

THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

(Chapter One)

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Chapter One – God Wants You to Prosper

The purpose of this bible study series is to articulate a deeper understanding of the basic laws that govern the manifestation of God's prosperity in the lives of Believers. At the outset of doing this it's important that we recognize together that true biblical prosperity isn't limited to just financial issues. The fact is Jesus came to give us abundant lives (John 10:10), not just abundant finances.

To be prosperous from a biblical point of view means that all your needs are being met spirit, soul and body. In other words, one's home and life are in order, all relationships are being conducted in love, business activities are successful, spiritual growth through progressive revelation is occurring, there is no sickness or disease, all family members are pursuing God's plans and purposes for their lives and joy and peace are the ongoing attributes of life. Not only are all personal needs being met but they are being met in abundance meaning there is a surplus beyond what is needed. In short, life is complete and all of this *prosperity* is very well expressed in the biblical word shalom.

The Meaning of Shalom Prosperity

The Hebrew word *shalom* in the Old Testament was frequently translated into the English word *peace* and we tend to think of it limited to that context. It is most often used today as a Jewish greeting that one says when encountering someone and again when departing and it means: *may God's peace be upon you*. But the full meaning of the word *shalom* in scripture is so much deeper than this that it was also frequently translated as *prosperity*. In this context, *shalom* means that life is perfect with nothing missing and nothing broken. The fullness of *shalom* prosperity communicates to us that a loving God wants only the best for His children and that deprivation and lack are not a part of His plan. The truth is, everything God has ever made was/is good (Genesis 1:31). There was no death, poverty, disease, hunger, or insufficiency until Man fell from God's purpose and was expelled from the Garden (Genesis 3:17, 23-24); these things came from the curse, not from God.

In fact, only sin could have caused our loving God to allow deviation from His original plan of *shalom* prosperity. And so, because of that love, He sent Jesus to die on the Cross of Calvary to pay for sin our so that abundant life and prosperity could be restored to Believers by faith (Galatians 3:8-9). Since *shalom* prosperity has been restored, it is now up to each of us to learn how to both claim it and then receive it for our life and family.

Financial Prosperity is Included

In defining prosperity, it's important to also emphasize that financial prosperity cannot be excluded from this biblical perspective even though manmade *religion* has tried for the last two thousand years to glorify poverty. The truth is there is no place in scripture under either the Old or New Covenants where financial prosperity was specifically excluded from God's plan for His people. Nevertheless some people want to believe that under the New Covenant, some degree of poverty or lack is an essential requirement for achieving humility and that financial prosperity is no longer a part of God's plan even though it doesn't say that anywhere in the Word. What it does say is that humbleness comes from casting our burdens and anxieties on Christ (1 Peter 5:6-7), not from trying to be poor.

Moreover, the definition of the Greek word euodoo that is translated *prosperity* or *prosper* in the New Testament clearly includes financial prosperity (specifically it means "success in business"). A good example of its use can be found in 3 John 2 where the Apostle prays that we

might prosper and be in good health, just as our souls prosper. The wording serves to emphasize that he was intending to specifically include financial prosperity in his prayer. With this in mind, why would he have prayed for us to enjoy financial prosperity if it was no longer part of God's plan? Besides, how would we be able to perform good deeds and bless others financially (2 Corinthians 9:8-9) if we didn't have funds to give away? And, why would Jesus have dedicated two-thirds of His parables to the subjects of property ownership and handling money if we are supposed to be poor? In sum, this scripture tells us that as our soul (mind, will and emotions) prospers or matures in the ways of God's Kingdom, we will prosper financially.

The truth is, God is not glorified by poverty. It didn't (and doesn't) come from Him; it came from the Curse and God still prefers *financial* prosperity for His New Testament children just as He did for those under the Old Covenant. In fact, the Bible says that the New Testament is a better covenant (Hebrews 7:22). Therefore, if God gave us financial prosperity and the ability to obtain wealth under the Old Covenant (Deuteronomy 8:18), does it seem reasonable that He would have exchanged those things for poverty and lack under a *better* one? When we consider all of the scripture just as it is written instead of only a few parts that have been twisted to support pre-conceived ideas, surely we must conclude that God really does want financial prosperity for His people.

God Wants to Push You to Success

But there is still more about Biblical prosperity you need to know! Another Hebrew word in scripture that was often translated *prosperity* is *tsalach*. *Tsalach* prosperity involves a type of *success in life* that results from being *pushed* forward. In other words, true Biblical prosperity comes as a result of assistance from a stronger power. It is a greater prosperity than you are able to obtain on your own and you need help to get it. Therefore, *tsalach* prosperity manifests when God is pushing you and guiding you into it and can only come when He is at the controls ordering your steps.

But there is still more! The complete meaning of *tsalach* prosperity is that God wants to keep on pushing you until you experience a *breakthrough* to the fullness of success in *every* area of your life. This is the real prosperity our loving God has for us. His prosperity is greater than anything you can possibly imagine and He is the only One that can deliver it. Open your concordance, study the Scripture for yourself and stop letting people and your enemy the devil rob you of the breakthrough Jesus died for you to have!

Conclusions

The prosperity that God has for His children is greater and deeper than we can imagine. The fullness of its meaning is that *nothing is missing and nothing is broken* in your life. He wants to push you forward into His prosperity and success and He will keep pushing until you experience a breakthrough.

In sum, the first law of biblical prosperity is to accept as fact that **God wants you to be prosperous** and He will do everything He can to help you achieve it. If you want it, you can have it. The Lord will see that it happens. Your job is to learn about the laws that govern prosperity, to know what you are to do with that prosperity when you receive it (so you won't mishandle it and consume it all on yourself), to confess the truth of God's Word and to be obedient when He tells you what to do.

God bless you for being a part of this bible study. May you soon see the breakthrough of God manifested in your life, in Jesus' name. Just ask Him for it and take a stand on the truth of God's Word. Your breakthrough is now on the way!

THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

BIBLE STUDY

Lesson One – God Wants You To Prosper

1. Purpose of the Bible Study: To develop a deeper _____ of the basic laws that govern the _____ of God's _____ in the lives of Believers.
2. Biblical Laws are based on the principle of _____. A Biblical Law is when a particular _____ always produces a _____ result.
3. Biblical Prosperity is not limited to just _____.
4. According to John 10:10, Jesus came so that we can have _____ life.
5. The Hebrew word *shalom* in the Old Testament is often translated _____. But it is also sometimes translated _____ or _____.
6. Definition of *shalom*: (7965) well, happy, friendly, well being, health, prosperity (or prosperous) and peace
7. In essence, shalom is a condition of well being when _____ anywhere in your life. In other words, all your needs are being met, Spirit, soul and body.
8. Examples of *shalom* in scripture when it is translated prosperity or prosperous in most translations:

Psalm 35:27
Jeremiah 33:9
Zechariah 8:12
9. The fullness of the word shalom communicates that a loving God wants _____ for His children and that _____ are not a part of His plan.
10. Therefore, financial prosperity is a part of the fullness of biblical prosperity. It cannot be excluded.
 - _____ has tried to exclude financial prosperity. It has taught that poverty and lack are necessary to produce _____.
 - But financial prosperity is not excluded in scripture.
 - Scripture does say that humbleness comes from casting our _____ on Christ (1 Peter 5:6-7), not from trying to be poor.
 - In 3 John 2, the Apostle prays that we might _____ and be in good health, just as our _____.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:8-9 tells us we need _____ in order to perform good deeds and bless others.
 - In two-thirds of the parables Jesus spoke about _____. Why would He have done this if we are supposed to be poor.

- The Bible says in Deuteronomy 8:18 that God has _____ you to obtain _____ (prosperity and abundance).
- The Bible says in Hebrews 7:22 that the New Testament is a _____ than the Old.

11. There is another type of biblical prosperity that corresponds to the Hebrew word *tsalach*. This kind of prosperity involves a type of success in life that results from being _____.

- In other words, it comes from a _____.
- God is _____ you forward.
- He is pushing you forward to a _____.

12. Conclusions:

- God wants you to be prosperous. Why? So that you can _____.
- He wants you to enjoy shalom prosperity with _____.
- He is working through a *tsalach* process to help you achieve your _____.
- The first Law of biblical prosperity is this: in order to be prosperous, you have to believe that God wants you to prosper. You have to believe Jesus really did come to bring you abundant life.

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BIBLE STUDY

Lesson One – God Wants You To Prosper

1. Purpose of the Bible Study: To develop a deeper understanding of the basic laws that govern the manifestation of God's prosperity in the lives of Believers.
2. Biblical Laws are based on the principle of action and reaction. A Biblical Law is when a particular action always produces a predictable result.
3. Biblical Prosperity is not limited to just finances.
4. According to John 10:10, Jesus came so that we can have abundant life.
5. The Hebrew word *shalom* in the Old Testament is often translated *peace*. But it is also sometimes translated *prosperity* or *prosperous*.
6. Definition of *shalom*: (7965) well, happy, friendly, well being, health, prosperity (or prosperous) and peace
7. In essence, shalom is a condition of well being (peace) when nothing is missing and nothing is broken anywhere in your life. In other words, all your needs are being met, Spirit, soul and body.
8. Examples of *shalom* in scripture when it is translated prosperity or prosperous in most translations:

Psalm 35:27
Jeremiah 33:9
Zechariah 8:12
9. The fullness of the word shalom communicates that a loving God wants only the best for His children and that lack and deprivation are not a part of His plan.
10. Therefore, financial prosperity is a part of the fullness of biblical prosperity. It cannot be excluded.
 - Manmade religion has tried to exclude financial prosperity. It has taught that poverty and lack are necessary to produce humility.
 - But financial prosperity is not excluded in scripture.
 - Scripture does say that humbleness comes from casting our burdens and anxieties on Christ (1 Peter 5:6-7), not from trying to be poor.
 - In 3 John 2, the Apostle prays that we might prosper and be in good health, just as our souls prosper.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:8-9 tells us we need abundance in order to perform good deeds and bless others.
 - In two-thirds of the parables Jesus spoke about money, property or ownership. Why would He have done this if we are supposed to be poor.

- The Bible says in Deuteronomy 8:18 that God has empowered you to obtain wealth (prosperity and abundance).
- The Bible says in Hebrews 7:22 that the New Testament is a better covenant than the Old.

11. There is another type of biblical prosperity that corresponds to the Hebrew word *tsalach*. This kind of prosperity involves a type of success in life that results from being pushed forward.

- In other words, it comes from a higher, stronger power.
- God is pushing you forward.
- He is pushing you forward to a breakthrough.

12. Conclusions:

- God wants you to be prosperous. Why? So that you can do good works and help Him build the Kingdom of God.
- He wants you to enjoy shalom prosperity with nothing missing and nothing broken.
- He is working through a *tsalach* process to help you achieve your breakthrough.
- The first Law of biblical prosperity is this: in order to be prosperous, you have to believe that God wants you to prosper. You have to believe Jesus really did come to bring you abundant life.