

2. Principles of Prosperity

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Sub-title: God blesses the WORK of our Hands

Late last year we had some outstanding teaching about God's prosperity for us & the transfer of wealth that is prophesied to happen in the last days. Today we will continue teaching "principles of prosperity".

We should call today's message "basic principles of prosperity", because, it doesn't get any more basic than what we are discussing today.

We realise that we can't move on to advanced principles until we understand and operate in the basic principles.

1. God wants to bless the work of our hands

Deuteronomy 28:9–12 (NKJV) *The Lord will establish you as a **holy people** to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. **10** Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. **11** And **the Lord will grant you plenty of goods**, in the fruit of your body, **in the increase of your livestock**, and **in the produce of your ground**, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. **12** **The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand**. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.*

- It is clear from Scripture that God wants His holy people to prosper
- For people to prosper financially, they must:
 - produce goods, and / or
 - provide a service
- Vs 11. ... increase of your livestock ... produce of your ground ... (goods)
- Vs. 12. ... bless all the work of your hands ... (services)
- Think "GST" (Goods and Services Tax)
- In other words, we must work & produce, and not just be consumers
- We must contribute towards the national GDP (Gross Domestic Product)

Deuteronomy 16:15 (NKJV) *Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because **the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands**, so that you surely rejoice.*

- Here again, God speaks of wanting to bless two things in our lives:
 - All our produce (goods produced)
 - All the work of our hands (not limited to manual labour)
- Once again, we are called to:
 - produce goods, or
 - provide a service
- If we don't put our hands to any work and don't produce anything, God has nothing that He can bless
- If we put our hands to little work, God only has a little that He can bless

2. God commands us to work and to produce

2 Thessalonians 3:7–12 (NKJV) *For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; **8** nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but **worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, 9** not because we do not have authority, but to **make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. 10** For even when we were with you, **we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11** For we hear that **there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12** Now those who are such **we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.***

- Apostle Paul worked hard so that he was able to provide for himself
- He said he wouldn't be a burden to others & eat their bread free of charge
- He says: There were people in the Thessalonian church who walked in a disorderly manner by not working at all
- Punchline: ... If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat ...
- Then he commanded them to work in quietness and eat their own bread

3. Not all types of work & goods produced pays an equal income

- Not all goods and services are of equal value, in terms of income
- Therefore, there are:
 - Low-income earners
 - Middle-income earners

- High-income earners

Psalm 115:12–14 (NKJV) *The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. 13 He will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great. 14 **May the Lord give you increase more and more, you and your children.***

- God wants to give us economic increase, more and more
- It is a noble goal & a commendable motivation if someone wants to:
 - Get to the top of their income bracket
 - Move from a lower income bracket to a higher income bracket

Questions:

- What can you do to move you nearer to the top of your income bracket?
- What do you need to do to move to a higher income bracket?

Facts:

- If all our income is always used up at the end of our pay period, either:
 - Our income is too low
 - Our outgoings are too high, or
 - We are squandering money

Thoughts to consider:

- Sometimes people do a certain type of work because they really love what they do, but it doesn't provide an adequate income
- We must not be confused between our "hobby" & our "bread and butter"
- Its wonderful when people choose a line of work they enjoy, but certain types of work simply do not pay an adequate income

4. You need a storehouse

Deuteronomy 28:8 (NKJV) **The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouses** and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

- In ancient days, a storehouse was a building / barn where they stored their harvest
- A storehouse today could be a venture where you invest surplus funds
- An investment is not saving money in a saving account
- A saving scheme is commendable, but an investment is meant to produce wealth for you (a passive income stream)

- Working people work for money
- Wealthy people get their money to work for them (passive income)

Isaiah 48:17 (NKJV) *Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way you should go. "*