

WEALTH GOD'S WAY PROSPERITY GOD'S WAY SERIES

Dr. Ché Ahn

December 3, 2023

TEXT: Deuteronomy 8:11 “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; **12** otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived *in them*, **13** and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, **14** then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery... **17** Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ **18** But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day. **19** It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.”

INTRO: I want to continue the message that I began last week. As a pastor of 44 years, I have learned from the Word of God and my walk with the Lord that God wants His children to prosper. The Bible says, “Beloved, I pray that you prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers” (3 John 2). I am a parent and a grandfather. I don’t know of any godly parent who doesn’t want their children to prosper, and so it is with you. The Bible says in Psalm 25:12, “Who is the person who fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. **13** His soul will abide in abundant prosperity and his descendants will inherit the land.”

The word “prosperity” is a holistic word encompassing everything important in life. Prosperity in your relationships, starting with your relationship with Jesus. Prosperity as far as physical health and longevity of a quality life. Today I want to talk about prosperity as it pertains to financial wealth.

Let me share *eight* truths on how God gives us the power to create wealth. The first three are a review of the previous teachings, so I will just mention them. Please go online to see the past messages and outlines.

I. GOD GIVES YOU THE POWER TO CREATE WEALTH



A. Deuteronomy 8:17 “Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ 18 But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.”

- 1. THE BIGGEST LIE IN THE CHURCH: “IT IS MY HARD-EARNED MONEY. I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT TO DO WITH IT.”**
2. God is your provider (Philippians 4:19), and anything you have is by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. God is the one who gives you the grace and the power to create wealth.**

II. TRUST THE LORD FOR YOUR FINANCES

A. Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...

- 1. Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.**
2. Pride is an abomination before God (Proverbs 8:13). When you give yourself credit for your prosperity, you are robbing God of His glory.

III. GET OUT OF DEBT AND STAY OUT OF DEBT

A. Romans 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another. (NIV)

- 1. Proverbs 22:7 The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.** There is no condemnation, but if you want to prosper, you have to get out of debt and stay out of debt.
2. September 2023 stats: **\$33 Trillion of National Debt**
3. Outstanding personal consumer debt is \$14.3 trillion (including credit, mortgage, and other debt, November 2020). Credit card debt is \$1.08 trillion.
4. Student debt is \$1.77 trillion.
5. Larry Burkett shared a testimony of a pastor who was in massive debt, both personal and church debt.

IV. HAVE GODLY COUNSEL: YOU NEED A GOOD FINANCIAL PLANNER

- A. Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.**
- B. Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.**



C. CPA: Phil Liberatore (562-404-7996)

D. FINANCIAL MANAGER: Tony Young (626-641-8669) and Tony Amaradio (949-975-7900 ex. 105)

V. DEVELOP THE VALUE AND CULTURE OF KINGDOM GIVING

A. UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM (I want to go back to what I shared last week.)

- 1. If you want to find life, you have to lose your life (Mark 8:34 And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. 35 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”)**
- 2. If you want to be great, you have to be a servant (the least) (Matthew 20:25-28).**
- 3. If you want to prosper, you have to give. (E.g. Isaac in Genesis 26:1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham.... 12 Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy.)**

B. BRING YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS INTO GOD’S STOREHOUSE (review)

- 1. Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. 11 Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says the Lord of hosts.**
- 2. This is *Christianity 101*. If you are faithful in little, God will give you much (Luke 16:10).**
- 3. Windows of Heaven: MULTIPLE BLESSINGS.**
- 4. Bring your offerings. Practice graduated giving.**

C. PRACTICE GRADUATED GIVING

- 1. 2 Corinthians 9:6 Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to**

make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.

2. Sue and I began practicing graduated giving when we first heard that Peter and Doris Wagner gave 40%, and we moved to 40%. Then around 2004, Ed Silvos shared about the 51% Club. These were marketplace people who had committed to give 51% or more of their income for Kingdom purposes. He shared testimony after testimony of financial breakthrough for their company and ministries. Sue and I made a commitment to “join” the 51% Club. It took us around four years, but by 2008 we hit 51%. That is when all these supernatural financial breakthroughs happened in our lives that continue to this day. Today we are at over 70%.

D. DEVELOP THE KINGDOM CULTURE OF GENEROSITY IN LIFE

1. **Luke 6:38** “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”
2. **Proverbs 11:25** The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.
3. **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

E. THE FOUR LEVELS OF GIVING

1. **RELUCTANT GIVER** – I can’t recall being a reluctant giver when it came to tithing, but I can tell you that I have struggled when He told me to give a sacrificial offering.
2. **OBEDIENT GIVER** – At the end of the day, I have been an obedient giver.
3. **JOYFUL GIVER** – I believe your attitude in how you give is very important to Jesus. He loves a cheerful giver.
4. **PASSIONATE GIVER** – I can say by the grace of God that we have become passionate givers, and we look forward to giving because we have experienced His overwhelming generosity to us.

VI. GIVE YOUR FIRSTFRUITS OFFERING

A. Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase. **10** So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. (Four Biblical Truths about the Firstfruits Offering):

B. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FIRSTFRUITS AND THE TITHE.



1. Nehemiah 12:44 On that day men were also appointed over the chambers for the stores, the contributions, the *first fruits* and the *tithes*, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions required by the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who served.

C. FIRSTFRUITS WENT TO THE HIGH PRIEST AND HIS FAMILY.

1. Numbers 18:8 Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, "Now behold, I Myself have given you charge of My offerings, even all the holy gifts of the sons of Israel I have given them to you as a portion and to your sons as a perpetual allotment... 12 *All the best of the fresh oil and all the best of the fresh wine and of the grain, the first fruits of those which they give to the LORD, I give them to you.* 13 The first ripe fruits of all that is in their land, which they bring to the LORD, shall be yours; every one of your household who is clean may eat it. 14 Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours... 17 But the firstborn of an ox or the firstborn of a sheep or the firstborn of a goat, you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood on the altar and shall offer up their fat in smoke as an offering by fire, for a soothing aroma to the LORD. 18 Their meat shall be yours; it shall be yours like the breast of a wave offering and like the right thigh. 19 All the offerings of the holy *gifts*, which the sons of Israel offer to the LORD, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as a perpetual allotment. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the LORD to you and your descendants with you." 20 *Then the LORD said to Aaron, "You shall have no inheritance in their land nor own any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the sons of Israel."*

2. THE APOSTLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS EQUIVALENT TO THE HIGH PRIEST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

3. Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.

D. THE EARLY CHURCH LAID THEIR OFFERINGS AT THE FEET OF THE APOSTLES, AND THEN THE APOSTLES DISTRIBUTED THE OFFERINGS.

1. Acts 4:32 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one *of them* claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. 34 For there was not a

needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales **35** and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

E. GIVE A FIRSTFRUITS OFFERING ANY TIME THERE IS AN ONGOING INCREASE.

1. **Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.** Some suggestions:
2. **Extra Property:** The early church sold their excess or surplus land and laid the proceeds at the feet of the apostles. Charitable Remainder Trust: You don't have to pay taxes because you have donated the whole amount.
3. **New Job:** If you just got a new job, give the first paycheck to the Lord. And then you give your regular tithe and offerings from that new job.
4. **Promotion and Raise:** Give the difference in your raise as the firstfruits of your raise.
5. **New Revenue Source:** Give the firstfruits of the new revenue source.
6. **When there is a one-time increase, like selling a house, you tithe on it, but that is not a firstfruits offering.**
7. **CONCLUSION: Proverbs 3:10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.**

VII. HAVE AT LEAST FIVE SOURCES OF REVENUE

A. "MAKE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, GIVE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, AND SAVE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN." JOHN WESLEY

1. Your job.
2. Your spouse's job.
3. Part-time work.
4. INVESTMENTS.
5. Leasing an extra bedroom to a single person.
6. **Isaiah 60:11 "Your gates will be open continually; they will not be closed day or night, so that *men* may bring to you the wealth of the nations."**
7. **I don't work for money; money works for me.**

B. PERSONAL BUSINESS

1. My wife and I started an S-Corp in 2010, Joseph Storehouse LLC. It was around this time that I had a prophetic dream. I dreamt that I was standing in front of a mountain of gold as high as the Empire State Building. A young missionary couple came up to me and asked for financial support for their mission work. I pulled out a large harvest knife and cut out a chunk of gold.



I said, “Is this enough? If you need more, let me know.”

VIII. RENOUNCE THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON AND THE SPIRIT OF POVERTY

- A. **Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”
- B. **2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.
- C. **The poverty mindset is a stronghold that will limit your financial potential.**
 1. **2 Corinthians 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
 2. **Proverbs 23:7** For as he thinks within himself, so he is.
 3. One of the ways that God broke a spirit of poverty or a poverty mentality off my life was thinking bigger and greater. My friend, who had a church the same size of HRC in 1997, did a prophetic act with me. I was making around \$75,000 a year as the Senior Pastor, but he was making twice as much, and he challenged me not to limit God with my salary and to believe that I, too, could get that salary. He then gave me the largest honorarium for speaking at his church—\$5,000—the most I had ever received for speaking one message. In a few years, my salary increased to \$150K. A few months later, I was talking with a spiritual son who is a businessman, and I also challenged him to not limit his salary. He was making a good salary of over \$100K a year. I challenged him that he should be making three times that much for what he did. He told me a year later that he had increased from \$100K to \$300K. I am going to ask you to not limit God how much you can make, and I want to pray that God would break the spirit of poverty off your life and break the poverty mentality.

CONCLUSION: Put God first. Matthew 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

