



CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES LTD

The Bible teaching on Wealth and Prosperity

The word “prosperity” occurs 93 times in the Bible – different words are used in Hebrew in the Old Testament. As we examine the Old Testament word “to prosper” we get the idea of “being divinely empowered or enabled to succeed”.

When the term “prosperity gospel” is mentioned, people then have a negative impression that the material world is evil and money is ungodly. But this is not the teaching of Scriptures. We see many examples of Godly people who became successful and prosperous. They were wealthy and rich because God had prospered them. For example in :

Genesis 13:2 “Abraham was very rich in livestock, and in silver and in gold”

Genesis 24:1 “... and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things”

Genesis 26:12-13 “Then Isaac sowed in the land, and reaped in the same year a hundred-fold, and the Lord blessed him. The man began to prosper and continued prospering until he became very prosperous”

God has said these words to His people through Jeremiah: “I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them” (Jer 32:42).

Other examples are Job, Jacob, Joseph, David and Solomon who were also rich and prosperous.

The world’s understanding of prosperity differs from the biblical perspective. Look at the example of Joseph. In Gen 39:2-3 we read this description of him: “The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man... And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand.” Though Joseph became a slave yet he was known to be successful and prosperous. The reason is that the Bible does not look at the physical and outward conditions. God regards prosperity as first and foremost beginning in the heart and spirit of a person. It follows therefore that a prosperous person is not necessarily one who just has great possession and money by showing off his wealth. Being prosperous is a spiritual condition as the apostle John writes:

“Beloved, I pray that you will prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers”
(3 John 2)

This is the same idea expressed by the Psalmist in Ps 1:1-3 when he says that the man is blessed when “his delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law he meditates day and night” resulting in “whatever he does he shall prosper”.

The Bible teaches that physical or material prosperity results from the spiritual condition of the heart and of our relationship with God. Suffice it to say that it is in God’s nature to bless and prosper those who love and obey Him. Read Deut 8:18 “... remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives power to get wealth.” God gives us prosperity so that we can become better stewards of the resources which He puts at our disposal. We don’t use them for selfish pleasure and enjoyment. Prosperity is God’s way of blessing us so that we can be His stewards to help fund the work of God in the extension of His Kingdom. Money is needed to support the end-time harvest. May more of God’s children be blessed and prosper so that they can be channels to help fulfill the Great Commission.