

We are Blessed to be a Blessing



Purposes and keys to financial prosperity

by Christopher Alam

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We all know about the major Tsunami that struck Southeast Asia in 2004 and caused widespread devastation, killing hundreds of thousands of people. As I saw the reports come in on CNN my heart was touched and I felt that, although I was foremost a soul-winner and church-planter, I just had to do something to help.

I went before the Lord and the Lord asked me, "Howmuch do you have faith to raise for Tsunami relief?" I got the figure \$25,000 in my heart and set my faith on that sum to send to Asia.

I have never been good at raising money. I never take my own offerings in churches, neither have I have written letters to pastors asking them to support us as missionaries. So, I decided to be bold and write a short email to my personal friends about this need.

God moved on my friends' hearts and they circulated my email to their friends. Money began to pour in and I soon had over \$170,000 for Tsunami relief. This was 7 times what I had faith for!

We sent \$90,000 to a large church in Singapore that had medical teams helping in the devastated areas in Indonesia, and the remainder went to other countries in the region.

As we sent the funds out from our account, I realized two things:

FIRSTLY: Money is power. Money enables us to preach the Gospel and to help people. I remembered the days when I used to sit in church and they would take up offerings for different missions projects. I remember wishing that I could give generously to these projects, but alas, not having much I could not give much. We can only give what we have; and the more we have the more we can give.

I realized that wishful thinking or good intentions cannot enable missions, but cold hard cash can get the job done!

SECONDLY: There is such great joy in being able to give away large sums of money. Now you understand that I was giving other people's money, but the fact is that it was passing through my hands. Giving away such large amounts sure felt good!

Because of this, I am firmly convinced that God wants to put wealth in the hands of His people in order to fulfill His purposes upon this earth. The key is that we look at ourselves not as OWNERS, but as STEWARDS of God's wealth.

THE PURPOSES OF PROSPERITY

As I can see in the Scriptures, there are Three Purposes of Financial Prosperity:

1. *“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”* (Ps 35:27). What this scripture is basically saying is that “God delights to prosper those who uphold His Righteous Cause upon this earth. And what is God’s Cause upon this earth? It is the Great Commission – to preach the Gospel, to win the lost, to teach them and turn them from “believers” to “disciples”. Evangelists, Apostles, Pastors, churches and others who pursue this are part of the Great Commission. God delights in prospering those who uphold His primary purpose upon this earth.

2. “He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor” (Prov 22:9). “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again” (Prov 19:17). God wants to prosper those who help the poor. The Bible tells us to help the poor, the needy, the widows, and the orphans. God wants to prosper those who want to help the destitute.

3. “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Ps 37:4). God wants to prosper us because we are His children.

“[He] satisfieth you mouth with good things” (Ps 103:5). He loves us and He wants to give us the desires of our hearts.

KEYS TO PROSPERITY

Now, to the Three Scriptural Keys to Financial Prosperity. *Please note: Each one of these Keys is essential. We cannot just pick one or two of these and ignore the rest!*

1. GODLINESS: *“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life”* (Prov 22:4). Godliness is the #1 Key to Prosperity. It is important to live godly and consecrated lives if we want to enjoy the fruits of God’s Grace. Of course one does not have to be godly to be wealthy and the fact is that the wealthiest people in this world are not Christians.

But then Prosperity is about more than merely money. It is about Life. To walk in fellowship with God, to enjoy a good marriage, have godly children and a blessed family, to have real friends and relationships, etc... All these things are part of what the Bible calls “Prosperity”.

This kind of life comes to us through Humility before God and man, and reverence for the Lord. This is what I am talking about. I have sat with incredibly wealthy people with messed-up families; and this is not what God calls “Prosperity”!

The Bible says, *“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it”* (Prov 10:22).

2. HARD WORK: *“He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich”* (Prov 10:4). *“Wealth gotten by vanity*

shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase” (Prov 13:11). Hard work is essential to Prosperity.

Do not believe in schemes that trumpet, “We shall double your money in 6 months.” We saw a scheme like this, run by Scripture-quoting crooks, go through my home church. Many people lost large amounts of money, some even losing their life savings. Do not believe in emails from Nigeria promising you millions of Dollars if you would only help a Nigerian Prince or the widow of the former President of Nigeria with some “banking issues”.

Work hard. Whatever your vocation, work hard! God has promised to bless the fruits of your labors. If you are a businessman, work hard! If you are an employee, work hard! If you are in ministry, work hard, preach, and invest into people’s lives!

God blesses hard work, not laziness.

3. GIVING: *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”* (Luke 6:38). Giving is the Third Key to Prosperity.

There are two kinds of Giving: Giving according to the Word of God and then Giving according to the Holy Spirit’s leading. We all know that when we first obey the Word, that is when the Holy ghost kicks in and speaks to us!

a. GIVING ACCORDING TO THE WORD: Giving according to the Word is called the Tithe. The “Tithe” is an old English word (not used in colloquial English today) that means the “TENTH” or 10% of your income. That 10% belongs to God. It should be taken off the top of our income as soon as we get our wage. It belongs to God and should be given to Him. It is always 10%. All Christians should Tithe faithfully to the Lord!

b. GIVING ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT: Giving according to the Spirit is called “Offerings”. This is in addition to the Tithe. As we obey God’s Word in Tithing, the Holy Ghost will speak to us at different times in additional giving to different causes that are close to the Heart of God. Always obey God in giving. This way, you will always keep yourself in a place where the Lord can speak to you!

c. LIVE GENEROUSLY: In addition to this, live the lifestyle of a generous person. For example, be a good and generous tipper at restaurants and look for opportunities to generously bless fellow Christians who have needs.

Don’t just give where you can get a tax-deductible receipt but give out of a generous heart. Allow God to touch your heart to help and to bless others generously!

2 Corinthians 9:6 is a key verse when it comes to Prosperity, *“Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of*

your righteousness.” There is phrase here that literally jumped out of the page at me. It says, “He that ministereth seed to the sower!”

In other words, God gives Seed to sowers!

There is no promise in the New Testament that states that being in need or in lack qualifies a person to receive from God. Even the promise of Phil 4:19, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” is made to sowers! This Promise was made to the Philippian church because they were a generous giving church.

So God gives Seed to sowers! That is why it is important for all Christians to begin to look at ourselves as SOWERS instead of as NEEDY people. A needy person always thinks of himself as one trying to make it, trying to survive. A Sower looks at himself as one who is rich in and because of Jesus Christ who made Himself poor, “that we through his poverty might be rich” (2 Cor 8:9). Because he sees himself as rich in Christ because of God’s Grace, he begins to give out of this Grace bestowed upon his life!

The Bible promises in 2 Cor 9:6 that the sower shall always have enough for himself, that he will be blessed with even more to give in the future, and that God will increase the Fruits of His Righteousness. Look up Isaiah 32:17-20 for what THAT means!

After all, we are blessed to be a blessing! We are

children of a great God! We are sowers! What a way to live, right in the chain of God's Provision and Blessings!

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About the Author

The author, Christopher Alam, lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with his wife, Britta, and their three children. They are graduates of RHEMA Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Christopher is an Ordained Minister of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Christopher was born a Muslim and received Jesus Christ in 1975. After enduring much persecution including spending almost an entire year in prison for preaching the Gospel, Christopher was threatened with execution. After this he escaped and went to Sweden as a refugee where he was granted political asylum. There, in church, he met Swedish-born Britta.

You can read Christopher's story in his exciting book, "Out of Islam."

Christopher and Britta are the founders of Dynamis World Ministries, a worldwide missions organization with its headquarters in Lancaster, and with missions bases and offices in Sweden, Zimbabwe and in a closed country in Southeast Asia. They hold large open-air crusades, train pastors, plant churches, provide humanitarian relief, publish literature, and train church-planters at their church-planting school. They have preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in over 70 nations. Signs and wonders follow the preaching of the Gospel and they have seen millions of people come to Christ in their crusades.

Over a thousand churches have been started through their ministry worldwide.

Christopher is in much demand as a speaker in churches and conferences worldwide.

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