

PROSPERING IN ALL THINGS, ESPECIALLY FINANCIAL

[Kaikohe CF - 25/3/98 - EKB]

1. Jesus' apostle, John, wrote, "Beloved, I pray that you may **prosper** in all things and be in health, just as your soul **prosper**," *3Jn 2*.
2. **This is similar to Psalm 1**, which says that as we delight and meditate in God's Law, or Word, day and night, we will be as a tree planted beside the rivers of water. We will bring forth our fruit in its season, our leaf shall not wither, and whatever we do **will prosper**.
Pro 4:20-22, Ps 25:12-15, Ps 112:1-3, Josh 1:8.
3. "**Prosperity**" to Dorothy and me, has been to have our own needs met and sufficient over to help to meet the needs of others with whom we are in contact. They may be family, people in the church, or those outside the church. *Mat 25:35, Gal 6:10, Jam 2:15, 16, 1Tim 5:8.*
4. The Lord has always emphasized to us, as we have sought to follow Him, obey Him, and do the work He has called us to, that **He will supply all our needs, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus**, *Phil 4:19*. And He has! - in abundance *Jn 10:10*.
5. **Like this, Ruth 2:12**, says, "The Lord will repay your labour, and a full reward will be given you, by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."
6. **For us, we have looked for prosperity in 7 areas:**
 - spiritual**, in life and growth in God, *Eph 1:17-20, 2Pet 1:3.*
 - mental**, in all truth, knowledge of God and His ways, *Col 1:9-14.*
 - physical**, in healing, health, strength to serve God, *Deut 33:25.*
 - material**, the provision of those things necessary to live, *Phil 4:19.*
 - financial**, sufficient money to live, serve God, *1Cor 9:1-14.*
 - family**, children, established in God and growing in Him, *Is 65:23.*
 - ministry**, in His will, in His Word, in His power, *Rom 15:29.*
7. But tonight, I wish to focus in on the area of **prospering financially**. (Please refer to No 124 in "Pastors' Notes".)
8. Financial prosperity is only possible if we give to God that portion of our income that belongs to Him. If we withhold His portion we are "robbing God," *Mal 3:8* and we cannot expect His blessing. In fact we come under a curse, *Mal 3:8*.
9. Abraham knew this financial principle and gave God the portion that belonged to Him, *Gen 14:20, Gen 28:22*. [Melchizedek is one of the many OT appearances of Jesus Christ to His people - *Heb 7:1-4, 8, 16.*]
10. All who believe in Jesus Christ are the children of Abraham, *Rom 4:11, Gal 3:7, 9*, "the friend of God," *Is 41:8*, and the way Abraham lived is frequently used as an example for us to follow, e.g. *Rom 4, Heb 11:8-12, 17-19*.
11. "Since our father in faith, Abraham, tithed his income to God, his godly example demonstrates a spiritual pattern of obedience for every one of his children to follow." (A quote from No 124)
12. Please note that although tithing was commanded under the Law of Moses, (*Deut 14:22f, Lev 27:30f*) the practice of tithing was operating long before by Abraham who lived by faith in the promises of God, *Gal 3:6, 16, 18*.

13. In *Mat 23:23*, Jesus confirmed the principle of tithing.
14. **Tithing** is a sign that we have brought our finances under His Lordship. It is not giving God more than what already belongs to Him. When we have given the full tithe we are only 1% away from being a “robber” of God. Therefore the Word speaks of “offerings” also, *Mal 3:8*, which we give to the Lord and His people above the tithe.
15. **Tithing** is a sign of our faith in God to supply all of our needs, and that we are fully depending on Him. This is stated in *Deut 14:22,23*. Tithing “teaches us to fear the Lord our God always.”
16. **Tithing** is an act of spiritual worship to God, as we honour Him with our possessions and the firstfruits of our increase, *Pro 3:9*.
17. **Tithing** strengthens our faith and gives us confidence to believe God for the meeting of all our needs fully. Please read *Mal 3:10*.
18. **Tithes** help to support those called into full-time ministry, *Num 18:21-26, Neh 10:37, 1Cor 9:1-14*.
19. **Tithes** also meet the need of the expenses of the church, overseas missions, the support of the poor and needy, *1Tim 5:9,10*.
20. Make sure you bring your tithe to God in **FAITH EVERY TIME**. Take your tithe or offering envelope, hold it up to God and say, “This is my tithe, this is good seed, I am sowing it into good soil, and I will reap an abundant harvest, in Jesus’ Name, Amen!” *Mal 3:10, 2Cor 9:5-8*
21. We do not give to get. That is a selfish motive. **We give to bless**. We give willingly. We give joyfully. We give in faith. We give thankfully. We give praising God and knowing that, in God’s system of things, it is in giving that we receive. The world’s system is living to get, but God’s scheme of things is that we live to give out life, and as we do, we receive an abundant supply in return, *Lk 6:38*, (but read *Lk 6:27-38*. The giving lifestyle is blessed.)