

Prosperity God's Way (Developing Right Attitudes Part III)

There are several hindrances that need to be removed and right attitudes that need to be developed in order to walk in the fullness of Biblical Prosperity:

Hindrances

Right Attitudes

A. Blindness/Limited Vision	The Father's care for us
B. Fear	Trust
C. Covetousness	Contentment
D. Impulsiveness	Patience
E. Stinginess	Generosity
F. Laziness	Diligence
G. Ownership	Stewardship
H. The love of money	Choosing relationships over money

Prosperity defined is: to advance, make progress, succeed, be profitable, bring to a successful issue, to experience prosperity, to be prudent, to have insight, to be at rest, to be at ease, to be successful, a benefit, completeness, soundness, welfare, peace, health, contentment.

The Next Hindrance to Prosperity God's way is Stinginess

Stinginess is a hindrance to Prosperity God's way and an enemy we have to drive out of our land. When I say out of our land I'm referring to our soul. Our mind, will and emotions.

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."

You've met him. Maybe you've even been him at one time: Mr. Scrooge, tight wad, stingy, mingy, greedy guy.

Riches are never intended to stop with just us; God never intended for us to become a Dead Sea. (Blessings only coming in and nothing going out).

God intended that His blessings to us also be used to bless others, that is real prosperity!

I Samuel 25:2-12 – Story of Nabal: Scrooges great-great-great-great-great grandfather.

I Samuel 25:17, 25 – Nabal’s name and identity with others meant infidel (unbeliever) and fool.

I Samuel 25:37-38 – His tightness of soul, stinginess, and selfishness with his possessions affected him physically and resulted in his death. The result of stinginess and selfishness is never good.

Philippians 2:4 – “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Focusing on yourself will stop the flow of blessing in your life.

Overcome Stinginess by Developing an Attitude of Generosity

Proverbs 11:25 – “The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.”

One of the best ways to defeat selfishness and stinginess in your life is to choose relationships over material gain. Chose people over money.

The real key to generosity is giving yourself to the Lord first. Ask Him to make you a giver and not a taker.

John 3:16 – “God so loved that He gave [us] His best.” His very nature is a giving and generous nature. We were made in His image, partakers of His divine nature; therefore, by nature we are givers. – **II Peter 1:4**

The purpose for God’s blessing in our lives is not only to meet our needs but also to be generous toward every good work that He places on our heart.

Another Major Hindrance and Enemy to Prosperity is Laziness

Another word that is used interchangeably with lazy is slothful. Slothful defined: to slacken, cease, be idle, slow, hesitate, tardy, sluggish, lazy, dull.

God promised to prosper what we set our hands to, not what we sit on – **Deuteronomy 28:8; Psalms 1:3**

Example: God supernaturally provided manna for the children of Israel, but they still had to go out each day and gather it in.

Proverbs 20:4 – “The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.”

Overcome Laziness by Developing an Attitude of Diligence

Romans 12:11 – “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. **KJV** – “not

slothful in business...”

Diligence defined: to be alert, determined, sharp, precise. Divided focus drains off energy and vision. Two visions equals division.

Example: The secret of the power of a laser beam is focused light. The secret power of a Christian who is following the Lord is obedience and focus. When you know God's told you to do something then you focus on that like a laser beam. **You can't catch a rabbit chasing two!**

I Timothy 4:14-15 – “Do not neglect the gift that is in you...Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress (success) may be evident to all.”

When you focus your energy (be diligent) in the direction of your gifting, your business and/or ministry will flourish! **Your weakness is someone else's opportunity.**

Proverbs 10:4 – “He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent (one who makes a focused and persistent effort in line with his gifts, talent, and calling) makes rich.”

If you are diligent you will see and seize opportunities others fail to see.

A Major Enemy to Prosperity that Most Don't Consider is an Ownership Mentality Toward Finances and Material Possessions

It is very important for us to have a clear understanding of who the owner and boss is in order for us to be successful in life. Even if we started something ourselves, we don't own anything!

Psalms 24:1 – “The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.” Have a mindset that everything belongs to the Lord and we own nothing.

Ownership and entitlement attitudes dominate the business culture and even some areas of the church. That is not the culture of the Kingdom of God!

Jesus claimed ownership of the church when He said, “...I will build my church...” We are His church.

The Right Heart Attitude to Develop Toward Finances and Material Possessions is Stewardship

True stewardship begins with the foundational belief that God is the source of all that has been entrusted to me. Each one of my gifts, talents, resources, possessions, and even my very breath is a gift from God.

Therefore, all that I have is God's and I am simply a steward who has been entrusted

with His resources. A good manager will be diligent to handle God's resources according to His instructions in the Word.

You will deal with finances differently when you look at the money in your possession as God's and not yours. Developing a stewardship mindset toward finances will produce peace and security and cause you to be wise and responsible in your handling of money.

A steward is one who handles the affairs of another. Failure to steward God's money after God's instructions is a primary cause of financial problems among God's people.

Parable of the unjust steward – **Luke 16:1-8** – The context is stewardship of an owner's money and possessions. He was being called out for mishandling his owners money.

The master commended the unjust servant not for his deceptive scheme of extortion but for using money to prepare for the future.

Luke 16:10 – Jesus tells us here that money is the least thing and the first thing that we must learn to steward in the Kingdom.

Luke 16:11 – Jesus makes a remarkable statement here: that the degree of faithfulness that we demonstrate in our stewardship of finances will determine the measure of true riches (eternal souls) that are committed to our trust.

Tithing is the first step of financial stewardship and trust! When we fail to trust God with this first step of stewardship, we rob Him of the opportunity to pour out His fullest blessing in our lives. – **Malachi 3:8-12**

Luke 19:16-17 – “Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.”

Successful stewards are passionate about faithfulness, persevering through the difficult times as well as the good.

I Corinthians 4:2 – “Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.”

The only motivation successful stewards need to perform their tasks is the opportunity to please the owner. Promotion in stewardship is determined by how we manage the small things we are entrusted with.

Matthew 25:21 – “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

The Last Hindrance to Prosperity that we will Deal with is the Love of Money (key word is the Love of Money)

Mark 4:19 makes a distinction between the two - "and the cares of this world, the

deceitfulness of riches, and the desires (lusts) for other things entering in choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful."

Covetousness is the heart lusting after material things. The love of money is a result of the heart tolerating and accepting the deceitfulness of riches as truth.

Many wealthy people allow their riches to give them a false sense of security and, therefore, feel no need for God. That is the deceitfulness of riches' goal!

I Timothy 6:9-10 – This is a description of the wrong kind of relationship with money. It results in deception, destruction, straying from the faith and great sorrow.

The Right Attitude to Develop that will Counteract the Love of Money is Choose Relationships over Money

People are more important than money. Jesus came for the people. The love of money left alone and not dealt with will destroy relationships.

Jesus cleansed the temple of those who placed financial gain over relationship with God and others. – **John 2:13-17**

We are the temple of God today. He is still zealous for cleansing His present- day temples from the love of money. A Love for God and love for people drives out the love of money from the heart.

God places a priority on relationships above money and so should we who are made in His image. Life is too short and unforgiveness and bitterness too costly emotionally, spiritually, and physically to hold on to it.

Bible Examples of Relationships versus the Love of Money! Abram and Lot – Genesis 13:9 – "So Abram said to Lot, 'Please let there be no strife between you and me...for we are brethren.'" Abram gave up the best land for the sake of the relationship. Abram chose his relationship with Lot over material gain.

The Father, prodigal, and elder brother – Luke 15:11-32 –The younger brother thought money could do more for him than his relationships. He discovered the hard way that was a lie.

The elder brother's focus on money kept him from developing a close relationship with either his father or his brother. Everything he was doing and working for was for himself.

The Father's focus was on relationship - "my son is restored", "Son, you are always with me". The Father made no mention of wasted resources. He cared about the relationship of his sons. **Our Heavenly Father cares about a relationship with us.**