

2018 Part 1: "How Big Do We Want to Live!"

Started 2017 with "Burst of Blessings!" "Honor the Lord with your substance and with the firstfruits of all your increase and your barns will be filled with plenty and your presses will burst out with new wine!" **Proverbs 3.9,10** "Honor the Lord!" *An intentional act!* With your substance! *Pause to assess!* And the "firstfruits!" *The tithe!* **Mal 3.10** So that *your* barns are filled! **Lk 12** And *your* production overflows! *By mid year, God released unexpected "bursts" < \$1.2 into our hands!* It was a "muscling up" financial year!

Continued with: Putting the Pieces in place! Intentional steps to give Jesus what He wanted from us! Then we began altering our worldview to align with God and His word! And we finished the year by looking at the Tree of Life... So that we could become trees of righteousness planted by rivers of living water to bear fruit in our season and remain vital at all times! We were disciplined by His values! None more basic than His "living to give!"

Living to Give... Fulfills the will of the Father... **Rom 8.29** Keeps His name out in front of our loved ones and the world... **Acts 3.16** Puts us in a profoundly right order with others... **Eph 4.16 1Cor 12.12,25,27** Is the fulfillment of doing substantial good, with spiritual overtones and impartations... **Acts 3.8, 4.32ff** And the person who is a true giver is set to win; will 'spend and be spent,' loved, or not, to the end!
2Cor12.15 Phil 2.5ff

Step one: Realize that God has "bigger" plans for our prosperity than we can imagine!

Steps to get there... Realizing that God wants us to be like Him, as dear children! **Ephesians 5.1** "He has given us great and precious promises to become partakers of His divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world!" **2Pet 1.4** "To as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become the sons of God!" **John 1.12** "Be imitators of your Father in heaven; equitable to the evil and good, the just and unjust... being perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect!" **Mt 5.45,48** "Rich in good works, good at imparting, willing and generous, laying up in store a good foundation for the coming times..." **1Tim 6.28,29** "Making friends with our substance; making way for others to receive us when we get to heaven!" **Luke 16.9**

"He has given us great and precious promises to become partakers of His divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world!" **2Pet 1.4** "The love of money is the root of all evil which some coveting after have erred from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows!" **1Tim 6.10** "You cannot serve God and mammon for you will love one and despise the other!" **Luke 16.13** "It is hard for those who trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of heaven!" **Mark 10.24** "He is a fool who lays up treasure for himself but is not rich towards God!" **Luke 12.21** "Love not the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in Him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life is not of the Father but of the world! The world and its lusts pass but he that does the will of God lives forever!" **1J2.15-17**

Matthew 6.24-34 "No one can serve two masters. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you take no anxious thoughts for your life, what you're going to eat or wear. All those things the people of the world seek after and your Father knows what you have need of, but you seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you... so don't be anxious about tomorrow, tomorrow will take care of itself!"

Step two: Realize that God has prescribed pathways for us to walk to prosperity that supplies... and overflows!

Steps to get there... Realizing that God isn't obligated to prosper us outside His prescribed ways! The RYR had the freedom to walk away from the offer of God! "If you want to be perfect... if you want treasure in heaven... if you want to come with Me... but he went away grieved..." **Mark 10.21,22** The rich fool had his rights to store up! **Luke 12.16ff** The prodigal had the right to squander his inheritance/substance! **Luke 15.11ff** The rich man had the right to withhold his goods! **Luke 16.19ff** Steps to get there...

His prescription for supply is the tithe! "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse and prove Me now with it... see if I will not open to you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessings that you will not have room enough to contain. I will rebuke the devourer who steals what you plant, your fruit will come to full harvest and all nations will call you blessed for your bounty will be attractive in their eyes..." **Malachi 3.10-12** It was brought into the New Testament lifestyle by Jesus! **Matt 23.23** The first tenth of our incomes is "holy unto the Lord!" **Lev 27.30-32** It is devoted to Him and cursed for human consumption! (**qodesh/cherem**) Withholding the tithe is to rob God and strangle the source for our own financial provision! **Mal 3.8,9,11**

We are not going to trust God with our fortunes or our futures or our future fortunes if we can't trust Him with 10%!

We will not have a future w/a fortune that matters if we can't trust Him with 10%!

"Fear not little flock it is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom!" **Luke 12.32** **Matthew 25.34-40** "He that is faithful in what is least is faithful in much..." **Luke 16.10** **Matt 25.21**

Step three: Realize that prosperity here is for futurity... not your best life now!

Steps to get there... Realizing that prosperity isn't to have more now, but later! With the fall of man we entered a subterranean existence! The glory departed! Paradise was lost! Enterprise was broken! And though Jesus has redeemed us from that curse of sin and death... Life here will never be more than a shadow of God's creative plan! But with everything we have and all that we are, we can build on our foundation!

It's so we can "live to give, to save, to store up true treasure!" **1Cor 3.10ff** We need to "realize:" "Godliness with contentment is great gain!" **1Tim 6.6** That doesn't mean you're "stuck!" It means you are opening yourself for God's "addition!" **Mt 6.33** **1Kings 3.11ff** The perfect posture for prospering faith: "Give me neither poverty nor riches; lest I be full and deny You or be poor and steal and take Your name in vain!" **Prov 30.7-9**