

Prosperity God's Way (Developing Right Attitudes)

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

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

II. The First Hindrance to Prosperity is Blindness or Limited Vision

Failure to see who God is and what kind of Father we have. This is usually a result of family or life experiences.

You may have been raised in a very poverty driven or works-oriented environment where you grew to believe you could never do enough to earn your father's favor.

Or you may have been brought up on "barely get by street" right next to "hand me down avenue" – a place of poverty or lack.

Or you may have experienced some financial failures you allowed to become greater in your mind than God's promise of provision and blessing to you.

Too many of us have allowed our experiences to shape our view of God and His willingness to shower us with favor and blessing.

The First Right Attitude Toward Money We Need to Develop Is A Personal Revelation of The Father's Care For Us.

Psalms 35:27 – "...let them say continually, let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant." (If His servant, how much more His sons and

daughters?)

The word prosperity here in Hebrew is “shalom.” It means well, happy, friendly, healthy, favored, at peace. If our own children’s welfare, success, favor, and peace give us pleasure, how much more God with His children?

One of the Lord’s names is “El Shaddai.” It means more than enough supply – the many breasted One! He never runs out of provision for His children.

Jesus saw His Father in this light and it gave Him faith to:

- a. Turn water into wine at a wedding where they ran out of wine.
- b. Feed the 5,000 plus women and children with five loaves and two fish (supply that was grossly inadequate).
- c. Heal the lepers, the lame, the paralytics – those beyond medical help.

If you know your Father loves you and His resources are unlimited, your days of lack are over. You must get a vision inside you of being favored, blessed, and adequately provided for because of your Father, not your job or your bank statement.

I Timothy 5:8 – God is not an infidel. He provides well for His own.

Galatians 5:6 – Faith works best when you understand you are loved.

Matthew 6:26 – Look at the birds: they have no jobs or savings accounts, yet your Father provides abundantly for them.

His love and care for you is infinitely greater! Meditating on His great care for you will increase your faith for abundant provision – **Galatians 5:6**

Another Major Hindrance to Experiencing Prosperity is Fear.

II Timothy 1:7 – “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” The greatest fear related to money is the fear of not having enough. The spirit of poverty, or a poverty mentality, both fuels and feeds off of this fear.

This fear has no respect of persons; it affects the rich and poor, the educated and uneducated, ten-talent people and one talent people alike. Our understanding of our Father’s love and care for us will help us to overcome this deceiving and devouring enemy.

I John 4:18 – “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...”

Genesis 15:1 – “After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision,

saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’”

What were these things that Abram was tempted to get into fear over?

Abram had just tithed (**Genesis 14:20**) and had just left money or reward on the table that could have been construed as trusting in men instead of God for his provision.

God was saying, “Don’t fear loss or lack when you obey Me with your finances, Abram.”

It is not what you hold onto that protects you from lack, but what you give in obedience: your tithe, your offerings, your trust in Me. God said to Abram "I Am your Shield from poverty and lack and I Am your Reward; I will reward you exceedingly whenever you trust Me and follow Me as you have with your money and possessions."

The Attitude to Develop Toward Money That Will Counteract Fear is Trust

The real issue with our tithing and giving is not our money, but our trust.

If you are still looking at your tithing and your giving as a loss, (waving good-bye to it like you’ll never see it again), you are not yet trusting.

It is possible to tithe and give consistently and still not trust. If you are giving out of obligation or out of fear (that if you don’t give your finances will be cursed), you are not trusting.

God wants our hearts, not our money. Our attitude toward money reveals our hearts and who or what we are trusting.

Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

God knows that He only has your heart when He becomes your treasure instead of your money, bank account, or possessions.

Your treasure is what you trust – what you depend to get you by – people, money, education, talent, manipulation, or God.

If your heart is tied to something else or someone else that you are depending on more than God, you’ll find that He will require that of you.

I Timothy 6:17 – “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, not to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God who gives us richly all things to enjoy.”

Trust is developed through greater intimacy and knowledge of the Lord and by experiencing His faithfulness.