

## GODLY PROSPERITY

**Deuteronomy 28:1-2, Joshua 1:8, Jeremiah 29:11**

**1. GOD'S NATURE IS TO BRING ABOUT BLESSING AND PROSPERITY.** It is the very nature of Almighty God to bring about blessing and prosperity to any person that is willing to listen and follow Him.

**First, consider the lives of Adam and Eve.** In the very first chapters of Genesis, God brought about the creation of Adam and Eve and placed them in a wonderful Garden of Eden with a vast supply of wonderful things to enjoy. God blessed them with the best of circumstances, the best of His holy nature, because God wanted Adam and Eve to know, and realize that He was a God that loved them, and wanted only the best for their lives.

**Second, consider Abraham.** The Bible records in Genesis 12:2, that God had a plan to prosper and bless Abraham. The Bible records, "*If you do I will cause you to become the father of a great nation; I will bless you and make your name famous and you will be a blessing to many others.*" *LB.* However, God's nature could not bless Abraham until he revealed a life of obedience and willingness to surrender to the agenda of God. Yet, when he followed God... God declared in *Genesis 15:5*, "*I will give you great blessings*" *LB.* The truth of the nature of God toward Abraham was that He, Almighty God, craved to reveal Himself to Abraham, and one of the ways that God reveals Himself is through blessings.

**Third, consider the life of Isaac.** When Abraham had walked off the scenes of life, God made it clear to Isaac that He wanted to pour out His blessings upon Isaac. The Bible records in *Genesis 25:11* that "*God poured out rich blessings upon Isaac*". Why? Because it is the very nature and character of God to locate and find that life to bless and reveal His loving and gracious nature!

**Fourth, consider Jabez.** Little is known about this man Jabez, but the Bible records that he was an honorable man, and he prayed for the Lord to bless him...and bless him a lot. While the Bible doesn't reveal all the ways that God blessed Jabez...the Bible does say that God answered his prayer. *1 Chronicles 4:10* *And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

The Bible doesn't go into great detail about all the blessings...simply that the God of Scripture blessed Jabez greatly, massively...because Jabez was the type of man that could receive the blessings of God, without forsaking the Blessor.

**Fifth, consider David the King.** David the King was unparalleled to any other king. David was blessed because he made it His business to

bless and honor the God over all blessings. King David declared that blessings would come to those who would publicly declare the goodness of God. *Psalms 31:19* declares "*Oh how great is your goodness to those who publicly declare that you will rescue them*" *LB.* David found that it was the nature and the character of God to publicly bless and prosper anyone that declared the goodnesses of God, and the wonders of God. Why? Because God makes it His business to honor any that honor Him. God's nature is not just to give a few blessings...but the nature of God is to lavishly pour out blessings on those who revere Him and worship Him. Scripture declares that "*many blessings are given to those who trust the Lord and have no confidence in those who are proud or trust in idols*" (*Ps. 40:4 LB*) While these are five vivid examples...consider this...from the time of Abraham to the time of David spans approximately 1000 years. The sobering truth is this...the God who desired to bless Abraham, and David, is the same God that desires to bless our lives today...because that is His nature...to bless.

**2. GOD HAS A PLAN THAT LEADS TO PROSPERITY AND BLESSING.** Because we live in a fallen world...the devil is constantly attempting to trick our minds and lives into believing that we can live as we desire, do what we want and receive the blessings of God...when nothing is further from the truth. While God loves to bless us, by His holy, sinless and pure nature, He cannot bless a life that is given to sin, wickedness, and ungodliness. *Job 36:6* declares "*He does not reward the wicked with his blessings but gives them their full share of punishment.*" *LB.* God's supernatural, abundant and overflowing blessings are based on: 1) listening to His voice, 2) observing and following His commands. *Deuteronomy 28:1* *And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

In the very next verse Deuteronomy 28:2 God declares all the blessings that would come on the nation of Israel as they obeyed Him.

While times may change, the truths and principles of God's word never alter. If we are to receive godly prosperity and blessings...it is vital that we listen to the voice of Holy God as He speaks to our lives, and follow His God given commands which lead us into a life of abundance. Sadly, however there are millions of people who because of the deception of the devil have been led to believe that they know best for their lives.

In the life of Joshua, God desired that Joshua live and have abundant success...and to do that involved the principles found in Joshua 1:8 **This book of the law shall not depart** out of thy mouth; but **thou shalt meditate** therein **day and night**, that thou mayest **observe to do** according to **all that**

**is written therein:** for **then** thou shalt make **thy way prosperous**, and then **thou shalt have good success**. Fundamental to the blessings of God is “His book”. Joshua would have understood that to be Genesis- Deuteronomy. But why observe God’s Book? Because we are a fallen creation affected by sin, we cannot know how to experience the blessings and prosperity apart from the truth of God. If there is no meditation on the Word of God, a person finds himself missing the prosperity that God wants him to have.

It is in “The Book” that God details how to have: spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial prosperity. What eating is to our bodies...the Word of God is to our soul. The truth is a perfect God, with a perfect nature, with a perfect love for His creation, cannot lead man into anything less than a wonderfully blessed life. The promise of God to Joshua was that there would be “prosperity and “good success”. When we read the Word of God and apply His Word to our lives, we cannot miss out on all the wonders and blessings of God. Consider...how could a holy, pure God lead mankind into anything that was less than His best. The reality of what is happening in our world and society is really quite simple...it is the open revelation of a society that has chose the god of things over and above the God of all creation. When a society worships the things of the world...that society reaps the cursings of God. *Deuteronomy 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

The picture of Deuteronomy 28:15 is the picture of a people that choose the things over and above a real relationship with God...as a result, God promises that He will bring about “curses”. The nation of Israel would find out what the curses of God meant as they walked away from God. They lost the blessings of God, the good things of God, all because they decided to abandon God, His commands, His statutes which He commanded. The same principle holds true today and for all time.

**3. GOD’S PROMISE OF BLESSING AND PROSPERITY ARE CONDITIONAL.** Simple because God created us, does not mean that we are to automatically receive His abundant blessings. The truth of Scripture reveals that the blessings of God are “conditional”. Conditional, carries with it this meaning, “God will do respond to us one way based on our response to Him, or God will respond another way based on our response to Him. God declares in Deuteronomy 28:1, “...*If thou wilt hearken*”. Literally God told the people of Israel that blessings begin with listening to Him. God would tell the nation what He expected of them, and He would give them commands for their best...but the blessings would only come...**IF THEY LISTENED**. God has not changed His process of blessings today. God can

and only will bless when there is... **“a hearkening to His voice.”** To hearken means to “listen carefully” or “listen intently”.

If God’s people are to experience God’s blessings...they come no other way than “listening carefully to the voice of God” as He speaks through His Word. A second condition is “observing and doing all His commandments”. For the children of Israel, they would know that God meant the Ten Commandments...and the nature of God has not changed. God brings to pass “His blessings” in the life of those that follow and obey His directives and His commands.

#### **4. GOD’S BLESSINGS AND PROSPERITY ARE DELIBERATE.**

God doesn’t talk about blessings, and then leave us to wonder what His blessings are. All throughout Scripture God makes it clear that He will bless and prosper any person that chooses to follow Him, and He will make those blessings real and deliberate to any obedient life. To the nation of Israel God declare that He would:

1) Bless them in the city...which is a reference to promotion. God will make it His business to bless any life, any person, any home, any church, any government that is given to obedience to Him.

2) Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body...which is a reference to the blessing of children, obedient children and children that bring honor to the family. Where there are obedient parents...God will make it His business to allow children to see the parents obedience and the children will follow their example. Sadly, there are many children that see parents being religious, but not walking with God.

3) Blessed shall be thy cattle...which is a reference to possessions and income. An obedient person, has the supernatural favor of God, and even during times of recession...God makes it His business to provide for His obedient children.

4) Blessed shall be thy basket...another reference to possessions. God is declaring to the nation of Israel, that He will take it upon Himself to bless them, as they make it their business to walk with Him. The principle is this... when God finds a person that is obeying Him, that person is seeking God, His leadership, His ways, and His methods for success, and in God there is no such thing as blight, want, or need. All throughout Scripture, God revealed His blessings to those that walked with Him...but to those that refused, and rebelled, they lived in want, in need, and missed the very blessings of God. While God can bless and wants to bless the question that must be asked is this... “Am I going to choose the ways of God for success, or am I going to follow the ways of man?” We make the final decision!

