

JOHN
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PRINCIPLES OF INCREASE

RECESSION-
PROOF
PROSPERITY

Recession-Proof Prosperity

by
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Tulsa, Oklahoma

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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Recession-Proof Prosperity

Improper Attitudes Toward Money Can Harm You

When talking about money or any other topic in Scripture, it is important to maintain a balance. The first thing I want to show you is the proper balance on this controversial topic.

Money *does* have the potential to harm you if you don't control it according to God's specific instructions. It can harm you if you use it for dark and sinful purposes. It can harm you if you use it to buy destructive substances (drugs or narcotics). It can hurt you and others if you use it to fulfill the lusts of the flesh instead of the will of the Spirit.

In Matthew 19 Jesus told the rich young ruler to sell all he had and follow Him. When the young ruler could not give up his wealth, he proved he was not in control of his riches. Instead, his riches controlled him. Don't think for a moment that his money did not hurt him. It literally cost him his soul!

Money has the potential to harm you if you cannot control it in accordance with God's will for your life. You are in danger when it begins to rule you, instead *of your ruling it*.

The love of money caused Judas Iscariot to

betray Jesus. For just thirty pieces of silver, he handed Jesus over to be crucified, and lost his own soul.

Begin to view money as any other tool you have available for your use. How you use that tool will determine whether or not it does harm or good. Gasoline, electricity, guns, cars, explosives, nuclear power, airplanes, money—all of these tools can improve the quality of man's life. However, all of them can cause severe harm when misused or out of control. Their blessing or harm to your life is determined by whether or not they are operated under your control.

Money can do many good things, but when it is not controlled by the Spirit of God in us, it can literally destroy us. So don't be so naive as to think money won't hurt you. It is capable of doing eternal damage if you let it control you.

Money Doesn't Guarantee Happiness

Money itself *never* guarantees happiness. If money guaranteed happiness, all the rich folks would be marvelously happy, and all the poor folks would be miserably sad. We know this is not the case. Rich people commit suicide. Rich people visit psychologists to treat their depression. Rich people deal with unhappy issues such as divorce, alcoholism, drug addiction, and even financial problems. Many rich people spend the early part of their lives in

misery, trying to accumulate their fortunes. Then they spend the latter part of their lives in misery trying to hold on to the fortunes they have accumulated.

Money simply does not guarantee happiness. True happiness and lasting peace come through a proper relationship with Jesus.

For the kingdom of God *is not meat and drink*; but righteousness, and peace, and joy *in the Holy Ghost*.

For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Romans 14:17-19

When your relationship with God is right, your money will not cause you problems and unhappiness. Instead it will be a blessing and a source of happiness for you and others around you.

The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and *he addeth no sorrow with it*.

Proverbs 10:22

God will not harm you when He multiplies money back to you. When you have the right heart and spirit in giving your money to Him, God will grant you riches. Although your God-given wealth

will not guarantee your happiness, God does promise the riches He gives you will not bring you sorrow. You see, righteousness, peace, and joy are found in God, not money.

The God-Given Laws of Poverty and Prosperity

God has created spiritual laws that determine who has wealth, and who will remain poor. The laws of poverty and the laws of prosperity were created by the same God who created the law of gravity. *All* of His laws work every time.

An apple will always fall to the ground. That's God's law of gravity.

A person will become rich or poor by following God's laws.

One *law of poverty* says if you are lazy, or if you don't understand your task, your fields will not bring forth abundance. They will grow thorns and nettles. (Nettles are a symbol of the unproductive yield that causes insufficiency.)

I went by the field of the *slothful*, and by the vineyard of the man *void of understanding*;

And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was

broken down.

Proverbs 24:30,31

One *law of prosperity* says if you are not lazy and can work without supervision, you will receive a bountiful supply.

**Go to the ant, thou sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise:**

Which *having no guide, overseer, or ruler,*

**Provideth her meat in the summer,
and gathereth her food in the harvest.**

Proverbs 6:6-8

You may be saying, "Brother John, I resent the implication that I'm lazy. I'm not, but I am always without the abundance I need."

Please understand that I have touched on only two factors in a poverty mentality, laziness and the lack of understanding. There are many other laws. Just continue to study, and you will experience a gradual transformation of your thoughts into a prosperity mentality.

Do as the Bereans did in the first century: they received the gospel readily, and searched the Scripture daily to see if it was true (Acts 17:10,11).

God's Law of Reward

Think about the word *reward*. God's spiritual law

of reward simply states:

**... for the laborer is worthy of his hire
[reward]....**

Luke 10:7

Your employer is not doing you any special favor by giving you a paycheck. Whatever your vocation, your wages are yours scripturally, morally, and legally. You have earned them. They are not a gift.

When you work hard, God's law demands that you receive your reward.

**He that tilleth [works hard] his land
shall have plenty of bread....**

Proverbs 28:19

If you are working hard, expect to receive your just reward.

Now the other side of this law of reward is that if you don't work, you get no reward. God's Word is emphatic about it.

**But if any provide not for his own,
and specially for those of his own house,
he hath denied the faith, and is worse
than an infidel.**

1 Timothy 5:8

**. . . if any would not work, neither
should he eat.**

2 Thessalonians 3:10

Plant this law firmly in your mind. Like all of God's spiritual laws, it is an absolute! Those who till the land will have plenty of bread. If your hard work is not bringing plenty of bread into your life, then some spiritual law of poverty is working to stop God's desire for you.

Day by day, as you examine the different spiritual laws for prosperity, you will begin to understand it is His perfect will that you have more than enough.

Remember:

The laborer is worthy of his hire (Luke 10:7).

If you work hard, you will have plenty of bread (Proverbs 28:19).

Any person who won't provide for his own family is worse than an infidel [non-believer] (1 Timothy 5:8).

The Bible says if you won't work, you shouldn't eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Reaping in Recession

Recession, inflation, and economic hard times have been with mankind almost since the beginning of time. They are not new problems. The biblical answers to these conditions first appear early in the Book of Genesis.

And there was a famine in the land,

beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham....

Genesis 26:1

God gave Isaac specific instructions to follow in order to prosper during those economic hard times.

1. Stay faithful to God's commands.

Don't let circumstances ruin your good, Christian habits. Many saints become inconsistent in times of economic pressure. Fluctuation from your Christian principles will only weaken you further. The Lord blessed Isaac because of obedience (Isaiah 1:19).

2. Don't follow the world's philosophy.

Because of the famine, everyone was leaving to go to Egypt, but the Lord had a different program for Isaac:

... Go not down into Egypt...

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee....

Genesis 26:2,3

Move to a new city or state only upon God's command, not because of a rumor that there is prosperity there. Remember that God can bless you in any location.

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and

blessed shalt thou be in the field.

Deuteronomy 28:3

3. Sow generously during the famine.

Isaac went forth under the Lord's instructions, and he "... **sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him**" (Genesis 26:12).

God intended for Isaac to conquer the famine and gave him the prosperity principles to emerge victorious from it. These same biblical principles apply for you today. Begin to use them now in your own life.

Remember:

Stay faithful to God's commands.

Don't follow the world's philosophy.

Sow generously during the famine.

The World's Ways Are Not God's Ways

If you want to prosper according to biblical principles, you must forget most of the world's ideas about prosperity. When everyone around Isaac was heading for Egypt, God told him to stay put, ignore the world's answer to the famine problem, and sow in the midst of the famine. The world's answer was to flee. The Word's answer was to stay and sow.

Scripture tells us how the world's way is different

from God's way when dealing with economic matters.

He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

Ecclesiastes 11:4

The people who were fleeing to Egypt were looking too closely at their unpleasant circumstances. They observed the winds of hard times. They regarded the clouds of gloom and doom. So they uprooted their families, and headed straight for Egypt. After all, everybody was doing it. However, *it was sowing*, not fleeing, that delivered Isaac from his circumstances. The seeds he sowed delivered him. God told Isaac to stay and sow in the midst of a famine. Isaac obeyed, and God produced a harvest.

Don't listen to the world's answers, even when the winds of hard times hit your family. Instead, seek the voice of God. The world says to hoard all you can in the midst of a famine. God says to plant seed and expect to reap a harvest.

Remember:

Hard times are the wrong times to stop giving to God.

If You Want More Money

Right now you may find yourself in a situation

similar to Isaac's. You may be in the midst of your own economic famine. So what do you do now?

If you desire more money in the midst of an economic famine, you must begin to sow more money seed, so it can produce a greater money harvest. Without the sowing of seed, there can be no harvest. Simply stated, if you want to prosper in hard times, you must start giving more to God so that He can release more finances to you.

... He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

Everyone goes through difficult economic situations from time to time, but don't stop giving to God when things get tight. Remember that Isaac planted good, valuable seed in a time when everyone else was hoarding seed. Isaac's seed grew up, even in the midst of a famine, because he planted in accordance with God's command.

If you want more money in your hands each month, plant more money seed into the gospel each month. When a child of God plants money seed, he has God's Word that a money harvest will come up, even in the midst of the worst economic famine.

Give Away What You Lack

When you find yourself in the midst of an

economic famine, remember this important warning. *Do not eat too much of the seed.* Some of the seed is for you to eat, but some of it is for you to plant.

Look how God rewarded the widow at Zarephath for her willingness to obey God and follow His principles of biblical economics (1 Kings 17:8-16). This poor widow had only enough for one final meal. When the prophet Elijah came and asked her for something to eat, she replied:

. . . I have not a cake, but [only] an handful of meal in a barrel ... and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress [prepare] it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

1 Kings 17:12

She was down to her last meal, but Elijah exhorted her to share her last cake. He promised her that if she obeyed:

... The barrel of meal shall not waste [be used up] ... until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

1 Kings 17:14

The turning point was when the woman actually gave the last of her precious food away. The world would have told her it was sensible to hoard her small bit of remaining meal, to use what little she had for herself and her son. However, God works by different

principles. This lady was exhorted to share her meal with God's minister, and let God provide the harvest. She planted seed in the darkest part of the famine, because Elijah convinced her that if she planted, she would reap a bountiful harvest.

So the poor widow obeyed and met the need of the man of God. As a result of her willingness to plant seeds, and her refusal to observe the winds and clouds of famine, God miraculously met her need.

... the barrel of meal wasted not [was not used up] ... according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah.

1 Kings 17:16

Remember:

When you help meet the needs of others, God will meet your needs.

Plant in Good Ground

Simply sowing seed is not enough to produce a harvest; you must be careful where you sow. If you throw your seed onto a concrete slab, you will not reap a harvest.

And other [seed] fell on good ground, and did yield fruit... and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an

hundred.

Mark 4:8

One key principle of biblical economics is that you must always sow your seed in good ground. The best and most fertile soil is the ground consecrated and dedicated to producing a harvest for the Kingdom of God.

Don't let tradition sway you away from the best ground in which to plant your seed. When times are financially difficult, you can reap your most abundant harvest by planting your precious seed into God's work.

Carefully select the ministries in which you will invest. Choose Christ-honoring, soul-winning, Word-centered ministries that properly manage the money they receive. Plant your precious seed in good ground, and God will return an abundant harvest to you.

The Value of Your Seed

Your economic circumstances determine the value of your seed. It is the most precious when it is scarce.

When the money seed you wish to put into God's work is scarce, let your faith grow by what God says about it:

He that goeth forth and weepeth,

bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126:6

That verse should give you comfort and boldness to give to God's work, even in tight financial times. God absolutely guarantees that precious seed will produce a return; His Word says the one who sows it "**... shall doubtless come again with rejoicing.**"

The Book of Luke tells of a poor widow who gave out of her want. Her seed was precious to her. It was all she had to live on.

... but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

Luke 21:4

Jesus not only saw what she gave. He also saw what she had left. He knew her measure was greater than that of any rich man in the temple.

When it is precious, your seed has a guarantee of success and harvest. God knows how much you give, and how much of the precious seed you have left after you give. So when your finances get low, don't stop giving.

Nothing Is *Luck* With God

The principles God established in His Word to

guide you are absolute. They are not subject to luck. The widow at Zarephath gave from her scarce food supply, and she received her food supply back from God, multiplied.

This return was not luck. It was the result of a direct application of God's law of increase. The widow *gave* her precious meal, and God *returned* to her an abundance of meal. He fulfilled the divine principle found in His Word.

**Give, and it shall be given unto you...
For with the same measure that ye mete
withal [give] it shall be measured to you
again.**

Luke 6:38

The widow did not run into a streak of good luck. She obeyed God and gave from her precious seed. God *honored His Word* by bestowing His abundant blessings upon her. God, seeing her meager resources, realized that she had given generously. He knew it was her last cake, all that stood between her and starvation. God's Word says that in return she received an unending supply of food.

This widow actually set in motion the principles of God in the midst of her situation. She literally left the realm of chance and committed her future well-being to God's promises, instead of depending on the whims of economic circumstances.

When you give, know that you are not subject to

luck. Instead, you are anchoring your future to God's superior principles of biblical economics. The Heavenly Father will honor your faith. Scripture shows that when we measure out our best to God, He measures out His best to us.

How to Start Reaping Now

If you want to start reaping financial blessings in your life right now, you must follow the principles God has given in Scripture.

Isaac sowed his seed in famine, when everyone around him was hoarding their seed and fleeing to Egypt.

The widow at Zarephath fed the man of God from her last bit of meal. She gave him a cake scraped up from the bottom of the barrel.

The widow at the temple gave all the living she had.

In all three cases, the people were desperate. They began to reap when they followed three basic principles:

1. They started right where they were at the point of their need.
2. They planted precious seeds, despite their circumstances. Each refused to observe the winds and clouds of gloom and doom.
3. They planted out of their need. They gave

their precious seeds in extremely hard times, and all three received God's abundant blessing in their lives in the midst of hard times.

The same spiritual principles which allowed Isaac and the two widows to start reaping, will work for you too. If you want to begin reaping God's blessings, start sowing your precious seed into the gospel, and it will return to you, multiplied.

They that sow in tears [hard times] shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed [the last seed from the bottom of the barrel], shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126:5,6

Notice God's promise to you. Sow precious seed into the Kingdom of God, and *you shall doubtless* rejoice when you receive the harvest from your seed-sowing. This is not a matter of luck. It is a matter of obedience.

When you are obedient to God's Word, God will honor His Word and will fulfill His promises. It is a matter of law—God's law.

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