Kingdom Feature, September 2020**

## **Expecting More: By Understanding How To Benefit More From Tithing and Giving**

By Apostle Jerry Upton

### **The Purpose of Prosperity**

In our series of EXPECT MORE, we now come to one of the most misunderstood, controversial, mis-directed teachings in the Body of Christ; and that is the subject of prosperity. One of the first things that I want to declare to you is that the teaching of prosperity is not about taking a principle from God's Word, and selfishly trying to make it work in your personal circumstance without a total dedication and commitment to God.

Biblical teaching on the subject of prosperity is not a 'get-rich-quick' scheme, but rather it is a way of life, relationship, and dedication to our Father God. When Jesus taught on prosperity, He was not just referring to us giving a portion of what we have, but to us giving our very lives. It often amazes me to see many who gravitate to the subject of prosperity, but avoid the subject of living for God in every aspect of their lives.

The Word of God is completely clear concerning the subject of attempting to serve two masters: *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* {The term common is derived from the Aramaic term for possessions or wealth.} **Matthew 6:24**

We must understand first of all {and I do mean first!} that Jesus wants all of us — spirit, soul and body. Before He ever asks for our material possessions, money, wealth, or anything that we have, what He wants first of all is us. The most important thing that you have that God desires and can use is YOU! If He can get you, then He's got your money, material possessions, wealth, and everything else that you possess.

One of the greatest errors that took place in many of the prosperity teachings is that so many of God's children attempted to claim the promises as they related to prosperity; without giving all of themselves to God. Many took the teachings and tried to make a deal with God; saying things like: *"God, you said in your Word that if I gave I would receive a hundredfold return. I'm giving You this one part of my life. You can't have the rest, just this one part, and now I want to see a hundredfold return on it."* The greatest

problem in this kind of erroneous believing and thinking is that if God doesn't have all of you — then the money would be what you would worship rather than Him.

It has never been that God's promises are not true, accurate, and for us in our day and time; however, one of the first places that we must begin is to understand 'The Purpose of Prosperity'. In this teaching, we are going to examine what God's Word declares about tithing and giving, and because we are going to line up with God's Word instead of trying to make God's Word line up with us, we are going to another dimension in our giving and receiving.

I have found after 35 years of being in the Kingdom of God, and over 33 years of ministry throughout the world, that the promises of God are in Christ Jesus, and in order to see them manifested in our lives, we must know Him and surrender our lives to Him as Lord. *"For all the promises of God in Him (Jesus) are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us". II Corinthians 1:20*

In this teaching, we will see an impartation of supernatural increase; financial breakthrough; the manifestation of an open heaven being over us in all our endeavors; living and walking in divine prosperity; and it will all begin as we understand 'The Purpose of Prosperity'. There is no receiving without first giving; there is no giving without first living; and our obedience in giving ourselves completely and totally to our Father God is about to change our lives forever.

## Why Does God Want His Children To Prosper?

In order to truly understand the subject of prosperity, wealth, success, riches, increase, and abundance according to God's Word, we must first answer the question: 'Why does God want His children to prosper?' I believe the answer to this question should be based solely and completely on the Word of God, and not my opinion, pre-conceived ideas, or what someone else believes or has said. Does the Word of God give us insight and revelation in this area?

## WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY?

### OLD TESTAMENT

A. **Genesis 1:28-30** — God wants us to prosper in order to exercise His authority in the earth while we walk under the authority of God.

B. **Genesis 9:1-3** — God wants us to prosper in order to establish His covenant in the earth that would have an effect on all mankind.

C. **Genesis 12:1-3** — God wants us to prosper in order to take the blessing of God that is upon our lives and be a blessing to others.

D. **Genesis 22:1-18** — God wants us to prosper in order to demonstrate to one and all that God must be and must have first place in our lives.

E. **Genesis 25:1-25** — God wants us to prosper in order to be a living witness that the Most High God is able to bless us in the midst of famine, economic upheaval, or any other calamity.

F. **Genesis 31:1-8** — God wants us to prosper in order to transfer the wealth of the wicked out of their hands into the hands of those who are walking and living in a covenant relationship with God. {**See Proverbs 13:22; Ecclesiastes 3:26; II Chronicles 20:25; Exodus 12:35-36; Deuteronomy 21:1-14**}

G. **Genesis 41:1-44** — God wants us to prosper in order to demonstrate to one and all that our God is all knowing, all seeing, has all wisdom, and reigns over all.

H. **Deuteronomy 8:1-20** — God wants us to prosper so that we will live a humble lifestyle taking no credit for how God has blessed us, and always seeking to release His covenant to all that we encounter.

I. **Joshua 1:6-9** — God wants us to prosper in order to fulfill His purpose and assignment that He has placed on our lives; by being obedient to His Word in all things.

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

J. **Matthew 6:19-21** — God wants us to prosper in order for us to decree and proclaim that heaven is where our true treasures are, and that God is our source rather than the things of this world.

K. **Matthew 6:25-34** — God wants us to prosper in order to establish and release the Kingdom of God; as we seek His Kingdom First rather than the riches of this world.

L. **Matthew 14:15-21** — God wants us to prosper in order to teach us how to believe and walk in the realm of supernatural provision; in order to meet the needs of those that He sends us to minister to.

M. **Luke 6:30-38** — God wants us to prosper in order to teach us that giving must be our lifestyle, because it reflects the heart of our Father God. {**John 3:16**}

N. **Luke 10:30-37** — God wants us to prosper so that we will be positioned and able to assist those that are in need; requiring aid, assistance, and help.

O. **Acts 2:44-47** — God wants us to prosper in order for us to help those who make up the Body of Christ.

**P. II Corinthians 9:6-15** — God wants us to prosper so that we will be able to aid, support, and help every good work that God sets before us.

**Q. Philippians 4:10-18** — God wants us to prosper so that fruit will abound to our account, and that all our needs would be supplied.

**R. I Timothy 6:17-19** — God wants us to prosper in order for us to do good, that we would be rich in good works, ready to distribute, and willing to communicate.

When you read the Scriptures that are identified on Why God Wants Us To Prosper, you will find one predominant principle that activates and releases each one of them:

**LIVING A LIFESTYLE OF OBEDIENCE.** The heart that is willing and obedient will always eat the good of the land; however, living and walking in rebellion to God and His Word will release financial destruction. *“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”* **Isaiah 1:19-20**

**When the heart is obedient to God, it will:**

\*\*\* Give when God says to give.

\*\*\* Give what God says to give, regardless of what it is.

\*\*\* Give to whoever God tells you to give to.

\*\*\* Give regardless of what it looks like in your natural circumstances.

\*\*\* Give not leaning to your own understanding.

\*\*\* Give with pure motives, no hidden agendas.

\*\*\* Give without seeking recognition from man.

\*\*\* Give expecting God to meet your needs.

The obedient heart will not be hindered or stopped by evil tidings, fear, enemies, things seen or unseen, because the Word of God clearly states:

*“Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth forever. Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, full of compassion, and righteous. A good man showeth favour, and lendeth: he will guide*

*his affairs with discretion. Surely he shall not be moved forever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth forever; his horn shall be exalted with honour. The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.” Psalm 112:1-10*

## Trusting In Riches or Trusting In God

We **Expect More** and are being positioned by the hand of God to see increase, abundance, favor, and overflow like we have never seen before. In order to keep our hearts upright before God, it is essential that we never place our trust in things, money, wealth, or anything else that God blesses us with. I have watched many who God blessed take their eyes off Him, and place their eyes on the things that He had blessed them with; we are not going to make that mistake.

I want to look at a story that is told in Mark 10:17-27 that I believe contains several revelations that will keep us on the right track as it relates to the riches of this world. There are several things about the rich young ruler that are worth looking at:

1. He was morally an upright man, and had kept the commandments of God since his youth. {vs. 20}
2. God had blessed him with great possessions, because of his desire and willingness in honoring his fellow man. {vs. 22 & look at the 6 commandments that Jesus stated.}
3. There was something extremely special about this young man that touched the heart of Jesus in a special way. {vs. 21}
4. There was one area in his life that he valued more than God that Jesus immediately saw; and in actuality had become his master. {vs. 21}
5. His outward actions were honorable and fulfilled the requirements of the law; however, his inward heart was consumed by idolatry. {vs. 22}
6. His heart revealed that rather than him having the riches and possessions, the riches and possessions had him; and had become the most important things in

his life. {vs. 22}

7. His heart revealed that rather than trusting in God, he now trusted in his riches. {vs. 24}

Many in the body of Christ have attempted to take these scriptures and build a doctrine against believers having riches, and living a life of prosperity. What was really being said and taught by Jesus is that those who trust, place their confidence, or put their sense of safety in riches will have great difficulty in entering the Kingdom of God. It was not the riches that the rich young ruler possessed that kept him from following Jesus, but rather it was his love and trust in the riches that kept him from entering the Kingdom of God.

The Word of God teaches us how to stay free from trusting in uncertain riches: *“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”* **I Timothy 6:17-19**

What are we required to do with the riches that God blesses us with:

\*\*\* Do Good at all time

\*\*\* Be rich in good works

\*\*\* Be ready to distribute

\*\*\* Be willing to communicate

\*\*\* Lay a good foundation against the time to come

In part 2 of this lesson, we will look at how to activate the blessings of God through tithing and giving. It will be an in-depth teaching from the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. We will go beyond just knowing that we are required to tithe and to give, to understanding what is taking place in our heavenly account when we are obedient to God's Word; and how to draw from that account here on earth.

**I EXPECT MORE** because my Heavenly Father wants me to prosper in order to release and establish His covenant here on earth. **I EXPECT MORE** because the great **I AM** has blessed me, in order for me to be a blessing to others. **I EXPECT MORE** because my heart is fixed, trusting in my God; therefore wealth and riches shall be in my house and my righteousness endures forever. **I EXPECT MORE** and I guide my affairs with the wisdom of God; therefore, I will not be moved regardless of what attempts to come against me — I am blessed continuously. **I EXPECT MORE** because I have been anointed, appointed, commissioned, and selected to advance the Kingdom of God.