

## CHAPTER 13

### DEFINING "TRUE" PROSPERITY

**"TO THE DEGREE THAT ONE BEGINS TO ENTER INTO A REVELATION OF DIVINE (TRUE) PROSPERITY IT IS TO THAT DEGREE...THAT THEY SHALL BEGIN TO DIRECT THEIR ENERGIES TOWARD OBTAINING ALL THAT THE FATHER HAS INTENDED FOR THEM IN CHRIST"**

...."Beloved I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers..."

3 John 2

...."How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding. For its profit is better than the profit of silver, and its gain than fine gold. She (wisdom) is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her. Long life is in her right hand, in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast. The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens. By His knowledge the deeps were broken up, and the skies drip with dew. My son, let them not depart from your sight; keep sound wisdom and discretion, so they will be life to your soul, and adornment to your neck. Then you will walk in your way securely and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down you will not be afraid; when You lie down your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden fear, nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught"....

Proverbs 3:13-26

It is of the utmost importance for EVERY believer to have established in their heart the true meaning of the word "prosperity" - as seen through the eyes of God. One must not be "satisfied" until a deeper and fuller definition has been revealed to them by the Spirit of God - thus overriding any previous mind-sets and preconceived notions that were formed in the mind of the flesh. To the degree that one begins to enter into a revelation of "divine" (true) prosperity it is to that degree

- and to that degree alone - that they shall begin to direct their "energies" toward obtaining all that the Father has intended for them in Christ. Those who "mentally ascend" to the Word of God are continuously deceived into directing themselves in areas where the sole purpose of their efforts is to fulfil the endless lust for the things which are apart from God.

**"ONCE THE TRUE BELIEVER EXPERIENCES THE SUPERABUNDANCE OF GOD'S BLESSING THEY WILL SURELY BECOME A CHANNEL OF THAT BLESSING TO ALL THOSE AROUND THEM"**

It is this area self-desire (self-agenda) wherein the Evil One seeks to control and dominate the child of God, keeping them apart from the "true" prosperity offered in Christ Jesus, and leading them into a "cycle" wherein they are constantly sowing to the flesh - thus continually reaping a form of darkness and corruption in their walk. Satan is not opposed to using any method which will keep the child of God in this position of being outside the blessings (grace-empowerment) of God - for once the true believer experiences the superabundance of God's blessing they will SURELY become a channel of that blessing to all those around them - and thus they shall present a "true and proper" image of the One that they serve and God's desire to prosper those that love Him and obey Him shall become evident to all. As in all things pertaining to our life in Christ we must keep our priorities and our focus in the proper position - in order that we might be found experiencing the Father's best in any given situation and circumstance. It is from this position of abiding in the fulness of God's blessing that we will be found glorifying Him to the greatest degree in all that we do and say - devoid of any desire to obtain for ourselves that which only leads to death (Proverbs 3:5-7) (Galatians 6:7-8).

**"FOR TOO LONG THE CHURCH HAS BEEN A SLEEPING GIANT!"**

As we read the prayer of the apostle John in 3 John 2 we see clearly that it is the Father's will for us to prosper in "all respects". How numerous are the misconceptions and mental ascensions (preconceived notions) to the Word of God concerning divine (true) prosperity. These wrong mind-sets have only served to rob the church of its rightful blessing of superabundant prosperity (spirit, soul, body and financially) in the earth. The aforementioned misconceptions and mental ascensions serve only to establish the plans of the Evil One in controlling the

children of God - for in keeping many sick and in poverty, Satan has brought the church at large to a position of being "neutralized" - rendered almost "useless" by their own slothfulness and the desire to seek things which are apart from God! For too long the church has been a sleeping giant, but we can rejoice in the fact that this giant is beginning to arise and wipe the sleep from its eyes. How we must return to our God in this most critical hour with a whole and a pure heart, and allow the Holy Spirit to remove the lies which have become instituted within the church through centuries of devious scheming by the Evil One. It is only as the children of God allow His Word to enter their hearts that His precious light will dispel all that is of darkness in their hearts and minds. For too long we have walked in the darkness of our own human understanding when we have within our reach the very Wisdom that created this universe and all that is in it. What folly it is to proceed forth from our own understanding in light of this fact! Father soften our hearts in order that we might hear your Wisdom - for we, indeed, have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)!

### **TRUE PROSPERITY WILL NEVER BE ESTABLISHED IN ONES LIFE AND MINISTRY APART FROM CONSECRATION AND HOLINESS**

In Proverbs 3:13-26 are found many of the benefits of true spiritual prosperity. As the Spirit of God writes we see in verse 13 that it is written:

...."How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For its profit is better than the profit of silver and its gain than fine gold"....

From this portion of God's Word we begin to gain clear insight into "prosperity" as it is defined by our Heavenly Father, and how different it is compared to the age-old traditions and earthly conceptions which have infiltrated the church. This infiltration by the Enemy has caused some to teach poverty as the will of God and some to encourage men and women to place "good works" (fleshly) and "money-mindedness" above consecration and holiness - without which, true prosperity shall never be established in the life of the believer. To the degree that one seeks to fellowship with, and know, the ways of their Heavenly Father it is to that degree that they will be able to both comprehend and experience the prosperity and well being which are "not of this world". How important it is for each believer - young or mature in the faith - to continually meditate and refer to, in every circumstance, the Word of God in order that the whole of their

Christian life be firmly founded on the Rock of revelation knowledge. Each attempt to mentally ascend to God's Word will result in a definite and fixed wrong perception of God's will for us - both individually and corporately. This is precisely why the Evil One attempts to compel us to act in and sow to the flesh continually - for this keeps all those who allow themselves to be deceived, in a constant state of darkness and confusion. From this darkness and confusion result strife and dissensions caused solely by the seed of rebellion which, when allowed to take root, ensure the believer in his own heart that they are right and everyone who does not conform to their thinking is wrong. This insensitivity of heart which has been so prevalent in the church, up until this time, has caused many to be led astray by the doctrines and traditions of men and demons, and this "insensitivity of heart" is not against men but against Almighty God! Because many have practiced widely the habit of doing those things which they "feel" or "think" are right(eous) they have put themselves into a position of not being able to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. Although perhaps outwardly they seek to hear the voice of God, because they have built the foundation of their walk upon the things which are "seen" rather than the things which are not seen (by the five physical senses) they are not releasing any faith - because of a strongly developed reliance upon their five physical senses - and, thus, they render themselves incapable of hearing the voice of the Spirit. Without a doubt this is the most critical time in the Body of Christ for every believer to be in the proper position to hear the voice of God - in order that they may receive individual instruction and in order that they might "know" their role in God's plan for this last hour. Those who have become stagnant in their faith will not be in their proper position and it is certain God will not be able to use fully (or at all) those who persist stubbornly in going their "own" way.

### **ATTAINING TO ALL THE WEALTH THAT COMES FROM THE FULL ASSURANCE OF UNDERSTANDING**

In Colossians 2:2 the Word states as Paul prays:

...."that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ Himself, in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"....

The phrase "attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding" gives us once again insight into true prosperity. As we grow into a fuller and deeper faith we begin to experience to a greater degree the true riches which are found only in Christ Jesus, and we see clearly the folly of seeking what are considered the "riches" of this world. We can also see the importance of having lives which are wholly based on knowledge that is revealed to our heart by the Holy Spirit - for it is through this true (or exact) knowledge that we are enabled to understand the ways and thoughts of our Heavenly Father. This understanding enables us and empowers us to walk in the fulness of our individual callings as well as to appropriate fully all that has been given to us as joint-heirs with our beloved Lord Jesus (Romans 8:17).

**DOCTRINES AND TRADITIONS OF MEN AND THE GOOD  
INTENTIONS OF CARNALITY DO NOT FEED STARVING BELLIES OR  
HEAL ACHING HEARTS!**

There are two definitions of prosperity. One is formed by the natural mind of man and the other is revealed to us by the Spirit of God. It is for this reason that we must clearly define this word "prosperity" in terms of God's will for His Church. Natural prosperity - as defined by the world - is financial power, political power and advantage, social power and favour, and military power. These are the things that the natural man believes to be prosperity. In other words, were he to acquire any of the aforementioned characteristics he would be considered a prosperous man in the eyes of the world. When one seeks these things first and foremost they blind themselves to the Word of God - and the true prosperity that lies therein, for it is written in 1 Corinthians 2:14 that:

...."a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually appraised"....

As this world (present world system) continues to perish to a greater degree with each passing day people are entering into an area of desperation - for many know deep within their heart that all natural hope is gone even though they continue to grasp at straws. It is precisely this state of affairs which keeps people in subjection and bondage to Satan through fear, and even when one does attempt to rise above their physical circumstances and seek "spiritual things" they will still be led astray into one of the traps of the Evil One (ie. any of the "world religions"

or philosophies - all of which have their source in darkness) if there is not a clear and better alternative set before them. This is one of the numerous reasons why it is so important for us, as children of God, to be prosperous in the things of God. It is as the true Church abides in divine prosperity (spirit, soul, body and financially) that She will be seen clearly as a "bright and shining light in this darkened world. Doctrines and traditions of men and the "good intentions" of carnality do not feed starving bellies or heal aching hearts! Therefore, let us awaken to the ways of our Heavenly Father and meet the needs of this perishing world by the power of God alone! The definition of true prosperity is the ability of the children of God to use God's power and ability to meet the needs of mankind - spirit, soul and body, financially and socially. As we allow ourselves to become pure vessels of God's Spirit and blessing, the Father will use us greatly to affect and change the lives of many - who will see the living Christ in us. We should never limit God by unbelief for He indeed is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we can ask or think in the lives of those we intercede for. There is a flame burning in the heart of all those who call on God from a pure heart, and from this holy flame the deep desire to do the works of our risen Lord and even greater works than He did (John 14:12) continually arises.

## **THEY HAVE LEFT THEMSELVES IN A POSITION OF VULNERABILITY**

As we take a closer look at defining true prosperity we shall see that our Heavenly Father has provided for us, in Christ, the means to prosper in "all respects" and, thus, as the child of God begins to seek the Word of God in every circumstance of their life, their heart shall be filled with an abundance of the promises, commands and exhortations which, when acted upon, will produce an abundance of prosperity in every phase of their life and ministry. Many children of God - in allowing themselves to be separated from the Word of God - have left themselves in a position of lack in their lives, and open to the vile attacks of the Evil One. This lack of desire to place God's Word first in their lives is of great concern to the Father for He knows that once one of His children make themselves strangers to the covenants of promise - by an act of their own will - they have left themselves in a position of vulnerability as they have, by their own choice, stepped out into a place where Satan has been attempting to lure them to all along - a place of devastation and darkness. How it grieves our Heavenly Father to see ANY of His children be tormented by the Evil One by their own choosing - for has

he not spoken in His Word and accomplished through Jesus Christ at Calvary our total and absolute freedom from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-2)?

Therefore, it is only because one has neglected the Word of God in their lives that there are manifestations of the law of sin and death - individually and corporately - remaining in the midst of Gods people (Hosea 4:6).

**AS WE SEEK FIRST AND FOREMOST TO DEVELOP THIS  
RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER WE SHALL BEGIN  
TO SEE MORE CLEARLY WHAT TRUE PROSPERITY REALLY IS**

There is a definite distinction between ignorance based on a lack of knowledge and ignorance which is a product of a callous or hardened heart. In other words, a heart which having heard the Word of God rejects it for an opportunity to act in and sow to the flesh. If the child of God will seek from their heart the Wisdom of God continually, their mind will continually be renewed and there will be no opportunity for their heart to become hardened against the Spirit of God. This will enable them to hear His gentle voice and this hearing will keep them in a position to continually sow to the Spirit and away from sowing to the flesh. For indeed it is man's own understanding, wisdom and self-esteem that constitute the "poison" which will cause him to harden his heart against the Father and His Word. How often God is blamed for the death and destruction brought by the Evil One, but all tragedy shall surely cease within the church in this final hour as the children of God consecrate themselves in obedience to the voice of the Holy Spirit. How insensitive we have been at times to the heart of our Heavenly Father - Who desires only a deep and intimate relationship with each one of His children. As we seek first and foremost to develop this relationship with our Heavenly Father we shall begin to see more clearly what true prosperity really is. Over the centuries the church has allowed many doctrines and traditions which are based solely on the world's system of prosperity to develop within itself. Many children of God have attempted to fulfil the Great Commission found in Mark 16:15-20( to preach the Gospel to all creation), on the strength of human wisdom and understanding and this has hindered greatly the true work of God in the earth! Surely, in the lateness of the hour, those children of God who have been filled with His mighty Spirit have come to the full realization that God's work can NEVER be accomplished - or even understood - by anything which proceeds from the "flesh" (Romans 7:18)!

## **THERE IS NO GREATER PROSPERITY THAN TO KNOW OUR VERY CREATOR AND TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM - HEART TO HEART AND FACE TO FACE**

How urgent is the call to consecrate ourselves in this last hour! For too long pride and unbelief have been exercised freely in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ - and it shall stop! For the hour has come for all those who truly love God to purify themselves - and become holy vessels in this earth, separated unto God. As more and more believers begin to stand firmly on the Word of God and receive the fulness of their wondrous inheritance in Christ THEN this world shall begin to see a great multitude of the children of God blessed in this earth. We are able to see from the Old Testament many examples of prosperity in the great men of faith and obedience. Abraham and Solomon were, in their times, the richest men in the earth, but in Jesus a greater one than Solomon has come (Matthew 12:42), and by the Father's doing we are in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:30)! As the children of God separate themselves from the ways of this world - and unto God - their perspective of true prosperity will be changed continually - because it is certain that as one draws near to fellowship with the Father, and as one continually meditates in His Word day and night, they shall experience a superabundance of the prosperity which this world cannot give. The love which surpasses all knowledge and the peace which passes all human understanding are two of the ways we are prospered by our Heavenly Father, but even as awesome as these benefits are they are just the beginning of what we have in Christ Jesus. A great many Christians find it hard to believe (through the maintenance of a sin-consciousness) that God has, in Christ, made them a "new creation" and that all things of their old nature have passed away and that all things have become new. Indeed He needs us to co-operate by putting His Word first in every area of our walks - in order that our minds are transformed and renewed by His Word in the power of His Spirit - but this alone becomes a deep joy in our heart because to receive His Word fully into our heart is to receive Him fully into our heart and to receive Him into our heart will bring us into an ever closer and more intimate relationship with Him, thus causing (empowering through a holy reverence) those who truly know Him to be EVER seeking His face. This is truly the road to prosperity for there is not one thing that is of this world worth even considering over and above the things of God, and there is no greater prosperity than to know our very Creator and to fellowship with Him - heart to heart and face to face. There is nothing worth holding onto which proceeds from the flesh! Let us be



found - in this most critical and glorious hour - forsaking ALL that will serve only to hinder our relationship with the One Who loved us so much that He allowed the precious Blood of His dear Son to be poured out unto death at Calvary.

**"MANY CHILDREN OF GOD LIVE LIVES ON THIS EARTH WHICH ARE VERY NEARLY DEVOID OF THE BLESSINGS WHICH THE HEAVENLY FATHER DESIRES STRONGLY FOR EACH OF HIS CHILDREN TO HAVE"**

We will look first at spiritual prosperity or, in other words, the prosperity of our spirit. The first and foremost blessing came in the New Birth for we were made new creatures in Christ Jesus; the old things passed away, and all things became new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Very few of the saints of God have come to the realization of how total and wondrous this event truly is! Apart from knowing that they are saved from the judgement with which Satan is judged and that they are headed for Heaven when they leave this earth, most children of God live lives on this earth which are very nearly devoid of the "blessing" which the Heavenly Father desires strongly for each of His children to have. As one grows spiritually through a diligent seeking of the Father's will they will gain an ever-deepening revelation of the fact that they are indeed NEW creations in Christ Jesus, and it shall serve to free them from every bondage to the law of sin and death. This is precisely why the Evil One aims his schemes directly at keeping the people of God apart from the Word of God - for it is fatal (disastrous) to him once the child of God makes the quality decision, by an act of their will, to put God's Word first in every detail of their life. This action, on the part of the believer, begins a process which will usher in the divine prosperity the Father has for them, and this will certainly begin to radically begin to affect all things in their life. And thus, as it is written, the old things will all pass away and the Spirit of God will make all things become new in the life of that believer. Although this seems sometimes like a time consuming process, in reality, the second that the New Birth took place in the child of God the work was done (the seed was planted) and, therefore, to the degree that one feeds on the Word of God from that point forth, it is to that degree which will determine the amount of time it will take for the "physical manifestation" of the fulness of the Father's purpose to come about. We will see how this ties in directly as we look at the second category which is mental prosperity or the prosperity of the soul. First we will look at one other area of spiritual prosperity brought about by the new birth and that is the gift of the Holy

Spirit.

**"ONE OF THE GREATEST HINDRANCES TO THE CHURCH FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION" (Mark 16:15-20) IS DUE TO A DEFINITE REFUSAL OF MANY BELIEVERS TO YIELD TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN ONE OR MORE AREAS OF THEIR LIFE"**

**In John 14:26 the Word of God states:**

...."but the helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you"....

**and again it is written in John 16:13:**

...."but when he, the Spirit comes, he will guide you into all the truth"....

From these passages we can see clearly the marvelous Gift our Heavenly Father has given to us in the person of the Holy Spirit: our Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby, and Teacher.

**In 1 John 2:27 (Amplified Translation) it is written:**

...."but as for you, the sacred appointment, the unction, the anointing which you received from him abides permanently in you; so then you have no need that anyone (flesh and blood) should instruct you. But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything, and is true, and is no falsehood, so you must abide - live, never to depart, rooted in him, knit to him just as his anointing has taught you to do"....

One of the greatest hindrances to the church fulfilling the "great commission" (Mark 16:15-20) is due to a definite refusal of many believers to yield to the Spirit of God in one or more areas of their life. When the Holy Spirit entered in and we were born again the Father never intended for it to stop there! Rather, He fully intended for each one of His beloved children to be filled and consumed to overflowing with His Spirit - and that, through diligence toward His Word, we become partakers of His divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world by lust (2 Peter 1:4). There are many in the church who steadfastly

refuse to preach the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (the infilling of the Holy Spirit), having been deceived into believing that it is not for us today. I can say by the Spirit of God that this evil practice within the church shall end abruptly! For now is the time of the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit (the former and the latter rain), and as believers draw ever closer to the Father and His Word in this hour, Satan will no longer be able to work this lie amongst the brethren.

**"ANYONE WHO SEEKS GOD FROM A PURE HEART WILL NOT BE LONG IN EXPERIENCING THE FULNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS LAST HOUR"**

Anyone who seeks God from a pure heart will not be long in experiencing the fulness of the Holy Spirit in this last hour, and all those who truly love God shall band together as a mighty army in the unity which comes only by the Spirit of God working in the heart of every believer. It is through the anointing of the Holy Spirit that we, as yielded vessels, transmit the healing power of God and speak the words of life which will set the captives free and smash every stronghold of the Evil One that is in our path. How prosperous we are to have and know the Spirit of God intimately! Words cannot express His magnificence and the awesomeness of His Power - and the endless understanding of His Wisdom which is continually manifested in the life of the believer who will hearken to His voice. We are again prosperous in the sense that, in the Holy Spirit we have our own personal Teacher who directs us onto the path we should be at every turn and keeps us in the perfect will of the Father.

**"THE PROSPERITY OF THE SOUL"**

Looking at the second category we view the prosperity of the soul - which consists of the mind, the will, and the emotions. As we mentioned previously the New Birth has put us into position to be fully renewed in all things.

**Romans 12:2 states:**

...."do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" ....

As the child of God begins to feed on the Word of God incessantly they

shall begin to experience the total renewing of their mind, their will and their emotions. Ultimately, their mind will no longer accept ANY thought that is not in accordance with the revealed Word of God, thus rendering Satan powerless to control them in any way. For without the opportunity to plant his lying thoughts in the mind of the believer he has no way to sway the will of that child of God to do his will (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)(2 Timothy 2:25-26). This has a direct bearing on the renewed will of the believer - for in not succumbing to the evil schemes of Satan (not having been held captive to do his will) the will of the believer focuses more clearly with each passing day on the will of God - thereby enabling them to carry out the perfect will of the Father for their life with a "continually increasing efficiency" as they draw nearer to Him. How blessed are those who abide in the Word of God for they shall surely carry out all that they are given to do and the Father shall be continually glorified to the greatest degree in their life and ministry.

**"AS ONE'S SPIRIT (INNER) MAN REMAINS IN THE PLACE OF DOMINANCE OVER THEIR SOUL AND BODY IT IS CERTAIN THAT THEY SHALL BEGIN TO FEEL AS GOD FEELS AND THINK AS GOD THINKS (THE MIND OF CHRIST) - ALL THE WHILE MAINTAINING AS THEIR FIRST AND FOREMOST PURPOSE, THE CARRYING OUT OF THE FATHER'S WILL AT ALL COST TO THEMSELVES"**

As the mind and will are renewed, every thought having been diligently brought captive to the Word of God, the child of God shall experience emotional renewal in every area of their life. For years Satan has attempted to paint the picture that a Christian must be somber and stern in order to be holy and thus whole denominations have been created on the basis of this lie! One need only to review the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22) to see that joy is included and in Nehemiah 8:10 it is written:

...."the joy of the Lord is your strength"....

In attempting to fuel this lie the Evil One has attempted to confuse the children of God in this area of "emotions", but quite simply, as one's mind and will are renewed to the will of God, their emotions and feelings will remain in perfect accordance with the Word of God and will be in perfect control at all times in the midst of every situation. They will not rise up and override the Word of God thus allowing the believer to continually walk in love regardless of "any" emotions or

feelings - for it will be the Word of God and only the Word of God that will be the final authority every second of every day. Truly, the emotions that one will experience (those which are a product of their abiding in the Word of God) are indescribable and are meant to be experienced by every child of God continually. As one's spirit (inner) man remains in the place of dominance over their soul and body it is certain that they shall begin to feel as God feels and think as God thinks (the mind of Christ) - all the while maintaining as their first and foremost purpose, the carrying out of the Father's will at all cost to themselves.

### **"THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE PLAGUED BY THE OPEN ATTACKS OF THE EVIL ONE AND HIS FORCES"**

When the steps are taken continually to bring "every thought captive" to the Word of God, then, ultimately, fear will no longer exist in the life of the believer.

#### **Jesus said in John 14:27:**

...."Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful"....

As the children of God consecrate themselves wholly unto God and discontinue the "fellowship" (heart agreement) with the world which - up until this time - has been so prevalent in the church, they shall surely begin to partake of the fulness of their inheritance in Christ and they shall no longer be plagued by the "open attacks" of the Evil One and his forces. Because of these things the Church shall be enabled to destroy, at an ever-increasing pace, the strongholds of the Devil which our beloved Lord came to destroy (1 John 3:8) and they shall abide in the Divine Prosperity that is theirs in Christ.

### **"THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL EFFECT IN OUR LIVES THE SUPERNATURAL ENERGIZING OF OUR BODIES"**

The third category of prosperity as it relates to the believer is the prosperity of our physical body. This is an area which has largely been ignored by many believers - most preferring to look ahead to the time when we shall receive our "glorified bodies". This indeed is, and shall be, a wondrous thing but our Heavenly

Father has made ample provision for our bodies in our remaining time on this earth as we seek daily to carry out His perfect will.

**In Romans 8:11 King James Version the Word of God states:**

...."but if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you"....

From this scripture we can see that the Holy Spirit will effect in our lives the "supernatural energizing" of our bodies in order that we are enabled to carry out all the tasks which have been given to us. I have long since learned that whatever we are commanded to do by God we are "empowered" by Him to do also - whether we "feel" we are able to or not. Any time over the years when it appeared to me that I physically would not be able to accomplish what was given me, I would stand on the Word of God concerning my body and it had to get itself in line with the Word of God. This did not always manifest immediately and it was certain that some faith and patience were required. The children of God must learn to "persevere" in the realization that the Father's Word cannot - and will not - fail, and they must also learn that there is great victory to be had for those who hold fast the confession of their hope without wavering, for He Who promised is ever faithful (Hebrews 10:23).

**"AS ONE BEGINS TO ABIDE IN A PERFECT FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND HIS WORD, ONE OF THE FIRST MANIFESTATIONS WILL BE THE CHANGING OF THEIR FOOD INTAKE - BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY"**

Quite simply, as one feeds on the Word of God and, thus, their heart becomes established in that Word, their body shall experience many wondrous effects. As one begins to abide in a perfect fellowship with the Father and His Word, one of the first manifestations will be the changing of their "food intake" - both spiritually and physically. As the child of God continues to be disciplined (obedient) in their intake of food, they shall surely come to the place where they shall "eat" (again, both spiritually and physically) only that which is needed to accomplish all they are given to accomplish each day in the earth. In reality it is only the Holy Spirit Who knows how to care for our bodies. Therefore, it is

imperative that we subject ourselves to His discipline - in order that our bodies be truly presented unto Him a holy and living sacrifice, acceptable to Him in every way. As the believer keeps their soul and their body in subjection to their "spirit man", Satan will not be able to "touch" (do lasting harm) their body in any way and they will begin to walk in the divine health which is rightfully theirs in Christ Jesus.

## **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE SUBMIT OURSELVES TO THE DISCIPLINE OF THE FATHER**

It is written that we are indeed temples of God and the Spirit of God dwells in us (1 Corinthians 3:16). It is therefore of extreme importance that we submit ourselves continually to the discipline of the Father in every area of our being. For He has only our best interests at heart - and while all discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful, all who have been trained by it shall manifest the peaceful fruit of righteousness and every facet of their life shall come into complete conformity to the Father's will in purpose, thought and action (Hebrew 12:11).

## **"IN APPROACHING THEIR CALLING IN THIS WAY THEY SHALL PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST THE ATTEMPTS OF SATAN TO REMOVE THE WORD OF GOD FROM THEIR HEART"**

There are many other areas where prosperity (having abundant supply to meet the needs of mankind regardless of the circumstance) is manifested (ie. financial or monetary) but the believer must learn first and foremost to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and developer of faith (Hebrews 12:2), and they must continue to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness - knowing that ALL of the things they need, according to the will of the Father, will be provided for them superabundantly. In approaching their calling in this way they shall protect themselves against the attempts of Satan to remove the Word of God from their heart. In continually guarding their heart with all diligence they shall allow the Word to sink deeply into their heart, establishing a strong root structure, and preventing the lust for other things apart from God, the cares of this present world, the deceitfulness of riches and the afflictions and persecutions which arise because of the Word, from entering in and causing defeat in their life (Mark 4:17-19). For it is only as the child of God's heart is established and their priorities are

in right order according to the Word of God, that they will be able to experience the "true prosperity" which their Heavenly Father had intended for them from before the foundations of the earth.

Amen