

# **ABUNDANCE (Part 1)**

**Sylvester Onyemalechi**

Abundance simply means plenty. It means prosperity. And prosperity is having enough resources to accomplish all that God wants you to accomplish with your life. It means having enough to do the commands of God for your life.

Prosperity is having enough finances, enough health, enough information, having enough favour with people, having a sufficient amount of friendships, enough amount of energy, enough amounts of ideas, wisdom to achieve your goals in life.

Prosperity or abundance is having enough resources to accomplish all that God wants you to accomplish with your life.

You may be prosperous or living in abundance and yet not live in a 10 million Naira house or own a Rolls Royce Car, or own a house of your own. Abundance and prosperity has to do with God supplying what you need to accomplish your purpose in life.

Abundance therefore is having enough always to meet your needs each time there is a need.

*Phil 4:19*

*19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

*NKJV*

God's will is that his people enjoy abundance. That is why Jesus though he was rich became poor, that believers may become rich.

*2 Cor 8:9*

*9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

*NKJV*

And when he came, he declared, "I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10).

Your decisions in life create your circumstances. The right decisions create positive circumstances; while wrong decisions create negative circumstances. Your changed opinion about abundance and prosperity will change your circumstances.

If you are failing or depressed today, that was not what God intended it to be in your life. God does not want us to accept what is as what he had planned for us, but he has given us the word so that we can learn how to change our circumstances to what he wants it to be. The greatest gift He gave us is the ability to choose what we want, by choosing what to believe.

**THE NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO HAVE ABUNDANCE**

There is a difference between a winner and a loser. There is a difference between a success and a failure. The difference is information. Show me a problem and I will show you ignorance. Show me a difficulty and I will show a lack of information.

There is a big difference between the life of God and the laws of God. There is a big difference between the person of Christ and the principles that he taught. Having Jesus in your heart is one thing and practicing his teachings is another thing. You can have salvation instantaneously, but the knowledge and wisdom of God which comes from his mouth is learned progressively.

Success is a progressive accomplishment of God-given goal for your life. A winner is a person who is satisfied with his progress towards a God-given goal.

Your future blessing does not depend on God's love, but on your obedience.

*Deut 28:1-2*

*28:1 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:*

*NKJV*

You need to cooperate with God to receive God's blessing. If all you need was an experience with Jesus, then there will be no need for the Bible. The Bible is to teach you the principles and laws of God, so that as you obey and practice them, the blessings of God which already exist in the spirit will become a reality in your life.

*2 Peter 1:3*

*3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

*NKJV*

You can be right with God (in fellowship with God) and yet to be a financial failure until you learn and apply the principles of supply.

*Deut 28:8-14*

*8 The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. 9 The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. 10 Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. 11 And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. 12 The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. 13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God,*

*which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. 14 So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

*NKJV*

If you know the principles and you don't apply them, you will suffer as God said. You need to walk with winners to understand winning. Success is one day at a time. A winner is not necessarily a minister, for not all ministers are fulfilled. A winner is not necessarily a millionaire, for not all millionaires are happy. A winner is one who is satisfactorily progressing in achieving a God-given goal.

Achieving a dream does not bring happiness, unless it is a God-given goal or dream.

Therefore take seriously the principles and laws of supply and abundance that I am going to show you in this study.

### **REASONS FOR LACK**

Every person who wants to enjoy abundance must know the reasons for lack.

#### **1. Unteachable Spirit**

*Prov 19:27*

*27 Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.*

*NKJV*

*Prov 13:13*

*13 He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.*

*NKJV*

Those who are Unteachable are those who will not buy tapes and listen to them, who will not buy books and read them, who will not attend seminars, and those who will not work with information received.

#### **2. Laziness**

*Prov 24:33-34*

*33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- 34 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.*

*NIV*

Laziness will stop the blessings of God in your life. Laziness is unwillingness to work. A lazy man always gives excuses why he will not work or do what he is supposed to do. He escapes the work he ought to do through procrastination.

Find out why you are lazy. If you are in the wrong job, change it. If it is a health problem, attend to it immediately. If it is spiritual, get deliverance. If it is psychological, go for counseling.

#### **3. Ignorance**

*Prov 24:3-5*

*3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; 4 through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. 5 A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength;*

*NIV*

If you want wealth, you have to go after information that will help you. If you don't know what you are doing, you will probably do it wrong. What you do not know, you cannot claim. What you don't know you have, you cannot fight for it when the enemy is trying to take it or keep it from you. What you do not know, you cannot apply.

Knowledge brings productivity. Knowledge brings the best out of you – it produces creativity.

*Philem 6*

*6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

*KJV*

Knowledge makes you successful, for it will equip you with the tool of success in your field of endeavour.

*Prov 8:12-21*

*12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. 13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. 14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. 15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. 17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. 18 Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. 19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. 20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:*

*21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.*

*KJV*

Seek for knowledge for what you do or want to do. Update your knowledge in your field of endeavour to keep abreast with the latest technology and research findings.

Cultivate the habit of reading books, journals, and attending seminars that will help you.

Enquire from successful people the secret of their success, and apply it if it will work for you.

If you are a student in a formal school, or an apprenticeship student, settle down and learn very well all you are being taught. Don't shy away from assignments, especially the seemingly difficult ones. Put your eyes down, learn for any knowledge you acquire cannot be taken from you, and will be useful to you in life.

Turn your ears to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding and if you call out for insight and cry loud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

*Prov 2:2-5*

*2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.*

*NIV*

#### **4. Stinginess and selfishness**

*Prov 11:24-28*

*24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. 25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. 26 People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell. 27 He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it. 28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.*

*NIV*

One man GIVES freely, yet GAINS even more; another WITHHOLDS unduly, but COMES TO POVERTY.

**A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.**

People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell.

He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it. Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, **but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.**

Always remember that “*A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great*” (*Prov. 18:16*); and that refusal to give your tithes and offerings brings a curse on your finances and source of income.

*Mal 3:8-12*

*8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. 10 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 you will not have room enough for it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.*

*NIV*

Be generous. Don't be tight-fisted. It attracts curses and brings poverty.

## **5. A sinful life**

*Deut 28:47-48*

*47 Because you did not serve the LORD your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, 48 therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the LORD sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.*

*NIV*

*Prov 21:21*

*21 He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.*

*NIV*

A sinful life will make one remain in lack and poverty, and make one lose all he had received or acquired already. Live a righteous life – Do the right and just thing always you will be blessed for it.

## **6. Labouring under the curse of poverty**

*Deut 28:15-19*

*15 However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: 16 You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. 17 Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. 18 The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. 19 You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.*

*NIV*

*Deut 28:45-48*

*45 All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the LORD your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you. 46 They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever. 47 Because you did not serve the LORD your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, 48 therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the LORD sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.*

*NIV*

Disobedience to the command, principles and laws of God brings the curse of poverty which comes first to rebuke, correct and call the disobedient to repentance, and lastly to punish the hardened and set example for others to learn from.

The Bible teaches in Prov 13:13, “*He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded*”. Don’t be hardened to the laws and principles of abundance you will learn in this study, lest you pay dearly for it.

**The choices we make dictate the life we live.**