

FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS

Lesson 15: GOD'S PLAN FOR PROSPERITY

Purpose: To help the believer understand God's plan for prosperity. That poverty is not God's will and He wants His children to prosper. We will learn from the Bible about 1) God's will concerning prosperity, 2) God's method to prosper, and 3) God's purpose for prosperity.

I. GOD'S WILL CONCERNING PROSPERITY.

- A. **3 John 2** - 2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. NKJV
- B. **2 Corinthians 8:9** - 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. NKJV
 - 1. Rich means an abundant supply.
- C. **Poverty Not God's Will For Mankind.**
 - 1. God is not opposed to His people being prosperous. He is opposed to being greedy and putting money before Him.

II. GOD'S METHOD FOR PROSPERITY.

- A. Many principles in the Kingdom of God are opposite than the principles found in the world. The Bible method of receiving is by giving. Not by taking.
- B. **The Law of Sowing and Reaping - 2 Cor 9:6-11**
 - 1. **2 Corinthians 9:6** - 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. NKJV
 - a. The law of sowing and reaping. Speaking about giving to God.
 - b. Both a natural law and a spiritual law.
 - c. **Genesis 8:22** – 22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."
 - 2. **2 Corinthians 9:7** - 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
 - a. God wants us to give cheerfully, from a heart of love. Not feeling forced to give.
 - 3. **2 Corinthians 9:8** - 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. NKJV
 - a. When we give with the right heart God's grace will cause us to prosper and we will begin to have all our needs met and enough to give.
 - 4. **2 Corinthians 9:10** - 10 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, NKJV
 - a. Notice money is referred to as seed.

- b. If you are one who sows God will give you seed to sow.
 - c. God will multiply the seed you sow, not the seed you eat.
5. **2 Corinthians 9:11** - 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. NKJV
- a. When you sow and God gives grace and multiplies the seed you sow you will begin to be enriched so you can be more generous.

C. How Much and Where Do We Give?

1. **Malachi 3:8, 10-12** – 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings..... 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try 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 such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts; 12 And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts. NKJV
2. How Much:
 - a. **Verse 8:** Tithes and offerings. Tithes is 10 percent. Offerings are what we give over the 10 percent. The tithe is always given to the church. Offerings in those days were also given to the temple of God, which is the church today. Can also give offerings to others as the Holy Spirit leads.
 - b. **Verse 10:** Purpose of the tithe is to provide for the house of God, His work, and His servants.
3. Where Do We Give?
 - a. **Verse 10:** Into my storehouse. When they gave they brought the tithes and offerings to the church, which was the temple. Today that is the church.
4. **Verse 10-11:** The blessing and promise of giving the tithe and offerings.

III. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR PROSPERITY.

A. To Finance The Work of God In The Earth.

1. **Deuteronomy 8:18** - 18 "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 which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. NKJV
2. The Gospel is free but the delivery is not.

B. Provide An Abundant Life For His Children.

1. **Philippians 4:19** - 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. NKJV

Conclusion: The Devil will lie to you and tell you if you give you won't have enough. But the Bible says if you give to God then God will multiply your seed sown, which means you will receive more. God will bring blessing into your life in many different ways. He may give you an idea that helps your company or business which causes you to earn more money or get a promotion. He will give you favor with others which will cause them to use your company, buy your products, etc. Make a decision be a giver, to develop a life of giving.

READING ASSIGNMENT: Hebrews 7:1-8

FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS

Lesson 15: GOD'S PLAN FOR PROSPERITY

COMPREHENSION TEST: For instructor with answers.

1. How do we know prosperity is God's Will? What does 1 John 3:2 and 2 Corinthians 8:9 say about God's will to prosper you?

We know because John prayed in 1 John 3:2 that we would prosper in all things. We also know because 2 Corinthians says Jesus became poor so that I could become rich.

2. Where should our tithe and offerings be given?

Our tithe should be given to the local church we attend. The offerings should also be given to the local church we attend and to others as the Holy Spirit leads.

3. Giving should be given with what type of attitude?

With a cheerful heart – attitude.

4. What should be our motivation for giving?

Love should be the motivation.

5. What spiritual law does God use to bless His people?

The law of sowing and reaping

FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS

Lesson 15: GOD'S PLAN FOR PROSPERITY

COMPREHENSION TEST: For new believer

1. How do we know prosperity is God's Will? What does 1 John 3:2 and 2 Corinthians 8:9 say about God's will to prosper you?

2. Where should our tithe and offerings be given?

3. Giving should be given with what type of attitude?

4. What should be our motivation for giving?

5. What spiritual law does God use to bless His people?
