

THE PROSPERITY CONNECTION

* DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE BY THINKING THE TITLE TO THIS MESSAGE IS A "GIVE ' MONEY MESSAGE.

Psalm 35:27-28

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. [28] And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

1. These two verses are actually a prayer for blessing those who favor the righteous cause of God's servant.
2. Meaning, when a person encourages a believer who is diligently striving to work for the Kingdom of God in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads them to do, a blessing is supposed to be spoken over that person.
3. There are many directions that we can go with these two verses but are going to focus on the latter part of verse 27....."**Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.**"

a. you bring joy to the Lord when you prosper

prosper - Hb - *shalowm* - to do well

- to be happy

- to have health

- to have favor

- to have success, especially financially

4. So God does want us to prosper. To do well, be happy, have health and favor and to have money in your pockets.

Psalm 1:3 **And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

5. Here we see another verse that says “ *whatever you do.....it will prosper.*”

prosper - Hb - *tsalach* - to push forward, breakthrough

- to be profitable

6. Church folks love to quote t “... **and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**”

7. We have a tendency to take a truth and make it into the truth.

a. we pick the parts we like and skip over the parts we don't like

8. In this verse, we see again that God wants us to be a prosperous people.

9. Let's find out what you must do to unlock the prosperity connection in your life so these verses will become evident in your life.

10. We read verse three and claim it by faith without meeting the conditions that will cause this verse to become real in your life.

11. When we fulfill the guidelines in verses 1 and 2, then verse 3 will manifest in our lives.

12. Allow me to give you some Kingdom keys that will unlock your prosperity.

Psalm 1:1 **Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.**

KK#1. **First, we are instructed not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly._____**

13. God's children have been redeemed from the world and also from the advice and counsel that it gives.

a. we are in a new kingdom and our new counsel is God's Word

14. God's advice is often backwards to the world's, but it will always bring success!

- a. God knows our problems and the source of them
15. So the first thing God is looking for is believers who will not walk in the counsel of ungodly people.
- a. you don't turn to the world for advice
 - b. but today, we'll see what the internet has to say before we see what the Word has to say

KK#2 Secondly, we are not to stand in the way of sinners. _____

16. This means we are to live a life free from sin.
17. We are supposed to lead people to Jesus, not drive them from Him.
18. We are to be a stepping stone to eternal life, not a stumbling block.
- a. how can we win sinners to the Lord if we live and act as they do
 - b. our lifestyle should be a much louder witness than our voice

KK#3. Thirdly, we are not to sit in the seat of the scornful. _____

19. Bitterness and anger are not luxuries we can afford.
20. Many Christians become scornful when they set themselves up as judges over the lives of other people.
- a. don't misunderstand, there is a righteous judgment that restores
 - b. but a scornful judgment condemns and leaves one feeling bad
21. We need to see the best in others and choose to walk in joy instead of resentment.
- a. ***joy is a choice*** we are to make and walk in daily
 - b. to rejoice in the Lord is a command, therefore it must be a choice, not a feeling that just comes and goes

22. Once we choose to walk in joy, we need the Word of God to maintain it.

Psalms 1:1 (MSG) 1 How well God must like you— you don't hang out at Sin Saloon, you don't slink along Dead-End Road, you don't go to Smart-Mouth College.

23. You choose not to go to the places that the world is attracted to.

24. You avoid doing and being in places where your witness would become questionable.

Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

KK#4. Forth, our delight must be in the law of the Lord. _____

delight - Hb - *chephets*- our desire

- a strong feeling of wanting to please God

25. This is where you get to that place in life where your priority is to please God with everything that you have.

KK#5. Fifth, we must meditate in God's Word day and night. _____

26. Making decisions become daily realities when you connected with the Holy Ghost and the Word of God.

27. This will cause your roots to grow deep.

Psalms 1:2 (MSG) 2 Instead you thrill to God's Word, you chew on Scripture day and night.

28. When these conditions are met, God then declares, "**whatever you do will prosper.**"

Psalm 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

29. You will become a solid believer who will bare fruit in your season. That means you'll see the fruit of your efforts being manifest in your life.

30. But wait, there's more. This verse has a *hidden message*. We are told “ **and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**”

31. It doesn't say whatever He leads you to do will prosper, but whatever you purpose to do will prosper.

32. That means that God trusts you.

33. If your life is pleasing to the Lord and you have prayed for direction and received nothing, perhaps God is telling you, “*You decide what is best and I will back it.*”

a. I have always called this “ an option play” where he leaves the decision in your hands

34. Many times you do not need a green light or a red one. No light at all means proceed.

a. God will be there to redirect if you make a mistake

b. if God trusts you, perhaps it is time to trust yourself

35. So why are believers still struggling to prosper?

Col. 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

36. Jesus is large and in charge.

Col. 1:18 (NLT) Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. He is the first of all who will rise from the dead, so he is first in everything.

37. Here is the Kingdom Key that is the master key over all the others.

a. **so he is first in everything**

38. Many church folks have failed God's test of prosperity.

a. these believers serve God when the circumstances are difficult, but desert Him when life is good

- b. or when large deposits of finances/blessings or material goods come into their lap, they never even consider God's portion
39. Once the bank account is full, the bills are paid, and the family is healthy and filled with joy, they stop reading and meditating on the Word, their church attendance drops off, and they are no longer willing to serve in church
40. The greatest worship comes from a heart of gratitude and love, not a life of need.
- a. God wants to prosper you
 - b. He wants to meet your needs so we can become true worshippers of Him
41. His ultimate test for us will be to see if, when our needs are met, will our love for Him be sufficient enough to motivate us to remain faithful and worship Him with our whole hearts.
42. When we do that, we will have passed the hardest test in the Christian life, the prosperity test.
43. Then, God can delight in the prosperity of His servant.
44. Can God delight in you?
45. Are you ready to be blessed?

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