

## FINANCES PART 1

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Today I want to share with you about financial prosperity and how Jesus wants you to prosper financially. This is something that is important to everyone. It takes money to live, to get your needs met, and to be a blessing to others. God didn't leave us alone in this area and say, "I'm concerned about your spiritual part, but I don't care about your financial part . . . you're on your own." No, He loves you in every way—spirit, soul, and body—and He's made provision for you. It's part of what Jesus died to produce. Most people recognize that some degree of financial prosperity is necessary, but religion basically has taken a stand against having an abundance of finances because they believe that it is actually a self-centered, greedy position.

The Word of God teaches against greed in many different ways but also makes it very clear that financial blessing and prosperity are part of what Jesus died to produce in our lives. In 2 Corinthians 8:9 it says, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." This is talking about financial prosperity, richness in money. Some would like to spiritualize this and say, "No, this is just saying the Lord wants you to prosper emotionally and spiritually," but if you take it in context, all of 2 Corinthians 8 is talking about money. There are statements criticizing greed, and people would definitely agree that's talking about money. Chapter 9 also talks about finances. The whole context is financial and is not just saying Jesus wants you to prosper and be rich in spiritual things, He wants to bless you financially.

Another scripture that goes along with this is 3 John 2, where the Apostle John said, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." What a strong statement . . . John says "above all things!" That's certainly not limited to financial prosperity. It's talking about healing, emotions, relationships, and finances. The Lord wants you to prosper and be in health above everything else. He wants you to prosper in spirit, soul, and body. That's His will for you. When it comes to finances, one of the first things you need to recognize is that it's not an optional thing. Jesus died to produce financial blessing in your life just the same as He died to produce forgiveness of sins, physical healing, and deliverance from demonic oppression. The word that's translated "save" or "salvation" over a hundred times in the New Testament is the Greek word "sozo," which literally means "deliverance, healing, financial prosperity, and forgiveness of sins."

We've limited salvation to God forgiving your sins, but Christ died for every aspect of your being, and financial prosperity is part of that. Many religious people actually say that God wants you to be poor, that being poor is a godly thing, and the poorer you are the more godly you are. I was raised under that kind of thinking—that preachers shouldn't have very much—that a Christian is a person who should do without—which this certainly cannot be substantiated by Scripture. Abraham was the richest man of his time, so much so that kings asked him to depart because his possessions were affecting the wealth of their countries. The same was true of Isaac and Jacob. Joseph was a man who prospered and had super abundance. David gave to the Lord out of his own personal treasury over 2.5 billion dollars worth of gold and silver to build the temple. Solomon, David's son, was the richest man that ever lived on the face of the earth. When you look at it scripturally, people who have really served God were blessed financially.

If there isn't a God, and if His Word isn't true when He says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you," taking a portion of what you have and giving it away is the stupidest thing you could ever do. Instead of moving toward the goal of having all your needs met, you're actually moving away from it if God hasn't promised to bless you. It takes faith to be able to give the way God says, and that's the reason He told you to do it. If you say, "Wait until I have some extra and then I'm going to start tithing," in a sense you're saying, "Wait until I can give, and if that money doesn't come back to me, if God's Word doesn't work, I can still make it without it." You're missing the whole point, because you aren't giving in faith. You're saying, "Wait until I can give, so I don't have to have faith and trust God for it to come back." The whole purpose behind God wanting you to give is because He wants you to trust Him.

There are so many scriptures about this. In Luke 16 there is a parable about a steward who cheated his master, and it finally comes down to this: He says if you haven't been faithful in the unrighteous mammon (talking about money), then who will commit to your trust the true riches? If you haven't believed God in the smaller things, concerning money, how are you going to get to the more important things, such as spiritual values? Scriptures like this make money one of the least levels of stewardship. If you can't trust God with your finances, how can you trust Him with your eternal destiny? How can you truly believe Jesus has forgiven your sins and that you're going to spend eternity in heaven? In comparison, the spiritual things we supposedly put our faith in the Lord for are much more significant than money. Money is a minor thing, but it's the bottom line of starting to trust God.

Someone who says, "I can't give, because I have so many bills," is looking at the situation without seeing the spiritual side, without seeing what God can do. When you obey the Lord and begin to give, He gets involved in your finances. God will take the ninety percent you have left, and make it go further than the person's money who tries to use one hundred percent of it. This is illustrated many ways in the Bible. The children of Israel gave one day of every week to the Lord, took that day off, and didn't work. Although the nations around them worked seven days a week, the Israelites began to prosper more than all of them. Then they took one year out of seven when they didn't plant their crops and couldn't reap anything that grew naturally but had to leave it for the poor, other people, and the beasts of the field. You ask, "How could they live how could they survive?" God said He would bless them in the sixth year so they would have three times the normal increase to last through the sixth year, the seventh year when they didn't plant their crops, and the eighth year when they started planting again.

It's the same principle when we begin to trust God with our finances. When you give first, you'll find that the Lord will give back to you. God will never become a debtor to any man. He'll never let you out give Him. As you begin to give, He gives back to you. Proverbs 11:24 basically says, There are some that give away more than it looks like is necessary, and yet they prosper, and there's other that tend to hoard what they have, and it only causes poverty on the inside of them. There are many more examples in Scripture. The widow in 1 Kings 17:11-16 was about to starve to death when the man of God, Elijah, came and said, "Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand." She said, "I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah told her to first feed him and then herself and her son, and God said He would take care of them. She did as he told her, and the oil and flour she had lasted for three years because she put God first.

If you seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first, then He will add these things to you. If you say you want God to help you in your finances—and you're praying for His help but aren't seeking first the kingdom of God, and you aren't taking a step of faith, trusting Him with your finances, and giving—then you really aren't trusting Him. The promises in God's Word are so abundant that when you give, He gives back to you, so it really just comes down to a matter of faith. Do you really believe God? Do you really believe that when you give, God is going to supernaturally undertake for you; or do you see that the money is just gone? The truth is, when you give with the right attitude, the money never leaves your life but goes into your future, where it grows and multiplies.

Actually, when you're in need and what you have in your hand isn't enough to meet the need, what you need to do is turn it into a seed, sow it, and plan for the future. God is pleased when you give with a heart like that, so if you want to experience His prosperity, you need, first of all, to believe it is His will for you to prosper financially. According to 2 Corinthians 8:9, you need to believe that's part of what Jesus died to do just as much as forgiveness of sins. Jesus became poor so we might be made rich. It's the same thing in 2 Corinthians 5:21 when it says Jesus became sin for us so we could be redeemed from sin. The Lord wants you to prosper. If you really believe that, prove it and trust Him by giving. If there isn't a God, and His Word isn't true, then this is crazy. But since there is a God and His Word is true, then giving is your way to prosperity. The way up in God's kingdom is down. The way toward having more in His kingdom is to give not to hoard.

I challenge you today to look up some of these scriptures we've talked about. Think about them and pray about them, and begin to recognize that you can give your way out of poverty. You can trust God. Begin to honor Him with the first fruits of your increase and, as you do, God's prosperity will manifest itself in your life. It is not just for you but so you can be a blessing and abound unto every good work that God has for you.

# FINANCES

## PART 1

### (Outline)

God desires for you to prosper financially.

2 Corinthians 8:9: “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” In context, this verse is talking about finances; it’s not just talking about spiritual things.

3 John 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” God’s will is for you to prosper in spirit, soul, and body.

Prospering in finances is not an optional thing. Jesus died to produce financial blessing in your life. “SOZO,” the Greek word for “salvation,” is found over 100 times in the New Testament and literally means “deliverance, healing, financial prosperity, and forgiveness of sins.”

Scripturally, people who have really served God have been blessed financially. Abraham, in the Old Testament, was the richest man in his day.

1 Timothy 6:10: “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” Greed is wrong. The “love” of money is the root of all evil. Deuteronomy 8:18: “But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”

The real purpose of financial prosperity is not to have an abundance of things for our own selfish purposes but so that we can establish God’s covenant here on earth. Genesis 12:2-3: “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup>And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

2 Corinthians 9:8: “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” The definition of true biblical prosperity is having enough to meet our own needs with enough left to be a blessing to others.

Matthew 6:33: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Give to God first with your finances, and He will supply all the other things that you need, and you’ll be a blessing to other people. God wants you to prosper, but it is dependent on your motive and actions.

FINANCES  
PART 1  
(Teacher's Guide)

1.    A.    According to Deuteronomy 8:18, who gives us power to get wealth?  
  
          God.
- B.    For what purpose does He give us the power to get wealth?  
  
          To further His kingdom.
2.    What is a good definition of prosperity?  
  
          To have enough of God's supply to accomplish God's instructions.
3.    A.    What is idolatry according to Colossians 3:5?  
  
          Covetousness.
- B.    What is the root of all evil? (1 Timothy 6:10)  
  
          The LOVE of money.
4.    Explain the principle of giving from 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.  
  
          If you sow sparingly, you will reap sparingly. Give as you purpose in your heart and do it cheerfully.
5.    What are "all these things" mentioned in Matthew 6:33?  
  
          Material blessings—the things we need in life.
6.    What is the greatest treasure that we can have according to Hebrews 13:5?  
  
          Jesus Christ.
7.    Explain in your own words what Mark 10:29-30 is saying.  
  
          There are rewards for following Jesus in this life as well as in the eternal life to come.

# FINANCES

## PART 1

### (Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being disciplined. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 8:18 says, “thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for [it is] he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as [it is] this day.” God gives us the power to prosper financially so that we can use that prosperity to further His kingdom here on the earth.

A good Bible definition of prosperity is found in 2 Corinthians 9:8, which says, “And God [is] able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all [things], may abound to every good work.” Prosperity is having enough of God's supply to accomplish God's instructions. Those who feel they couldn't use any more money only have a selfish vision. Their needs may be met, but what about a lost and dying world? Those with an unselfish vision are believing for more prosperity so that they can give to every good work. It takes money to preach the Gospel. For the Gospel to prosper, we have to prosper. The money comes to us first so that we can, in turn, fund the ministry.

<sup>2</sup> The Bible teaches against greed and covetousness, which is called idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Some have used this to say that having large amounts of money is evil. But having money isn't evil; it is the LOVE of money that is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). It is possible to have money without it having you. And you don't have to be rich to commit this sin of loving money. In fact, some of the people who lust for wealth the most are the ones who are poor. They think if they had more money and what it could buy, they would be happy. The rich know that isn't true.

<sup>3</sup> So, it's greed that rots the seed. If our motive for prosperity is not so we can consume the money on ourselves, then the Lord will give us an abundance of finances so we can sow them into His kingdom. If He can get the money through you, He will get it to you. Paul said God gives seed to the sowers (2 Corinthians 9:10). This was talking of money. He was saying, “If you will be faithful to give, God will supply you with the money to do it.” Therefore, if we are short on seed, it's probably because we are not very good sowers. Sowers have seed. That's God's promise.

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<sup>1</sup> (a) According to Deuteronomy 8:18, who gives us power to get wealth?

(b) For what purpose? To further His kingdom.

(c) What is a good definition of prosperity?

<sup>2</sup> (a) What is idolatry according to Colossians 3:5?

(b) What is the root of all evil? (1 Timothy 6:10)

<sup>3</sup> Explain the principle of giving from 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.

<sup>4</sup> In Matthew 6:33 Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” What things was Jesus talking about? We don’t have to wonder. The answer is right there in the context. Jesus was speaking of our physical needs being met if we would seek first the kingdom of God.

He wasn’t speaking of seeking first the kingdom of God through prayer or a Bible study. He was saying that if our reason for desiring prosperity was so we could advance the kingdom of God, then the Lord would see to it that all our temporal needs were met. That’s what the context of this verse teaches.

The Lord established a system that enables us to devote our whole heart to Him and His kingdom. We don’t have to departmentalize our lives into the secular and religious. We can make our whole purpose in life to glorify God. In the financial realm, we can make our real heart’s cry, “I want more so that I can give more.” When a person seeks first the kingdom of God in that way, then the Lord personally sees to his needs being met. We don’t have to be concerned with our own needs. And the Lord will take care of us better than we would have taken care of ourselves.

<sup>5</sup> Someone may be saying, “What about Hebrews 13:5? It says, ‘[Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.’” Doesn’t this verse teach that we are suppose to have nothing? No! This verse is teaching against covetousness. We should be content with what we have, but as we start living to give, abundance will come our way, and we should be content with that too.

Jesus said in Mark 10:29-30 that any person who gives to Him out of the right motive would receive a hundredfold return IN THIS LIFE. That’s a promise. We don’t give to get; but we realize as we give we will get so we can give even more. And as the money flows through, there will always be plenty for you. The Lord will meet your needs. He is El Shaddai, the All Sufficient One, not El Cheapo, the Stingy One.

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<sup>4</sup>What are “all these things” mentioned in Matthew 6:33?

<sup>5</sup>(a)What is the greatest treasure that we can have according to Hebrews 13:5? Jesus Christ.

(b)Explain in your own words what Mark 10:29-30 is saying?

FINANCES  
PART 1  
(Discipleship Questions)

Prosperity: to flourish, thrive, good fortune, success  
Prosperous: continued good fortune, well to do, well off, favorable  
Prosper: to push forward, go over, to break out, and to advance

Read 3 John 2

1. What is it that we are to prosper in?
2. What else are we encouraged to prosper in besides finances?
3. Can you see that there is a distinction here between financial prosperity and physical prosperity?

Read Genesis 39:2-3

4. What was the result of the Lord being with Joseph?

Read Joshua 1:5-9

5. What does the Lord promise to you in verse 5?
6. If the Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and the Lord promises to never leave you nor forsake you, do you believe that He will also prosper you?
7. In verse 6 we are promised an inheritance, in order to receive it, what does verse 7 say we must do?
8. If we do not turn from it, the commands of the Lord, what will happen to us wherever we go?
9. What is the result if we meditate on the Scriptures and do as it commands?
10. What does the Lord re-emphasize in verse 9?
11. Do you believe Him yet?

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14

12. What "shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God and observe carefully all His commands"?
13. How many of the blessings shall come upon you and overtake you because of your obedience?

Verses 3-14 explain all the blessings the Lord wants to bless you with. In your Bible, underline or highlight all the blessings that are for you right now, today. Do not skip any because you think you are not worthy. Every blessing is for you if you walk with the Lord.

IF YOU ARE NOT WALKING WITH THE LORD, READ VERSES 15-68. WHEN YOU ARE DONE, GET RIGHT WITH GOD!!!

Read Deuteronomy 8:18

14. Who is it that has the power to give you wealth?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

15. If you sow sparingly, what will you reap?
16. If you sow bountifully, what will you reap?
17. How are we to give?
18. What does God love?
19. When God makes His grace abound toward us, what does He give us all sufficiency in?
- A. ALL things
  - B. Some things
  - C. Random things
20. Who supplies the seed and the bread?
21. Who is going to supply and multiply the things you need in order for you to be a cheerful giver?
22. The administration of this service not only gives glory to God, it also supplies the needs of whom?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Who is the saint?
23. When you are liberal in your giving, God gets the glory because of your \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Matthew 6: 19-21

24. Where are we to lay up our treasures?
25. Write in your own words what verse 21 means.

Read Matthew 6:24

26. Why can't you serve both God and mammon (money)?

Read Matthew 6:25-34

27. What are you not to worry about?
28. What must you do in order for "all these things to be added unto you"?

Read Exodus 20: 3,17

29. What does this commandment say (verse 3)?
30. What does this commandment say (verse 17)?

COVET: to desire or to lust after

Read Colossians 3:5

31. What does the Word say that covetousness is?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10

32. "Godliness [mixed with] \_\_\_\_\_ is great gain."
33. Can we take anything with us when we leave this earth?
34. What are we to be content with?
35. What happens when you fall into the temptation of riches?
36. What is the love of money the root of?
37. Does it say that money itself is the root of all evil or just the love of it?

Read Hebrews 13:5

38. What is our conduct to be without?
39. What are we to be content with?

Read Matthew 22:37

40. What is to be our first love in our life?
41. If God is first, where does that put the love of money?

Read Psalm 37:1-11

42. What must you do in order to receive the desires of your heart?
- |    |       |    |
|----|-------|----|
| A. | _____ | v3 |
| B. | _____ | v3 |
| C. | _____ | v3 |
| D. | _____ | v3 |
| E. | _____ | v4 |
| F. | _____ | v5 |
| G. | _____ | v5 |
| H. | _____ | v7 |
| I. | _____ | v7 |
| J. | _____ | v7 |
| K. | _____ | v8 |
| L. | _____ | v8 |

43. What shall you inherit if you “wait on the Lord”? (V9)

44. What shall the meek inherit?

45. What will we delight ourselves in?

**MEEK:** gentle, mild, an inwrought grace of the soul, disposition are first and chiefly towards God. Temper of the spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore do not dispute or resist. Humble heart, one who does not fight against God. Self-control. Strength under control.

FINANCES  
PART 1  
(Discipleship Answer Key)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. All things   | 20. God  |
| 2. Our health   | 21. God  |
| 3. Yes  | 22. The saints – fellow believers  |
| 4. He was a successful man, the Lord made all he did to prosper | 23. Obedience  |
| 5. The Lord will be with me                                     | 24. In heaven  |
| 6. Yes  | 25. My treasure is the Lord  |
| 7. Be strong and courageous, observe all the Lord has commanded | 26. Because you will hate the one and love the other   |
| 8. We will prosper  | 27. My basic needs   |
| 9. Our way will be prosperous and we'll have good success       | 28. Seek first the Kingdom of God  |
| 10. Be strong and courageous, don't be dismayed or frightened   | 29. You shall have no other god's before Me  |
| 11. Yes   | 30. You shall not covet neighbor's goods or wife   |
| 12. Set us high above all the nations on earth                  | 31. Idolatry   |
| 13. All the blessings   | 32. Contentment  |
| 14. God   | 33. No   |
| 15. Sparingly   | 34. Having food and clothing   |
| 16. Bountifully   | 35. You are ensnared into foolish and harmful lusts which leads to destruction and perdition |
| 17. As he purposes in his heart                                 | 36. All kinds of evils   |
| 18. A cheerful giver  | 37. Love of it   |
| 19. A. All things   | 38. Covetousness   |
|   | 39. With such things as you have   |

40. The Lord thy God
41. Money is not to be loved
42. A. Trust in the Lord  
B. Do good  
C. Dwell in the land d. feed on His faithful.  
E. Delight yourself in the Lord  
F. Commit your ways to Him  
G. Trust in Him  
H. Rest in Him  
I. Wait patiently  
J. Don't fret  
K. Cease from anger  
L. Forsake wrath
43. The earth
44. The earth
45. The abundance of peace
- 46.

## FINANCES

### PART 1

#### (Additional Information)

2 Corinthians 9:8: “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”

Most people go through stages of giving similar to stages of growth in training their children. First there is the obedience stage where we train our children to do the right thing just because we told them to do it. They don't have the capacity to understand completely, but they need to establish positive patterns even before their reasoning is mature. Likewise, when we first come to the Lord we need to establish this foundation of obedience.

Next, a child begins to imitate his parents' actions. This would be similar to being led by the Holy Spirit in our giving. The Holy Spirit becomes our guide, and He wants us to emulate Him. There is great benefit to ourselves as well as to others from being led by the Holy Spirit in our giving. Yet, there is still another level of giving to which Paul is referring to here.

The ultimate motivation for giving is to give as we purpose in our hearts, as Paul is describing here. This is comparable to a son who is serving not just out of obedience because he fears punishment or because he is motivated by the example of his parent but because his heart has been affected to the point that it is his desire to do what is right. That is what every parent longs for, and that is what the Lord desires in our giving.

If the only time we give is when the Lord tells us to, that is comparable to a child who only says he loves his father when he is told to do so. Although there is a time when that is proper, it is not the ultimate. There needs to be those times when the child says he loves his father just because that is what is in his heart.

It is true that God will tell us to give specific amounts of money at times to help meet the need of someone else or for our own personal benefit. However, it is also appropriate to give just because we want to. Those who only know how to respond to commands or specific leadings of the Holy Spirit in their giving will miss bringing joy to the Lord through their unsolicited, cheerful giving.

(2 Corinthians 9:8) Notice what this verse did not say. It did not say, “God will make all grace abound toward you.” This verse is stating that God is willing and able to supply every need of the cheerful giver, but that doesn't happen automatically. There are conditions to be met. Galatians 6:9 says, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

(2 Corinthians 9:8) This verse completely dispels the notion that God only wants to supply our bare necessities. He is able to make all grace (in this instance, His miraculous intervention) abound toward us. The word “abound” means: (1) to be plentiful in number or amount, (2) to be fully supplied. Whatever our situation, God's grace abounds greater (Romans 5:20). The Lord desires that we ALWAYS have ALL sufficiency in ALL things. It is not God's will for us to suffer financially.

(2 Corinthians 9:8) Those who argue against prosperity invariably cite the examples of those who have gathered riches to consume upon their own lusts. They use these negative examples to make the point that those who are rich are selfish and corrupt, and then argue against prosperity on the grounds of greed. However, that is not the purpose of God giving us wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). As this verse states, it is so we may help others. The purpose of God's prosperity in our lives is so that we can be the blessing to others that we need to be. Before we can be a blessing, we have to be blessed (Genesis 12:2). If we are not selfish with our riches, then wealth can be a wonderful thing.

2 Corinthians 9:8 is describing an abundance of blessing to the point that we can abound to every good work. That means that we should never be unable to give to any good cause. Sad to say, that is not the case with most Christians. Satan has robbed us through "poverty thinking" and has caused many good works to go under-funded. If you are so blessed that you don't have any more needs, then think about others, and believe for more abundance so that you can be a blessing to them.

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