

This Is That Part 5: Prosperity

(Acts 2:12-16 NIV) Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.

(Genesis 26:12-13 NKJV) Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous.

(Proverbs 11:10 NIV) When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.

(Proverbs 11:25 NIV) A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

(3 John 1:2 NKJV) Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Prosperity is God's answer to our poverty.

Biblical prosperity: Having more than you need so you can make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

1. God blesses us to be a blessing.

(Genesis 12:2 NLT) "I will bless you...and you will be a blessing to others."

I need more than I need so I can be a blessing.

2. When we bless others, God takes care of our needs.

(Luke 18:29-30 GW) "I guarantee this. Anyone who gives up anything for the kingdom of God will certainly receive many times more in this life and will receive eternal life in the next world to come."

I will not trust in riches but in Him who richly provides.

3. The more God blesses us, the more He expects us to bless others.

(Luke 12:48 LB) "...Much is required from those to whom much is given. For their responsibility is greater."

God doesn't want us guilty. He wants us responsible.

I Am Blessed

(Psalm 1:1-3 NIV) Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prosper.

Every promise has a premise.

✓ As I put God first.

(Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV) Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

✓ As I maintain my integrity.

(Psalm 84:11 NIV) For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

✓ As I give intentionally and generously.

(2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NIV) Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

(Luke 6:38 NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

✓ As I stay dependent on God.

(1 Timothy 6:17 NIV) Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.