

What Does the Bible Say About Prosperity?

“The Blessing of the Lord makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it!” I believe God is a God of blessing; yet any truth can be taken to an extreme and become error. Unfortunately, that has happened to some degree in certain circles of the Christian movement. **However, the error of some does not negate the reality and truth** that God is a God of blessing and wills for His children to be blessed. Today we are going to dive into the scripture and see what the Bible actually teaches about prosperity...

John 10:10 - The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- Jesus came to bring us abundant life – by contrast, the enemy’s (religion, the devil, etc...) goal is to still, kill and destroy.
- From the outset let me determine an undeniable truth that will serve as a bedrock for out teaching today: **The enemy’s will is lack – God’s will is abundance!**
- Amplified - The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in **abundance** [to the full, **till it overflows**].
- Now, religion wants to only spiritualize that, but he wants us to prosper in every area of life...
- To know the will of God all you have to do is go to the beginning and look at man in the Garden of Eden. He was given dominion over everything...there was no lack in any area. God does not change. If you go to the end of time into eternity, there is no lack, only abundance.

Isaiah 59:14-16 - Justice is turned backward, and righteousness stands far off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. ¹⁵Truth is lacking, and **he who departs from evil makes himself a prey**. Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. ¹⁶He saw that there was no man and was astonished that there was no intercessor; therefore, His own arm brought salvation to Him, and His righteousness sustained Him.

- **Wickedness was so great, when people turned from unrighteousness to the truth, they became a prey for the enemies of God and truth.**
- It isn’t easy to turn toward what is right, but God will fight for those who pick up truth that has fallen in the streets of wickedness.

3 John 2 - Beloved, I pray that you may **prosper in all things** and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

- Greek – To succeed in business affairs.
- 3 areas – Materially, Physically and Spiritually

Even though the truth of scripture is blessing and abundance, God's will is not always done for several reasons...

1. Decisions have consequences

Ecclesiastes 7:29 (MSG) - ...I did spot one ray of light in this murk: God made men and women true and upright; **we're the ones who've made a mess of things.**

Proverbs 19:3 (NLT) - People ruin their lives **by their own foolishness** and **then are angry at the Lord.**

2. Lack of Knowledge

Hosea 4:6 / Isaiah 5:13 – My people are destroyed (go into captivity) because of a lack of knowledge.

3. The Adversary

4. The fallen world

If the abundant life is His will then how do we live and walk in it?...

1. Diligence and Hard Work

- Joseph is in Egypt as a slave

Genesis 39:2-3 (NLT) - The Lord was with Joseph, **so he succeeded in everything he did** as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.³ Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, **giving him success in everything he did.**

Vs. 22-23 - Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. ²³The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. **The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.**

- **The only place you find success before work is in the dictionary!**
- Everyone on earth has the same amount of time in a day.

- Unfinished projects, unread books, and unfulfilled dreams are characteristics of laziness. And only you can change that pattern and break that cycle, because it's never too late to be great.

Proverbs 24:33-34 - Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall poverty come as one that travails, and want as an armed man.

Some do nothing and pray for God to bless it... but $100 \times \text{ZERO} = \text{ZERO}$

2. Association

Psalm 1:1 - Blessed *is* the man **Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly**, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful...

- If you associate with losers, you will be a loser.
- Bad company corrupts good morals and character...
- If you hang out with an angry man, you will become angry...
- If you want to be successful, find some successful people and let what they have rub off on you.

3. Meditation

Psalm 1:1-2 - Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but His delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law, **he meditates day and night**. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and **whatever he does shall prosper**.

Joshua 1:8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then **you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success**.

- George Washington – “It is impossible to govern a nation without God and the Bible.”
- Theodor Roosevelt – “A thorough understanding of the Bible is better than a college education...”

I have been asked many times why I read and study the Bible so much. **It is because I have read many books, but I have found that only the Bible reads me!**

4. Open Handed

Proverbs 11:24 - There is **one who scatters yet increases more**; And there is *one* who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. ²⁵ The **generous soul will be made rich**, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

- Opposite of the math we were taught in school.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 - ⁶But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.** ⁷ So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 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. ⁹ As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." 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,** ¹¹ **while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.**

- God encourages a generous lifestyle
- It opens a dimension of Grace
- God promises to multiply seed that is sown
- Notice, God calls giving righteous
- We are blessed to be a blessing
- When we walk in abundance God gets the glory