

THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

(Chapter Five)

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Chapter Five – The Role of Love

Remember that in the context of this bible study series, a *Law* is derived from the principle of action and predictable reaction. That is, when a predictable event always results from a particular action, we can refer to this process as a *Law*. The end result of a *Law* is unavoidable unless a contravening action is introduced that interferes with the process. Therefore, when we speak of the “Laws of Biblical Prosperity” we are referring to those principles found in scripture that when set in motion always and inevitably result in prosperity unless WE do something to prohibit that predictable result from occurring.

There are literally hundreds of *Laws* in scripture pertaining to prosperity. Therefore, an important challenge for Believers is to search the Word of God to learn what those *Laws* are so we can begin to apply them in our lives by initiating the required actions. Certainly it will take a while to learn about all the *Laws*; but we will see prosperity increasingly manifested in our lives by releasing our faith and taking action as we go along on what we have learned.

So far in the previous lessons, we have presented four *Laws* that work together to produce biblical prosperity. Keep in mind again that the fullness of biblical prosperity is much more than just finances; indeed these *Laws* refer to a condition of well being in every area of life: spirit, soul and body. It is predictable that when these four actions are initiated, barring a contravening action, Believers will begin to experience the manifestation of biblical prosperity:

1. Believe with all your heart that God wants you to be prosperous.
2. Pursue an understanding of the Word of God and submit to Its authority.
3. Insist that all provision in your life come from God.
4. Come to the realization that God can only do good.

Undoubtedly, most Believers really do want to experience the fullness of biblical prosperity but the reality is they are not enjoying anything close to that fullness. In fact, many of us are frustrated because we have prayed and released our faith and rested on the Word but abundant prosperity has not manifested as we had expected. Manmade religion tells us not to be frustrated by this because we are supposed to be in lack anyway so God can make us humble. In other words, we're better off just to forget about prosperity. But that's not what the Word of God says. The Word says that God wants us (you!) to be prosperous and that He's actually trying to push you into prosperity. So why then would we still not be seeing it manifested even after we've released our faith and done all the things we thought we were supposed to do?

The Commandments of Jesus

For many good Believers a very likely answer to this question can be found in Matthew 22:37-40 where one day Jesus answered a related question posed by an expert in the Law of Moses who was there among the assembled Pharisees. The question was this: *Teacher, which is the greatest (strongest or most important) commandment in the Law?* Scripture says that the expert was testing the Lord but Jesus answered Him without hesitating:

(37) You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and foremost commandment. (39) The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

Jesus answered the expert's question by giving two clearly stated commandments, (1) to love the Lord, and (2) to love other people. Notice that Jesus repeated the word *commandment* in

His answer so it was clearly His intention that they continue to be commandments instead of becoming just suggestions or guidelines for how to lead a righteous life under the New Covenant He was in the process of creating. Indeed, many other verses in the New Testament refer to the *commandments* of Jesus and exhort us to obey them (John 14:15, John 14:21, John 15:10, 1 Corinthians 7:19, 1 John 2:3, 1 John 2:4, 1 John 3:22, 1 John 3:24, 1 John 5:2, 1 John 5:3, 2 John 6, Revelation 12:17, Revelation 14:12 and Revelation 22:14).

Note also that He referred to only two commandments instead of the ten or 600+ that Jewish folks were used to hearing about. This declared to those assembled there that day that He had been given the authority to synthesize the Law of Moses down to only two issues which was at that moment a totally new and undoubtedly surprising concept. The essence of what He said was that you can fulfill the whole Law just by carrying out these two commandments.

The other point to bring out is that Jesus said that all the Law and everything the Prophets have ever said depend on, or are subordinated to, these two commandments. In other words, none of the other Laws of conduct in the Kingdom of God will function properly and fully except through love. In fact, the Bible confirms that even our faith won't work if it doesn't come out of love (1 Corinthians 13:2). Friend, Matthew 22:40 says clearly to those who have ears to hear that the *Laws* of biblical prosperity won't work for you if they don't come through love. Therefore, if your prosperity is a little on the short side today, it's time to consider where you are in your love-walk.

Are Christians Really Expected to Obey the Commandments of Jesus?

When many Christians read these scriptures from Matthew 22, there is a tendency to gloss over the message and go on to something else that's more relevant and possible for real life. But Jesus stated and restated them as *commandments* which He would not have done if they were impossible to keep or if they were not important. Jesus would never set us up for failure by giving out commandments we can't keep. No, heaven forbid! The truth is God is serious about having us obey these commandments and so was Jesus when He said them.

Moreover, Jesus said, "*If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love...*" (John 15:10). When it says that you will abide in His love, it means that you will actually dwell together with God because God *is* love (1 John 4:16). This is an important revelation in the context of today's lesson because Jesus also said that "*...apart from Me you can do nothing*" (John 15:5). In sum then, in order to dwell with Christ and receive the benefits of His love, we **must** be trying to keep His commandments. In other words, if we are sincere about wanting to experience biblical prosperity, we must abide in Christ, which in turn requires that we keep His commandments. It will not happen any other way.

For many Believers it's time to slow down and study these scriptures a little more closely and seriously. By nature we don't love others easily, whether God or man, because we are too concerned about ourselves. Nevertheless, when someone in authority has commanded us to do something, he is expecting us to carry out his orders. In fact, in this case the Lord is waiting patiently for them to be carried out so He can advance the work of the Kingdom. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit is working with each of us to overcome our selfish flesh and bring about perfected love in our lives so that by faith we can actually do what has been commanded. And when finally we do submit to the love commandments of Christ, we should soon thereafter find biblical prosperity beginning to overtake us.

Conclusions

Our fifth *Law* of biblical prosperity is this: ***in order to experience the manifestation of biblical prosperity, you must walk in love.*** On these two commandments depend all the Laws of prosperity. And when you are trying to walk in them and to bless others through your love, the

activation of biblical prosperity will be an unavoidable consequence. The abundance will come as an empowerment to bless others as the Spirit leads; the overflow will be evident spirit, soul and body. There will be nothing missing and nothing broken.

In the next lesson we will study more about how we can improve our love walk. But for now it is our prayer that God will open up this subject to you and that you will come to agree that by faith you really are able to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself. May the blessings of God overtake you and your family, in the name of Jesus.

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BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Five – The Role of Love

1. The end result of a *Law* is _____ unless a _____ is introduced that interferes with the process.
2. The Laws of biblical prosperity will inevitably produce prosperity in our lives unless _____ do something to prohibit it from happening.
3. Manmade religion tells us not be frustrated when abundant prosperity doesn't manifest in our lives because we are _____ so we can develop _____.
4. The Word says that God wants you to be prosperous so much that He is trying to _____ you into it.
5. According to Matthew 22:37, the first commandment of Christ is to love the Lord God with all your _____.
6. The second commandment of Christ is to love your _____ (your fellow man) as _____ (Matthew 22:38).
7. Jesus used and repeated the word _____ to let us know that His related sayings were not just suggestions or guidelines.
8. Jesus would never have given us *commandments* unless we had within us the ability to _____. He would never have set us up for failure because He loves us too much.
9. There are many scriptures in the New Testament that refer to the commandments of Jesus and exhort us _____.
10. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees about only two laws, He was telling them that He had been given the _____ to synthesize the entire Law of Moses down to two issues.
11. In other words, in the process of keeping the two commandments of Christ, we will be _____.
12. Jesus also told the Pharisees that the manifestation of _____ the _____ of conduct in the Kingdom of God depend on the two commandments of Christ.
13. In fact, the bible says that even our _____ won't work unless it comes through _____: the love of God and the love of our fellow man (1Corinthians 13:2).
14. Therefore, the laws of biblical prosperity won't work, i.e., they won't produce prosperity in our lives, unless _____.

15. Jesus said, “*If you keep My commandments, _____ (or dwell together with) _____...*” (John 15:10).
16. Jesus also said that “*...apart from Me you can do nothing*” (John 15:5). Therefore, in order to experience biblical prosperity we must _____ in Christ which requires us to try to _____.
17. We don’t have to worry about keeping His commandments in our own strength because the Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfill them by _____ and by the _____.
18. In sum, we must walk in _____ in order to experience the _____ of biblical prosperity in our lives.

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1. The end result of a *Law* is unavoidable unless a contravening action is introduced that interferes with the process.
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3. Manmade religion tells us not be frustrated when abundant prosperity doesn't manifest in our lives because we are supposed to be in lack so we can develop humility.
4. The Word says that God wants you to be prosperous so much that He is trying to push you into it.
5. According to Matthew 22:37, the first commandment of Christ is to love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and mind.
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7. Jesus used and repeated the word *commandment* to let us know that His related sayings were not just suggestions or guidelines.
8. Jesus would never have given us *commandments* unless we had within us the ability to fulfill or keep them. He would never have set us up for failure because He loves us too much.
9. There are many scriptures in the New Testament that refer to the commandments of Jesus and exhort us to keep them.
10. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees about only two laws, He was telling them that He had been given the authority to synthesize the entire Law of Moses down to two issues.
11. In other words, in the process of keeping the two commandments of Christ, we will be fulfilling the whole Law of Moses.
12. Jesus also told the Pharisees that the manifestation of all the laws of conduct in the Kingdom of God depend on the two commandments of Christ.
13. In fact, the bible says that even our faith won't work unless it comes through love: the love of God and the love of our fellow man (1Corinthians 13:2).
14. Therefore, the laws of biblical prosperity won't work, i.e., they won't produce prosperity in our lives, unless we are walking in love.
15. Jesus said, "*If you keep My commandments, you will abide in (or dwell together with) My love...*" (John 15:10).

16. Jesus also said that “...*apart from Me you can do nothing*” (John 15:5). Therefore, in order to experience biblical prosperity we must abide in Christ which requires us to try to keep His commandments.
17. We don't have to worry about keeping His commandments in our own strength because the Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfill them by faith and by the Spirit.
18. In sum, we must walk in love in order to experience the manifestation of biblical prosperity in our lives.