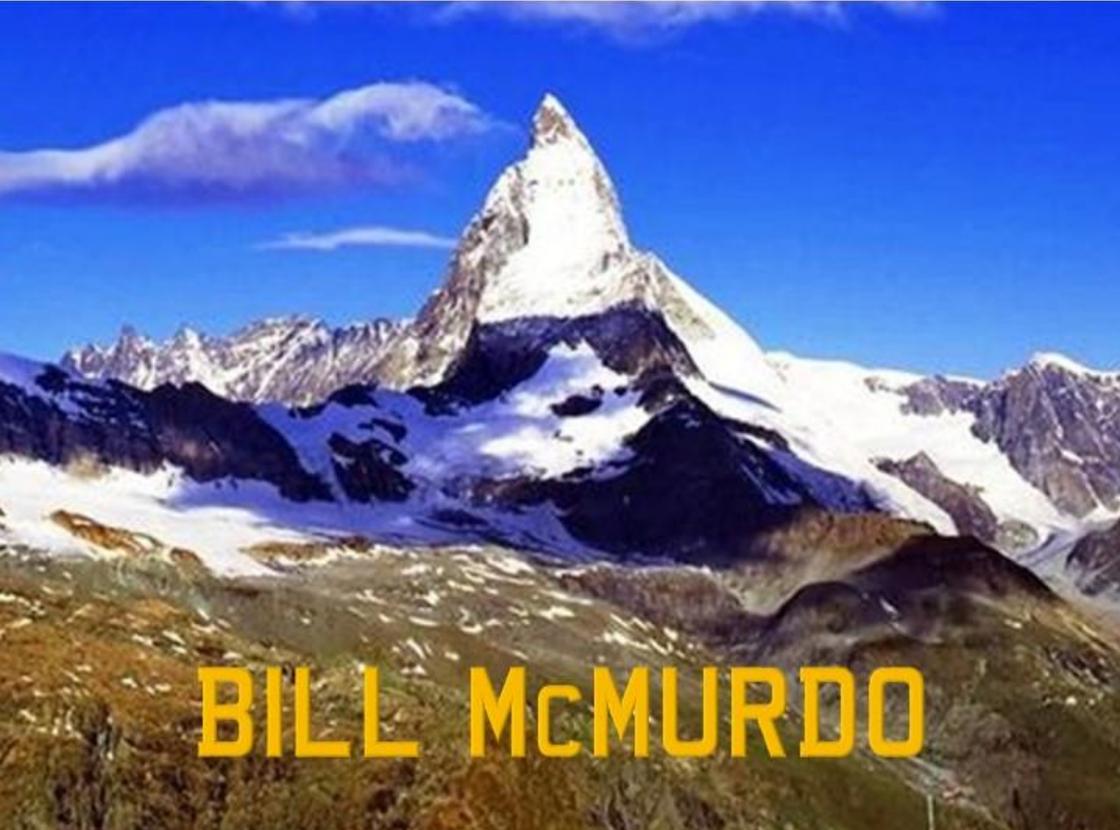


THE HIGH CALLING OF WEALTH

A biblical response to critics of prosperity



BILL McMURDO



THE HIGH CALLING OF WEALTH

A biblical response to critics of prosperity

BILL McMURDO



WEALTH IS FOR THE HOLY

There are a lot of people who love to belittle the message of prosperity. In one sense, I do not have much of an issue with this because of two things:

Firstly, God has told me very specifically that I am not a prosperity teacher but an abundance teacher. "What's the difference?" you might ask. Well, there is a big difference but for me it is enough that the Lord made an issue of it.

The second thing is that the prosperity gospel is flawed. It has been skewed and twisted into a means whereby preachers can get money from folks. Yes, that is strong stuff but it is still true. Sadly, some ministries still preach a prosperity gospel based on giving being the foundation of one's wealth. These ministries teach this stuff sincerely in that they believe they are right. Either way, whether by an understanding that the "Give big to get big" message is just a useful tool to get God's people to empty their pockets or by a sincere but deluded belief that this principle is scripturally valid, that message is erroneous.

Now, I cover this topic quite a bit in my teachings but I am still grieved that, although people rebel against the fleecing that is done – and that is what it is – they throw out the baby with the bath water, retreating to a mindset that tolerates poverty, mediocrity and failure.

The truth is, God DOES want His people to be rich; in fact, far richer than the walking ATMs that prosperity

preachers would have them be. And no, I don't mean by this some nebulous concept of "spiritual" riches.

God wants His people to know a level of wealth way beyond the accepted norm of millionaire or billionaire.

Now I am aware that at this point the super-spiritual folks and those bound by religiosity will be lighting their torches, sharpening their pitchforks and salivating over their latest heresy exposure.

But you need to read on because I am about to disclose something that should throw a large amount of water on the torches designed to burn me at the stake.

You see, here is the real truth about walking in abundance *as per the Word of God*:-

WEALTH GOD'S WAY IS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE WALKING CLOSE TO HIM.

You cannot escape it: Wealth is for the holy, friends.

Now I am not talking about legalism here. But the fact is, wealthy people scripturally only got that way by being in a very close relationship with the Lord.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had abundance, peace and prosperity UNTIL they messed up. Then the curse came and Adam and Eve knew a vastly inferior way of life where they had to work by the sweat of their brow.

I teach a lot about Abraham's Billionaire Blessing. Abraham was a billionaire in his day, with resources so great he had an urgent need for a massive tract of land

to contain them! The Bible says that Abram was very rich in gold, silver and livestock – the commodities identified as God’s. According to Galatians, Jesus died to get that billionaire blessing on the nations.

Now here is a question for you: Did Abraham become God’s covenant partner – with all the attendant blessings of wealth and riches – by being a spiritual dud or by being a devoted and fervent man of faith, albeit with faults?

Moving on, did David become a super-wealthy king by being a carnal, lecherous drunkard or by being a sold-out worshipper of YHWH?

Were the promises under Old Testament law of wealth, wellbeing and prosperity to those who obeyed the law or to those who ignored it and the God who gave it?

Was Joshua promised success and prosperous ways by watching soaps and reading pulp novels or by meditating the Word day and night?

Was Job the richest man in the East because he dwelt among the fleshpots or because he was so devout he made a covenant with his eyes to never look lustfully on a woman and impair his relationship with YHWH?

Is the power to get wealth spoken of in Deuteronomy 8:18 given to those who forget YHWH and boast they are self-made or to those who remember YHWH as God and give Him the glory?

Look at this passage and see the obvious correlation between being devout and being wealthy:-

Praise the LORD!

**Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who delights greatly in His commandments.
His offspring shall be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright shall be blessed.
Wealth and riches shall be in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.
PSALM 112:1-3 MEV**

You will note that blessedness is reserved for the man who fears God and delights in His Word. This blessedness includes wealth and riches!!

Prosperity – including economic and financial wellbeing – is a reward and result of obedience in the Old Testament.

Look at Isaiah chapter 60:-

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For the darkness shall cover the earth
and deep darkness the peoples;
but the Lord shall rise upon you,
and His glory shall be seen upon you.
The nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lift up your eyes all around, and see:
They all gather themselves together; they come to
you;
your sons shall come from afar,**

**and your daughters shall be carried at your side.
Then you shall see and be radiant,
and your heart shall thrill and rejoice
because the abundance of the sea shall be converted
to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
ISAIAH 60:1-5**

See how the wealth of the nations comes to the people AFTER the glory rises upon them! Now, here is the question I want to ask you, dear reader:

IS THE GLORY OF GOD RESERVED FOR CARNAL SAINTS WHO WOULD RATHER LIVE LOOSE AS A GOOSE OR FOR THOSE WHO ARE SOLD OUT TO THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM??

Take your time, now...

You see, those who knock the message of walking in abundance and end-time wealth transfer are not really walking on solid ground biblically when they say that such things are for the carnal, are they?

Of course, carnal people might want to walk in these things but they are reserved for the truly spiritual. In fact, you could say that real carnality is to reject what God's Word says on these matters. I mean what it *really* says, not what Dr Drydust and Sister Killjoy tell you the Bible says.

The unarguable TRUTH of scripture is that wealth and riches are part of the reward for walking close with the Lord, not for being loosey-goosey in our walk.

You cannot spend your time watching Eastenders, Coronation Street and filling your mind and heart with worldly junk, then roll up to get yours when the wealth of the nations starts coming in to the temple. It doesn't work like that.

As for those who shun this God-ordained wealth transfer, they are like the slothful servants who didn't want to trade their talents and multiply them in the Gospel parables. We all know the fate they suffered.

I see and hear people all the time complaining about situations in our world. Yet a lot of these grievous things could be greatly alleviated if those people would embrace the truth that God has called them to be conduits of wealth.

Why complain about a newspaper peddling lies if you could buy that newspaper and turn it into a Word of God vehicle?

Why moan about the bar at the end of your street where people go to get drunk and buy drugs when you could buy it and turn it into a Gospel centre?

Why lament about conditions when you could change them by investing or giving money?

But you need to walk in abundant supply to do that and that means being a faithful steward.

Which means being somebody God can trust. Which means being somebody who walks very closely with Him.

You see, the truly carnal thing to do is to reject God's purpose and stay in your own selfish bubble where it is just you and Jesus, not you being His flesh body in the earth and reaching out to those around you.

I often find that those who knock the abundance message are those who understand that the Lord is calling them to a deeper walk.

Remember the rich young ruler who thought he ticked all the boxes, being a fervent law-adhering man. But Jesus wanted to take him deeper and told him to sell all he had to give to the poor.

The purpose of wealth is others, friends.

Don't get me wrong, God is more than happy for you to have affluence. But wealth is for stewards, not hoarders or those who think that what they have is their own money, not God's.

The purpose of the abundance message is not to make you JR Ewing but to make you a Kingdom distributor of resources.

You know, a lot of opposition to this message comes from people who don't want to be distributors. They would prefer to hold on to the little they have and be responsible for that rather than multiply what they have as resourceful, competent stewards.

By taking the lofty position of "Money is not important" they think they are being spiritual. But they are really being revolting and fleshly.

Now, I have given Old Testament references which buttress my case that walking in superabundant supply is for holy, serious believers and now I will show you this from the New Testament:-

"Why take thought about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: They neither work, nor do they spin. Yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these. Therefore, if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is here and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore, take no thought, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" (For the Gentiles seek after all these things.) For your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be given to you.

MATTHEW 6:28-33 MEV

Jesus here teaches that supply comes from seeking first the Kingdom. However you interpret that, it is clearly not

something that a carnal, fleshly person is going to enjoy doing.

The above passage is part of a longer one where Jesus contrasts serving God and serving Mammon. It is interesting that Jesus likens serving Mammon to a fear-filled life, worrying about how we are going to eat, clothe ourselves and live.

So we could say that serving Mammon is the carnal life, while serving God is the life of faith and obedience. And, of course, the life where faith and obedience is rewarded by having “all these things added to you.”

Before we go any further in our study of the New Testament connection between godliness and prosperity, I have another question for you, dear reader:

IF YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO DR DRYDUST AND SISTER KILLJOY AND THEY TELL YOU THAT SATAN WANTS YOU RICH TO DESTROY YOU – WHY ISN'T HE THROWING MONEY AT YOU?

We know that whatever the enemy wants to cause us to stumble over, he makes sure we are inundated with it. So why isn't he engulfing you with money, then?

Use your brain; it is a God-given instrument!

Anyway, back to our study. Here is another example – in the NEW Testament – of obedience being a requirement for blessing:-

As the people pressed upon Him to hear the word of God, He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret and saw two boats beside the lake. But the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He entered one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to thrust it out a little from the land. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon answered Him, "Master, we have worked all night and have caught nothing. But at Your word I will let down the net."

When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was tearing. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

LUKE 5:1-10 MEV

You will note that they were having church out there by the lake. So Jesus has no problem with prosperity in church! Not just preaching about it but with demonstration.

After He taught the people, He told Simon to get out and start fishing. Now Simon was tired; they were winding

up for the day after a hard slog where they had zilch results.

Look at what Simon said: "Master, we have worked all night and have caught nothing. But AT YOUR WORD I will let down the net."

Simon OBEYED the Lord and the result was net-bulging, boat-sinking abundance!!

Question: Would Simon have experienced these results if he had not been obedient to the Word of the Master?

This stuff works, friends. As I have been writing this, my own business interests have been blessed. The Word of God makes you rich!! But you have to seek first the Kingdom i.e. you have to be walking with the Lord, not goofing off and playing in the world.

Look at Simon's response to this business breakthrough miracle that Jesus performed for him. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Financial breakthrough brought Peter to his knees in repentance. Abundance produced the fruit of repentance in his life and brought him closer to the Lord!!

Aye, this abundance message is for the carnal, eh?

Isn't it great when God's Word blows the lies of religiosity right out of the water?

Here is more:-

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

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9 MEV

The Apostle Paul here is telling the Corinthian saints that they know the grace. They are well-acquainted with the truth that Christ died, bearing our poverty, so that we can walk in His infinite wealth. Paul acknowledges that they abound in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in love (see verse 7) and tells them to "abound in this grace also."

By this he is talking about giving to supply the needs of other saints. He then reminds them of the truth of verse 9 – that Jesus died to make us rich. Paul wouldn't have gone down too well in the church of Dr Drydust!

He wouldn't have gone down too well in some prosperity churches either, if we are being honest. I mean, the audacity telling these folks that being rich was a matter of grace and not their giving. Doesn't Paul know that you have to give big to get big and that is how we get rich?

Is it not wonderful to read what the Word actually says rather than what men say, when it comes to money and riches?

I like it that my being rich is down to what Jesus did in becoming poor for me at the cross, rather than how much I give to "buy" the blessing promised by a

televangelist. I heard one preacher offer to pray for the anointing of Abraham on the first people that responded to his appeal. I laughed and said, Jesus beat you to it two thousand years ago and didn't take an offering for it.

Don't be fleeced by people who just want your money. And don't be robbed by people who tell you that you are not meant to have any money!

Let's see more from 2 Corinthians:

**And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:
2 CORINTHIANS 8:9 KJVER**

God is able to make all grace abound towards you so that you can just barely get by? No, so that you can have ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS and have so much you can ABOUND to EVERY good work.

Who is doing this? The devil? No, it is GOD!!

It is not the devil who has an interest in making you rich; it is Almighty God! And He has made it a covenant matter. Jesus became poor on the cross so that we could walk in His abundance.

Notice here that God also blows away the "Give big to get big" lie. God's GRACE makes us rich so that we give out of superabundance rather than give to get that superabundance. Again, read what the Word actually says, not some preacher after your "seed."

Now abundance is a grace issue and grace comes by the exercise of faith (Ephesians 2:8). Faith comes by the hearing of God's Word (Romans 10:17).

These are all matters for the spiritual man or woman. They are not for those who treat the things of God lightly. In other words, to walk in abundance you have to be someone who walks with God. You have to be devout, to use that old-fashioned word.

Carnality has no place in the business of walking in superabundant supply. Those who wish to get rich to further their own agenda or to be Mr Big stumble at the very first step because, while wealth is your covenant right and your inheritance, you will not manifest it by being flesh-minded.

You will have to stay close to the Lord because God requires you be a faithful steward and stewards do not do their own thing or have their own agendas. You are not accumulating wealth to be a bigshot but to be a Kingdom distributor.

Over and over, it is clear from studying God's Word that walking in abundance is only for those who set themselves apart to God and His Kingdom purpose. It is not that you are forbidden to enjoy wealth but that this is not your focus.

We are called to speak to kings as well as paupers and neither kings nor paupers will be impressed by us going to the lower level. Paupers are looking for ways out of

poverty and kings don't listen to poor folks so your being "poor for Jesus" is just stupidity.

Rich people listen to rich people, especially those who are wealthier than them. So do poor people. Your job is not to be rich so you can keep up with the Joneses or lord it over others; it is to demonstrate that God's Kingdom is at hand. That Kingdom has no poverty in it.

One of the most tragic things I have seen is people who scoff at the very notion of God wanting His people to be rich, yet they indulge in some shady stuff just to make some money.

It is just so much easier to let God flood your life with superabundant supply than to live by your wits and end up broke and bent out of shape. However, it takes sticking close to Him because wealth God's way comes out of relationship with Him.

So next time someone digs you up for your believing God to prosper you, just tell them this inescapable truth: Wealth is for spiritual people, not carnal unbelieving people.

Wealth is for the holy.

BLESSING OR CURSE

In the book of Deuteronomy, the principle was laid down very strongly and clearly that obedience to God and His Word would result in material blessings, while disobedience would bring a curse that included poverty, debt and hard times.

Now it will be, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I am commanding you today, then the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings will come on you and overtake you if you listen to the voice of the LORD your God.

You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the field. Your offspring will be blessed, and the produce of your ground, and the offspring of your livestock, the increase of your herd and the flocks of your sheep. Your basket and your kneading bowl will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

The LORD will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you set your hand to do, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He swore to you, if you will keep the

commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. ¹All people of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. The LORD will make you overflow in prosperity, in the offspring of your body, in the offspring of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

The LORD will open up 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 will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. The LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you will only be above and you will not be beneath, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today, to observe and to do them. Also, you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I am commanding you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

DEUTERONOMY 28:1-14 MEV

There is no mistaking what is being said here. God is promising superabundant prosperity in every realm of life – with the strict condition that the children of Israel “diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I am commanding you today.”

Now, of course our prospering today is not based on adherence to the law of Moses but it IS based on a close walk with God that includes obeying Him. It is just dumb to think that you can be carnal and loose with the things

of God, yet walk in blessing. Grace is not the ability to shun a relationship with God but to enable it.

The flip side of diligently obeying the voice of the LORD and being careful to do His commandments for ancient Israelites was the curse, If they failed to obey, they stepped into the curse part of the equation, which included excruciating poverty. Verses 15 to 63 of Deuteronomy 28 contain the very detailed punishments awaiting those who thought they could live fast and loose with the law.

Now we are not under the law of Moses but do we really think that we can walk in superabundant blessing if we are carnally minded?

Again, the point is that prosperity is for people devoted and dedicated to the Lord.

**Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!
There is no want to those who fear Him.
The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any
good thing.
PSALM 34:9.10 NKJV**

You will see that there is no lack TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. Can we imply from this that those who do not fear Him can suffer lack? Perhaps this explains why many are struggling with their finances.

Those who seek YHWH shall not lack any good thing. It sounds as if God likes the idea of prosperity! But it is for those who seek Him.

True biblical prosperity is conditional.

In the Old Testament, under the law, it required obedience to the law in order to walk in prosperity.

In the New Testament we are not bound by an external code of conduct but it stands to reason that we walk in abundance to the extent that we walk closely with the Lord.

One thing that should be pointed out is that the power to get wealth mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:18 was not part of the Sinaitic Covenant i.e. the Old Covenant made with Israel at Sinai. It was given to establish the Abrahamic Covenant made with the fathers – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Nonetheless, an Israelite under the law of the Old Covenant had to adhere to the law to receive its blessings.

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

ISAIAH1:19 MEV

You really have to be dumb to not notice that enjoying material blessings is reserved for those who are willing and obedient. To put it in a New Testament way, to those who are disciples.

In the New Covenant, we have been redeemed from the curse. But that doesn't mean we can't drift over into the land of curse if we wander away from the Lord.

Those who scoff at the abundance message try to smear those of us who embrace it by implying we are just being greedy and materialistic. But even a casual reading of scripture will demonstrate that it is impossible for shallow people to prosper God's way!

Equally, there is ample evidence in the Word to prove that blessing His people with material blessings is VERY important to God. It IS a big deal to Him.

Here is one very sobering piece of scripture which highlights just how extreme the demands of holiness are when it comes to wealth God's way:-

**“If my heart has been deceived by a woman,
or if I have laid wait at my neighbor's door,
then let my wife grind for another,
and let others bow down over her.
For this is a heinous crime;
yes, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.
For it is a fire that consumes to destruction
and would root out all my increase.”**
JOB 31:9-12 MEV

In this chapter, Job is speaking about the very high standards required to be a man who walks with God and stewards great wealth. He understands that sexual immorality is a destroyer of wealth. That includes just looking with lust (see verse 1).

Job knows that God requires purity and holiness from those He blesses with material riches. It is mandatory. This holiness is not just external; it is a heart matter. Job realises that even thinking or looking with lust is the catalyst for ruin.

You see, God sets high standards for those who will walk in Kingdom wealth.

Furthermore, He makes it very plain that failure to meet these standards can result in grinding poverty and destitution.

Make no mistake, there is blessing for the faithful and the curse is still there if any New Covenant child of God wants to mess with it.

PROSPERITY IS A HEART ISSUE

It is impossible to prosper in God without prospering in your soul first. By this I mean it is a heart issue. You have to prosper from within.

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

3 JOHN v2 NKJV

God wants us to prosper in ALL things. But it has to be as we prosper in our souls. It has to come out of the spirit and into our soul life.

Now we would all like the Lord to dollop big sums of money upon us. That is how we see prosperity. But money alone will not solve the problem. Money must come AS THE SOUL PROSPERS.

A prosperous soul can handle financial increase. A prosperous soul will not be ruined by foolish lusts for riches. A prosperous soul is one which understands the Kingdom and wealth's part to play in it. A prosperous soul is a safeguard against any childish desires to be Mr Big.

These are vital matters. Only a soul prospering in the Word and the Spirit can adequately handle them. You see this in the Authorised Version's translation of this verse:-

**Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.
3 JOHN v2 KJV**

There is a different emphasis here. This prioritises prosperity and good health, showing how important these things are to the Lord.

The important thing is that prosperity must come from within. This means that your walk with God is vital to your prosperity.

God is interested in your heart. Out of the heart flow the issues of life. When your heart is right with Him, then He can trust you with material riches and resources.

When God knows your heart will not be pulled away by riches, He gives you richly all things to enjoy!

1 Timothy 6:10 tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil. When you prosper in your soul, this inoculates you from the love of money and prevents the root of evil from getting a grip on you.

Prospering in your soul means that you develop a steward's perspective and approach to wealth. Wealth is not to make you a bigshot, lording it over others. It is to give you godly dominion in the earth and the ability to meet the needs of others.

You simply will not get this by carnal means.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

JOSHUA 1:8 NKJV

This was the instruction given to Joshua when he took over the leadership from Moses. It is still excellent advice today. It is still the key to success.

As you drench yourself in the Word, you will see success and prosperity attend your way.

It is still the case that dedication to God and His Word is a necessary requirement to walk in prosperity. This means serious time spent with the Lord. It is not for carnal folks. It is not for the double-minded or foolish.

Remember in that great message Jesus gave us concerning money and supply, He emphasised the importance of our eye being single (see Matthew 6:22-24).

You cannot be slack about these things. You cannot mix flesh and spirit. You cannot be carnal and prosper God's way.

Wealth is for the holy, dear reader.

Let no-one who engages in false humility and sanctimony rob you of this reward.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill McMurdo teaches on financial dominion and walking in abundance.

You can access more of Bill's teachings on:

www.financialdominion.net

UK Site: www.financialdominion.org.uk

Contact Bill on: financialdominionministries@gmail.com