

Biblical Perspective on Wealth and Possessions

Notes

Q: I am in poor financial health and wish to better my life. What do I do?

A: If we ask the Lord, in faith, believing that we will receive what we ask for, then it will be ours if it's according to His will.

You do not have because you do not ask God (James 4:2). I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it (John 14:13-14). If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you (John 15:7). Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours (Mark 11:24). Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened (Matthew 7:7-8). This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him (1 John 5:14-15).

- **But, when we ask, we must do so with the correct motives. It should be about others and not for selfish reasons.**

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures (James 4:3).

Q: Ok. So if I'm able to pray and believe that it'll be received, then it will be received as His Word promises as long as it is God's will. So, what is God's will for my finances?

A: God wants to prosper us, but we must be obedient to Him first. The only way to know what He wants in order to be obedient is to have daily study in His Word.

God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants (Psalm 35:27). Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him. Blessings and prosperity will be yours (Psalm 128:1-2). If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment (Job 36:11). Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8). He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless (Proverbs 2:7).

Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor (Proverbs 21:21). Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever (Psalm 112:1-3). Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life (Proverbs 22:4-9). The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it (Proverbs 10:22). A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous (Proverbs 13:22). To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God (Ecclesiastes 2:26). With wisdom are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. Wisdom walks in the way of righteousness, bestowing a rich inheritance and making treasuries full (Proverbs 8:18-21). Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it (Malachi 3:10). 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 (Luke 6:38). A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed (Proverbs 11:25). Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God (Ecclesiastes 5:19).

Q: Ok. So, I'm poor and want out. I pray and ask the Lord for financial success and believe in faith that it'll be received because it's His Will that I prosper. Then I build my relationship with Him in obedience. So how will he bless me financially?

A: He will bless what you do. Be wise in selecting what you do for a living and work wholeheartedly unto the Lord with diligence and prudence.

King David prospered in all he did for the Lord was with him (1st Samuel 18:14). The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered (Genesis 39:2). In everything that he undertook in obedience to the law and commands, he sought God and worked wholeheartedly, and so he prospered (2nd Chronicles 31:21). Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth (Proverbs 10:4-14). All who are prudent act with knowledge (Proverbs 13:16). Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will stand before kings (Proverbs 22:29).

For more detailed information, see parts 1 and 2 of this study.