

# KINGDOM PROSPERITY

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Kingdom prosperity is all about prosperity in the kingdom of Christ or God's kind of prosperity. Prosperity originated from God. Every man God called to follow him or do one thing or the other for him, he promised prosperity. He never calls any one to serve him in vain.

*Isa 45:19*

*19 I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.*

*NIV*

If you are a follower of God, prosperity is your reward. Abraham followed God, and he prospered; David followed God, and he prospered. In the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 28, the Lord promised prosperity to all who follow his laws and statutes faithfully. Scripture proves to us that it is God's will that we prosper.

## PROSPERITY IS GOD'S WILL

It is the will of God that every of his covenant child prosper. If you are operating the new covenant through Jesus Christ, prosperity had been decreed for you already.

*Prov 11:10*

*10 When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.*

*NIV*

*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, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

*NIV*

*3 John 2*

*2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

*KJV*

*Deut 15:4-6*

*4 However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, 5 if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. 6 For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.*

*NIV*

From all the above passages, it is obvious that God wants you the child of God to prosper. Jesus though rich, became poor that you and I can become rich. It is already settled in the heart of God

that you his faithful covenant child should prosper. However, the choice to prosper or not to prosper is left for us – it is a decision that you must make.

In verse 4 of Deuteronomy 15, the word of the LORD through Moses says, “**However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you.**” Again, the same Moses in verse 7 of the same chapter said, “**If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you—**” and in vs. 11 he says, “**there will always be poor people in the land —**”. All these seem conflicting at first glance. But at a closer look, you will discover that it is God’s will that all prosper in the land, however, it is not all that prospers because not all follow the laws of God and are determined to prosper. So, there will always be poor people though God says **there should be no poor among you.**

Therefore, I make bold to say, **prosperity is by choice, poverty is by choice.** The promise is for all, but only those who walk by the covenant with determination to prosper, will prosper. God wants you to prosper. If you choose to be among the poor, you will be poor. But, if you decide to come out of poverty, and become rich, you will, if you walk by the details of the covenant.

### **GOD KNOWS MONEY IS ESSENTIAL**

*Eccl 10:19*

*19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.*

*NIV*

God declares through the mouth of Solomon the king of Israel, that money answereth all things showing that he is aware that we need money to get the necessities of life. He knows that without money, you can’t feed properly, wear good clothes, pay your bills, and even give to him (God). So, God has to provide for his children for them to live a good life

*Zech 1:17*

*17 Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.*

*KJV)*

The Lord understands that without money, the Gospel cannot spread abroad, and as a result, wants to prosper his children so that they can plough their wealth into the work of the ministry.

Your desire to prosper God’s way and as God’s covenant Child must be to support the work of God and not just to have the best of life. God is interested in his work prospering, and he needs money for the work. But he does not throw money down from heaven, he blesses men with money through prosperity, so that his people can in turn put the money received into his work. God is looking for men to use in this area

## **POVERTY DOES NOT GLORIFY GOD**

Poverty does not glorify God. Lack does not glorify God. Poverty produces oppression and slavery. It produces disgrace and shame. And Jesus Christ came to deliver us from oppression, slavery, shame and disgrace.

*Prov 22:7*

*7 The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

*NIV*

*Eccl 9:13-16*

*13 I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: 14 There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siegeworks against it. 15 Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man. 16 So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.*

*NIV*

This scripture shows the pitiable condition of the poor. This poor man delivered his city from the hand of the enemy, but he was never honored because he was poor. Can you imagine what poverty did to that man? I will never be poor in Jesus name. I want you to hate poverty. It stinks. It is evil. This is the reason why Jesus became poor so that you, through his poverty, may become rich if you want to and walk by his covenant principles.

*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, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

*NIV*

Poverty and scarcity of necessity of life can make one curse God, and be unfaithful to God. God does not want you to curse him or be unfaithful to him, so he wants to prosper you so that your joy may be complete, and you will serve him with gladness of heart and mind.

## **WORK BY THE COVENANT PRINCIPLES**

No man walking faithfully by the covenant principles of God is expected to be poor.

*Gen 12:1-3*

*12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

*NIV*

*Deut 15:4-6*

*4 However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, 5 if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. 6 For the LORD*

*your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.*

*NIV*

You cannot be poor as long as you are walking in the covenant. Follow the covenant laws and prosperity will be yours. As Abraham began to walk with God in obedience, he began to prosper. He prospered to the level he could finance a private army of 318 men, all born and trained in his house. **The blessings of Abraham cannot be yours in Christ Jesus and yet you remain poor when you are walking in obedience to the covenant laws.** If you follow God faithfully, you will prosper.

Success, prosperity, riches are yours in Christ Jesus. Lay hold of the covenant principles of God and practice them, and you will prosper.

### **WHAT IS PROSPERITY?**

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 the presence of the necessities of life. It is a state of abundance – having enough to meet all your needs as they arise.

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.

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

### **A RICH MAN CAN GO TO HEAVEN**

Some believe that it is not possible for one to go to heaven rich. They base their belief on *Luke 18:22-27*

*22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

*23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. 24 Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 26 Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" 27 Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."*

*NIV*

Abraham died a rich man and was called "God's friend". Isaac, Jacob (Israel), Joseph all died rich men. And we know that they went to heaven. If they were condemned by God, God will not be introducing himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The above passage makes it clear that if your heart is not in riches, but in God, it is possible for you to make it to heaven. It is only those who love money that will not make it to heaven.

*"What is impossible with men is possible with God"* If your riches are of God and your heart is not in your riches but in God, you will make it to heaven. A giving life is a proof that one is not a lover of money. If your heart is God-centered, then you will be willing to part with your possession when occasion warrants it. The rich man in the above story, could not part with his possession because his heart was in it. A covetous person cannot make it to heaven. It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a covetous (greedy, acquisitive) man to enter into the kingdom of God.

A giver (one who is always willing to part with what he has) will make it to heaven because money is not his God. His heart is centered on God and God alone. God is only against the love of money or idolizing money and success.

If you want to prosper God's way and be rich you must make up your mind to be a giver and a tither. You must be ready to empty your account for the work of God or meet someone's need that the Spirit of God may minister to your heart to attend to. Such an attitude will bring greater wealth. It is in giving that we receive. The more we give the more we receive. The giver gets richer, while the one who withholds gets poorer. Let your heart not be on money, but on God.

*Luke 12:13-21*

*13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." 16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."*

*NIV*

*1 Tim 6:10*

*10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

*NIV*

*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

### **ANALYSIS OF MATHEW 6:33**

*“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Do not seek riches, success or prosperity first, seek God first. Seek Christ first. Seek the kingdom of God first. Some pursue money and leave God behind. Some pursue wealth and success so much that it chokes that seed of God’s word in them, till it dies and their fire for God is put out.

*Matt 13:22*

*2 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.*

NIV

Some pursue success and prosperity so much that they don’t have time for personal or group Bible study, fellowship and church services and activities. Some pursue wealth and money to the point that they are afraid to share with their customers and business associates and clients the gospel of Jesus Christ lest they lose them.

The Bible says seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and every other thing—money, customers, clients, contracts, success, wealth shall be added. *“The scripture cannot be broken” (Jn 10:35)*. If you try to break it, it will break you. Don’t violate the scripture. You will regret if you do, for you will pay dearly for it.

*Prov 13:13*

*13 He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.*

NIV

We are not to seek (pursue) prosperity. We are to seek the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and prosperity will pursue and overtake us, or in another word, ACCOMPANY US.

### **TO SEEK THE KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- 1.** To seek the kingdom of God or the kingdom of Christ is to seek to be an ACTIVE member of the kingdom.
- 2.** To seek the prosperity and expansion of the kingdom of God.
- 3.** To seek to understand and practice the righteousness of God which is the way and life of the kingdom.

### **TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

An active member of the kingdom of God is one who has turned away from his sins and surrendered to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of his life. An active member is one who attends services of his local church (assembly) regularly’ and studies and meditates on the word of God. He practices the word. He trembles at the word of God. His life is a proof that Jesus is Lord and Savior of the world because he allows the new nature to dominate and rule his life. He follows the principles of God’s word.

As an active member, he preaches the word and invites people to church. He is not ashamed of his Savior, but zealous for his Lord. He does not compromise the truth once discovered.

*Heb 11:6*

*6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

*NIV*

*2 Chron 15:2*

*2 He went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.*

*NIV*

*Jer 29:11-13*

*11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.*

*NIV*

As an active member of the kingdom of God, you tithe your income and give offerings regularly, and cheerfully too

### **TO SEEK THE PROSPERITY OF THE KINGDOM**

You need to work hard for the growth and progress of the kingdom of God:

1. Pray regularly and sincerely for the church of Christ, especially your local assembly.

*Eph 6:18*

*18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

*NIV.*

*Read also 1 Tim 2:1-8*

2. Witness for Jesus Christ.

*Acts 1:8*

*8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

*NIV*

- (a) You witness with your life—your life will become a testimony to the whole world who Christ is.

*2 Cor 5:18-20*

*18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

NIV

- (b) You witness for Christ by preaching the gospel to anyone who cares to listen.

*Mark 16:15-20*

*15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." 19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. 20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

NIV

3. You need to give willingly, cheerfully and generously for the progress of the work of God you cannot be stingy to God and expect God to prosper you. The gospel prospers through the gifts of God's children who see themselves as stewards of God's blessings. Make investment into the kingdom. Support your pastor to carry out the work of the ministry with your money. Support any other ministry that is a blessing to you or others with your money. Support missions. Give and give, and never stop giving.

*Matt 6:19-21*

*19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

NIV

Support Church programs and projects. Give to those in need within the church. As you do this, God will continue to bless you and your wealth will continue to increase; and your reward in heaven will be great.

### **SEEK HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Seek to understand and practice the righteousness of God, which is the way, and life of the kingdom.

One enters into the kingdom by covenant. The covenant is entered into by giving one's life to Christ. It is therefore necessary that one abides by the principles of the covenant. The key word here is OBEDIENCE. As a covenant child, you have to obey the word of God. You don't rationalize the word of God. You don't choose the one to obey, you obey everything. You tremble at the word of God, you store the word of God in your heart, and allow it to mould and control your life.

*Deut 13:4*

*4 It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.*

NIV

*Deut 28:1-2*

*28:1 If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:*

*NIV*

*1 Sam 15:22-23*

*22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."*

*NIV*

Read also Prov. 4:20-23; Col. 3:16-17

Your whole life must be rooted in the word of God your spiritual, social, marital, academic, financial, business and material life should be based on the word of God. You must make sure that no aspect of your life contradicts the word of God. If it does, then you are not following the righteousness of the kingdom.

Remember, it is only when you are an active member of the kingdom of God, a promoter of the kingdom and a practitioner of the principles and commandments of God, that success, wealth and every other thing you need, will be added unto you. Start practicing this now, and you will experience the manifestation of the promises of God.

Seek the kingdom, and prosperity will pursue you. Don't reverse it by pursuing money and forgetting the kingdom. If you do, you will not prosper.

When you come to God, you follow the principles of his kingdom, or you will never receive or experience what he promises you in the kingdom. Drop your ideas and beliefs. Take God's revealed word and apply it. And you will prosper.

*Prov 23:4-5*

*4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. 5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.*

*NIV*

*(To be concluded in the next edition)*

## SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. If you don't know how to control your thoughts in the midst of frustrations and disappointments, your hands will be full of trouble.**
- 2. The wise are they who listen to advice and accept correction and rebuke meekly. Can you consider yourself to be wise?**

3. **Thoughts fire you on and open you up to all kinds of spirits and experiences. Watch your thoughts closely.**
4. **Remaining as you are year after year is self-deceit and counterproductive. Resisting rebuke, correction and change is resisting God and progress.**
5. **Before a blessing reaches your hand, there is always a fight. Watch out and do not lose this fight so you do not miss the blessing.**
6. **Change is a function of a firm resolve and determination to become better. Anyone who opens up himself or herself for, and cries out for change, will experience change. The desire of God is to see you become better. Agree with and cooperate with God on this, and your life will radiate the glory of God.**
7. **Breakthrough is a function of grace on the part of God, faithfulness, commitment, seed sowing and sacrifice on the part of the seeker. Learn what to do to get a breakthrough and do it with all your heart and diligence and you will have what you seek.**
8. **God sees your thoughts and watches you all the time. Everything about you counts before God. Never think or say it doesn't matter. What you say and do can hinder your breakthrough and prosperity that you so desire.**
9. **Before God the true state of a man is revealed. God cannot be deceived or mocked. It takes sincerity to please God and walk with Him. Can you say of yourself that you are sincere with God?**

## **WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION**

1. **Treat people right for you don't know tomorrow.**
2. **Nobody is ever as they first appear.**
3. **Reward those who help you succeed.**
4. **Each relationship nurtures strength or a weakness within you.**
5. **Your family is your first and most important school of relationship. Learn from your experience in your family.**
6. **Your friends contribute to the formation of your character.**
7. **Friends are influence - Positive or negative.**
8. **Have the sense to move with sensible people.**
9. **"Bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33).**
10. **"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Prov. 13:20).**
11. **"The lips of the wise spread knowledge not to the hearts of fools" (Prov. 15:7).**

## RENEWING THE MIND

1. Holiness is possible if you will think holy thoughts.
2. Those who live according to the sinful nature do so because they set their minds (think thoughts) on what that nature desires. (Rom. 8:5) Those who live in the spirit do so because they set their minds on the things that gratify the Holy Spirit.
3. You are unholy and sinful because you entertain unholy and sinful thoughts.
4. You are what you are by what you think.
5. You are filled with bitterness because you think angry and bitter thoughts.
6. Happiness, joy, sorrow, pain and sadness are moods inspired and created by your thoughts
8. Your habits and character are all reflections of your thoughts.
9. Your life is a reflection of your thoughts.
10. Think right to live right. Think holy to be holy. Think love to be a lover. Think mercy to be merciful. Think positive to live a positive life. You are what you think.