

Prosperity & Generosity

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Give and it will be given to you.
Luke 6:38

SECTION 1

The Dangers of Wealth

1. What can choke out the Word and cause it to be unfruitful? Mark 4:18,19

2. What are some of the ways that people are deceived by wealth?

3. What are some worries of life that choke the Word? Matthew 6:25,28,31,34

4. It is impossible to serve both God and _____. Luke 16:13

Jesus never made such a statement about anything else. He did not say, “you cannot serve God and power...God and sin...God and career...God and self.” People know instinctively that they must serve God alone. But, because of the deceitful nature of money and wealth, many people think they are serving God, when they are actually slaves of money.

5. What can happen to those who want to get rich? 1 Timothy 6:9

6. Do you want to get rich? What are some potential dangers of this desire?

7. What is a root of all kinds of evil? 1 Timothy 6:10

8. What happens to some people who are eager for money? 1 Timothy 6:10

9. What happens to those who trust in money? Proverbs 11:4,28

10. What should we guard ourselves against? Luke 12:15

11. Read Luke 12:16-21. What is the point of the “Parable of the Rich Fool”?

Personal Application

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

SECTION 2

Biblical Principles of Prosperity

Having established the dangerous nature of money, we can now look at what the Bible says about abundance and prosperity. Just because a thing is dangerous does not mean we should never use it. For example, cars are dangerous. Thousands are killed each year in automobile accidents. The proper response to this fact is not to walk everywhere, but to obey traffic rules. The proper response to the dangers of money is not to be poor, but to handle money according to God’s law.

1. What were the Israelites told to remember about God? Deuteronomy 8:18

2. Read Deuteronomy 30:8-10. What is the relationship between prosperity and obedience?

3. What do the following scriptures teach about prosperity and God's provision?

Proverbs 10:3 _____

Proverbs 10:4 _____

Proverbs 10:22 _____

Proverbs 13:21 _____

Proverbs 13:22 _____

Proverbs 21:21 _____

Proverbs 22:4 _____

Proverbs 22:9 _____

4. What happens when we give? What if we give with a small measure? What if we give with a large measure? Luke 6:38

5. How does the "Law of Sowing and Reaping" apply to money?
2 Corinthians 9:6

6. What kind of giver does God love? 2 Corinthians 9:7

7. What is God able to do for the cheerful giver? 2 Corinthians 9:8

8. Why does God make people rich? 2 Corinthians 9:11

When talking about prosperity, the question is not, “Will God prosper me?” The question is, “What will I do with God’s abundant provision?”

Personal Application

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

SECTION 3

Putting God First

1. What did the Israelites do with the first portion of all God provided for them?
2 Chronicles 31:5,6

2. What part should we give to God? Proverbs 3:9

3. What happens as a result of giving the first part to God? Proverbs 3:10

4. Should we give a tithe of everything, or only on our official salary? On the first part or the left-over part? Before or after taxes and other expenses? Leviticus 27:30-32

5. Why were God’s people under a curse? Malachi 3:9

6. How do men rob God? Malachi 3:8

7. How did God tell them to test him? Malachi 3:10

8. What did God promise to do if his people would give him the whole tithe?
Malachi 3:10-12

Personal Application

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

Are you a tither? Do you give God the first tenth of all income?

SECTION 4

Extreme Generosity

1. According to Jesus, who gave the most? Why? Luke 21:1-3

2. Paul bragged about the generosity of the Macedonian believers. Describe their situation. 2 Corinthians 8:2

Here is the Macedonian formula for generosity: severe trials plus extreme poverty plus overflowing joy equals rich generosity.

3. How much did the Macedonians give? 2 Corinthians 8:3

Some people spend all they can afford to spend. These people are always broke. Some people spend less than they are able to spend. These people are saving. Then, there are that special category of people who spend more than they have. This is called debt.

Applied to giving, this principle looks like this: Some people give less than they are able to give. These people are robbing God. Others give what they are able. This is called obedience. And still others sacrificially give beyond their ability. These extreme givers are called heroes of the faith.

4. Did Paul have to pressure them to give in the offering? What was their attitude towards giving? 2 Corinthians 8:4

Personal Application

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

What kind of giver are you?

- less than you can afford
- as much as you can afford
- more than you can afford

Notes
