

Lesson One:	Sharing their Prosperity Acts 11:22-30
Lesson Two:	Paul in Corinth Acts 18:1-11
Lesson Three:	Uproar in Ephesus Acts 19:23-30
Lesson Four:	Paul in Rome Acts 28:16-31

God's Love Bank

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New Self Prosperity

Tool of thinking: The Thermostat of Your Soul

Key Concepts: Power, Prosperity, Poverty, Benevolence, Abundance mentality, Materialism, Prosperous

The prosperity given to me or withheld from me, based on wise stewardship of my goods, services, and wealth, which allows the Holy Spirit to give me an abundance mentality rather than a scarcity mentality; knowing that it is God who gives me the power to get wealth so I can use it to help establish His kingdom on earth.

The AMEN Principle

- Bible A*-nswer 3 John 2 --- We should prosper in all things, including health
Bible M-ate Titus 3:5-8; Ephesians 3:20 --- God is able and has given to us in abundance
Bible E-xample Luke 12:16-21 --- Trusting in your riches can cause you to lose your soul
Bible N-ew Self Love Deuteronomy 8:2, 16-18 --- Remember, God gives us the power to get wealth

DEFINITIONS

Young's Analytical Concordance; Strong's Hebrew and Greek Concordance

Prosperity – (shalvah) rest, ease, security, abundance

⌘ *Psalm 122:7* – Peace be within thy walls and **prosperity** within your palaces

⌘ *Proverbs 1:32* – And the **prosperity** of fools shall destroy them

⌘ *Jeremiah 22:21* – I spoke to you in your **prosperity**, but you said, “I will not hear”.

Prosper – To have a good journey

⌘ *1 Corinthians 16:2* – Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may **prosper**, that no collections be made when I come.

⌘ *3 John 2* - Beloved, I pray that in all things thou mayest **prosper** and be in health, even as thy soul **prospereth**

Webster

Prosperity---(Latin-prosperitas) Advance or gain in any thing good or desirable; successful progress in any business or enterprise; success; attainment of the object desired; as the prosperity of arts; agricultural or commercial prosperity; national prosperity. Our disposition to abuse the blessings of providence renders prosperity dangerous.

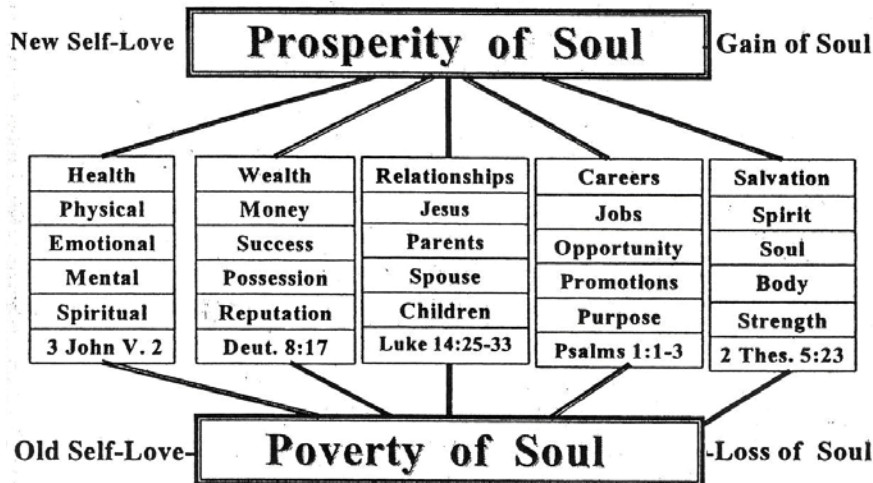
Prosper --- (Latin - prospero, from prosperous, from the Greek - to carry to or toward; to bear.) To favor; to render successful.

PROSPER, v.i. To be successful; to succeed.

⌘ *The Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand.* Gen 39:3.

⌘ *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper.* Proverbs 28:13.

To grow or increase; to thrive; to make gain; as, to prosper in business.



What does it profit you; if you gain the whole world and lose your soul. - Matthew 16:26

Prerequisite Questions

1. What is the purpose of wealth and riches?
2. What is God's definition of money, wealth, riches and prosperity?
3. Which is more dangerous and why: being very rich or being very poor?
4. What does an individual's checkbook reveal about him or her?
5. Think about David. What stone are you slinging to slay your financial giant?
6. How can your wealth affect your relationship with God? Positively? Negatively?
7. Discuss how the thermostat of the soul affects your prosperity.

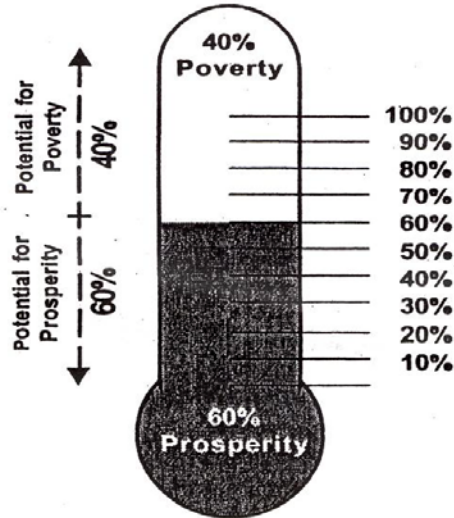
THERMOSTAT OF THE SOUL

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE,



ARE NOT THINGS.

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James Allen once said, “people who secretly harbors poverty inside their soul, do not deserve prosperity in their external life.” You can only prosper in life to the degree that you have prosperity in your soul. Whichever is the dominate, poverty or prosperity, will eventually take control of your soul, and ultimately your entire life. If you have 40% poverty in your soul, you can only experience 60% prosperity in your daily life!

Lesson One – Sharing their Prosperity

Acts 11:22-30

The congregation which was in Jerusalem heard about the new believers that were in Antioch in Syria. So, the believers in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch. Barnabas was a good man. He was full of faith and full of the Holy Spirit. When Barnabas went to Antioch, he saw how much God had blessed them. This made him very happy. He encouraged them to never loose their faith and to always obey the Lord with all their hearts.

Then Barnabas left for the city Troas. He was looking for Paul. When he found him, brought him to Antioch. Paul and Barnabas taught a large crowd. For a whole year they met with the congregation in Antioch. God called the followers of Jesus Christians for the first time. About the same time, some prophets went down from Jerusalem to Antioch. Agabus stood up and spoke. With the help of the Holy Spirit, he said, “A very bad time is coming to the whole world. There will be very little food for people to eat.” This famine occurred during the time when Claudius was Caesar. The followers of Jesus decided that they should try to help their brothers and sister who lived in Judea. Each believer planned to send as much as they could. They gathered the money and gave it to Barnabas and Paul. Then Barnabas and Paul brought it to the elders in Jerusalem.

The believers in Troas were good stewards. Prosperity would be given to them or withheld from them based on stewardship of their goods, services and wealth, which determines whether the Holy Spirit creates in their souls an abundant mentality or a scarcity mentality; knowing that it is God who gives them the power to get wealth so they can invest in His kingdom on earth.

Questions and Discussion

1. How did the church at Jerusalem respond to the increase in numbers of new believers?
2. How did Barnabas encourage the Christians at Antioch?
3. What was exemplary about Barnabas?
4. What happened to the work in Antioch?
5. Why did Barnabas go to Tarsus to look for Saul?
6. Where were the disciples first called Christians?
7. Who was Agabus?
8. What did Agabus predict?
9. What did the Christians do for the believers in Judea? Why?
10. To whom did Saul and Barnabas give the gift collected in Antioch?

Lesson Two – Paul in Corinth

Acts 18:1-11

When Paul left Athens he went to Corinth. In Corinth, he met a Jewish man named Aquilla. Aquilla was born in the country of Pontus. He and his wife Priscilla had recently moved to Corinth from Italy. They left Italy because Claudius the Emperor had commanded all Jews to get out of Rome. Paul went to visit Aquilla and Priscilla. They were tent makers, the same as Paul. Paul was staying there and working with them. Every Sabbath day Paul debated with the Jews and Greeks in the synagogue. He tried to persuade them to believe.

Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia to Paul in Corinth. After this, Paul used all his time to tell the people the good news. He showed the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. But the Jews would not accept Paul's teachings. They said terrible things. So Paul shook the dust from his clothes. He said to the Jews, "If you are not saved, it will be your own fault. I have done all that I can do! After this, I will go to the non-Jewish people!"

Paul was a good steward of his goods, services and wealth while in Corinth. He worked and continued to assist the Jews. The prosperity given to him was based on his stewardship, which determined whether the Holy Spirit would create in his soul an abundant mentality or a scarcity mentality; knowing that it is God who gives him the power to get wealth so he can invest in His kingdom on earth.

Questions and Discussion

1. Where did Paul go after leaving Athens?
2. With what Jewish couple did Paul meet?
3. What did Paul have in common with Aquilla and Priscilla?
4. What did Paul do every Sabbath in Corinth?
5. What did Paul spend his time doing when Silas and Timothy arrived?
6. Why was Paul able to stop tent making when his friends arrived from Macedonia?
7. When the Jews opposed Paul, how did he react?
8. In Corinth, why did Paul turn to the Gentiles?
9. Who believed in the Lord?
10. What prompted Paul's vision of the Lord?

Lesson Three – Uproar in Ephesus **Acts 19:23-30**

Now God had worked many miracles by the hands of Paul. Many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Then the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. About that time there was a great commotion about the way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made similar shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupations and said, “Men you know we have our prosperity in trade. Moreover, you see and hear not only in Ephesus, but also throughout almost all Asia, this Paul persuades and turns away many people, saying that they are not gods, which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into dispute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana maybe despised and her magnificence destroyed when all Asia and the world worship”. Now when they heard this they were full of wrath and cried out saying, “Great Diana of the Ephesians”.

The craftsmen were more concerned about their profits than giving to God. They were not good stewards over their wealth. They did not use their money to let God know how much they loved him. So based on their stewardship of their goods, services and wealth, prosperity was being withheld from them and the Holy Spirit created in them a scarcity mentality. They did not know that it was God who gives the power to get wealth so they can establish His kingdom on earth.

Questions and Discussion

1. To whom does "the Way" refer?
2. Who was the ringleader against Paul and the Christians?
3. On what basis did Artemis make a case against those of the Way?
4. To what group did the silversmith present his case?
5. Why did the silversmith's talk create such an uproar?
6. Whom did the mob seize?
7. Where did the angry crowd take the two men?
8. Why did Paul want to appear before the crowd?
9. Why wouldn't the Christians and some officials let Paul appear before the crowd?
10. What underlying motive did the silversmith have for his protest?
11. How do Christians sometimes compromise the kingdom of God for money?
12. How can a person make idols out of work, money, or success?
13. In what ways can money become more important to us than it should?
14. In a time of economic recession, why might Christians be tempted to act like the Ephesians' mob?

Lesson Four -- Paul in Rome **Acts 28:16-31**

Finally, Paul arrived in Rome. In Rome, he was allowed to live alone, a soldier stayed with Paul to guard him. Three days after his arrival, Paul sent for the most important Jewish leaders. When they came together, Paul said to them, “I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. They asked me many questions, but could not find reason to put me to death. They wanted me to go free, but the Jewish leaders didn't want me to go free. So I was forced to have my trial before Caesar in Rome. I am not accusing my people of anything wrong. This is the reason I wanted to see you and talk with you. I am bound with this chain, because I believe in the hope of Israel.” The Jews answered and told Paul they had not received any letters about him or heard anything bad about him.

Paul and the Jewish leaders set a day for a meeting. On that day many more of these Jews met with Paul at his house. He spoke to them all day long explaining to them the truth about the kingdom of God. Paul stayed two full years in his own rented house. He welcomed everyone who came to visit him. Paul was preaching about the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. He was very bold. No one tried to stop him from speaking.

Paul was able to live as he did because prosperity had been given to him based on his good stewardship of his goods, services, and wealth, which helped the Holy Spirit to create in his soul an abundant mentality, knowing that it is God who gives him the power to get wealth so he could use it to invest in His kingdom on earth.

Questions and Discussion

1. With whom did Paul first speak in Rome?
2. In his presentation to the Jewish leaders, what significant points did Paul make?
3. What did Paul mean by "the hope of Israel"?
4. What kind of response did Paul get from the leaders?
5. How did the Jewish leaders in Rome show increasing interest in the apostle and his message?
6. What did Paul do all day long while meeting with the Jewish leaders?
7. How did the Jews in Rome respond to Paul's teaching?
8. To whom did Paul ascribe Isaiah's words?
9. How did Paul apply the words of Isaiah to his audience?
10. What prediction did Paul make about the future?
11. Though the Jews had turned away from Christ, what group had God promised to tell of His salvation?
12. What did Paul do for two years in Rome?
13. Why do you think Paul's teaching was hard for some followers of Judaism to accept?
14. Why do you think the attitude of the Jewish leaders in Rome was less hostile than that of the Jews in Jerusalem?
15. What made Paul and the gospel he represented less of a threat to unbelievers than in the past?
16. Why do many people dismiss the message of salvation in Christ?
17. In what ways do we become hardened to God?
18. When have you observed hardheartedness in your own life?
19. When do you need to guard against hardheartedness?