

3. Accessing Heaven's Abundance

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Sub-Title: Empowered to Prosper

- We are currently journeying through our 40 Day Campaign
- We are positioning ourselves to receive more of heaven's abundance
- We are laying hold of God's wisdom to bring us into a whole new level of abundance

Psalm 66:12 (NLT) *Then you put a leader over us. We went through fire and flood, but you brought us to a place of great abundance.*

- God is purposing to take His people to a place of great abundance

Main points from the previous message:

- a) Poverty and Scarcity is NOT God's will
- b) Abundance under the New Covenant
- c) The Law of Sowing and Reaping – it works in all Areas of Life
- d) What should I sow, and where should I sow it

1. God wants to give us Power to get Wealth

Deuteronomy 8:11–13, 17-18 (NKJV) *Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, **12 lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;17 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'** **18 "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.***

- God had made a covenant with Abraham & his descendants, and promised to bless, multiply & prosper them exceedingly (Gen. 12:2-3)
- Abraham became very wealthy, as did his son Isaac & grandson Jacob
- Moses reminded the Israelites about God's covenant with Abraham
- He said ... *do not forget the Lord your God:*
 - *when you have eaten and are full ...*

- *when you have built beautiful houses ...*
- *when your herds and your flocks multiply ...*
- *when your silver and your gold are multiplied ...*
- *when all that you have is multiplied ...*
- God's covenant with Abraham & his descendants is one of multiplication & abundance
- Jesus Christ has redeemed us from the curse, so that the Blessing of Abraham can come on us non-Jewish people (Gal. 3:13–14)
- God wants to give us power to get wealth also...
- Vs 18. *that He may establish His covenant which He swore to our fathers (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob)*
- God's Covenant of Prosperity is not fully 'established' or 'fulfilled' (NLT) until we demonstrate a reasonable level of prosperity in our lives

2. We are the spiritual Descendants of Abraham

Romans 4:16 (NLT) *So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, **if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe.***

- Once again, the (covenant) Blessing of Abraham is available to:
 - Abraham's natural descendants - the Jewish people
 - Abraham's spiritual descendants - all believers in Jesus Christ

Galatians 3:29 (NKJV) *And if you are Christ's, then **you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

3. God wants to teach us how to "profit"

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.***

- Profit – to gain, to benefit, to succeed
- God spoke to the Israelites near the end of the 70 yr Babylonian Captivity
 - They were removed from the Promised Land & carried off into Babylonian Captivity because of their refusal to obey the Sabbatical Year (7th) for the land (2 Chronicles 36:20-21)
 - God had commanded them to let the land rest every 7th Year. [Lev. 25:1-4, 20-22])
- Vs. 10 says that He had refined them in "the furnace of affliction"

- Then he told them to come out of Babylon & return to Jerusalem
- They were to re-settle back into the Promised Land & start from scratch
- God said: I will teach you to profit & lead you by the way you should go
- God took them from slavery to liberty, from poverty to prosperity
- He wants to do the same for N.T. believers today
- Although the emphasis in the N.T. appears to be on spiritual wealth, God has not restricted wealth to be spiritual only, but He wants it to manifest in the natural realm (3 John 2)

KJV Bible Commentary on Isaiah 48:17:

- “He (God) is recognized as **the Lord (Yahweh), thy Redeemer (go’al), the Holy One of Israel (quedōsh yisra’el). It is He who teaches them to profit (both spiritually and financially)”**
- “In harmony with the teaching of the book of Proverbs, **Isaiah emphasizes the total blessing of prosperity from God upon those who have surrendered to His Lordship and authority**”
- “However, this blessing does not come by accident, but only by obedience to his **commandments**”

4. God wants to add all “things” to us

Matthew 6:31–34 (NKJV) *Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

- Jesus taught His disciples not to worry about things:
 - What they would eat
 - What they would drink
 - What they would wear
- He said: After all these these things the Gentile seek
- Although the focus here is about “not worrying”, people tend to miss Jesus statement about things
- He said: Do not worry, instead, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and **all these “things” will be added to you**

- It is our firm belief that God wants to teach N.T. believers how to get “things”

Mark 10:28–30 (NKJV) *Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.” 29 So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, 30 **who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time**—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.*

- Notice Jesus’ words in Vs. 30: ... now in this time ...
- He didn’t push prosperity off into the future (heaven?), but spoke about the “here and now”
- He said: It’s available now... “now in this time” ... “lands” ... “houses”...

5. If God wants to teach us how to profit, who is willing to be taught?

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.***

- God teaches us through His written Word
- He also teaches us by His Spirit
- He wants to hold us by the hand, and “lead us by the way we should go”
- Example:
- God caused Jacob to prosper financially, and He took him from virtually nothing to become exceedingly rich in about 6 years
- God taught Jacob step by step, and showed him what to do (Ge. 31:10)