

The Laws of Prosperity

Part I

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Scripture: 3 John 1:1-2

The Pastor, to my good friend Gaius: How truly I love you! We're the best of friends, and I pray for good fortune in everything you do, and for your good health—that your everyday affairs prosper, as well as your soul!~ The Message

1. John said, "I PRAY"

It means to literally speak out on behalf of someone. Some versions of Scripture use the word *wish*.

Understanding Prosperity

1. Not a Gospel that intends to make every person a millionaire but everyone can prosper in God
2. The Purpose of the Gospel
 - a. Salvation of the Soul – Matthew 16:26
 - b. The experience of a good and successful journey in all areas of one's living – 2 Peter 1:2-3
 - The laws of prosperity will not work for the lazy – Proverbs 6:6-11
 - The Lord can and will produce good outcomes for us – Psalm 34:19
3. Definition of Prosper
 - a. To lead in a good way; to succeed in one's endeavors
 - b. To advance, make progress, succeed, bring to a successful end or conclusion – Genesis 24:21 (*concerning Isaac's wife*)

Six Laws of Prosperity

1. Faith in God
2. Giving God First Place
3. Honoring God
4. Discover Your Purpose and God's Plan for You
5. Make the Best of Your Opportunities
6. Follow the Principles of Business According to Scripture

These are governing or guiding principles that will produce God's promises –
Jeremiah 29:11

They require work (*John 5:17, to engage in an activity involving considerable expenditure of effort*) and commitment - The Power of Commitment!

"Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way.

Faith in God

“Behold as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith,” Habakkuk 2:4

His soul is puffed up – ESV, full of self but soul empty – Message, Look the one whose desires are not upright will faint from exhaustion – NET

1. Defining Faith – Hebrews 11:1
 - a. That which underlies the apparent
 - b. What really exist under any appearance (*a sub-structure*) – Hebrews 11:3
 - c. The ground or proof of something
 - d. Faith – expecting God to do what He says and depending upon His Word to do what it says – Psalm 119:89 (*to be set, appointed, determined*); Psalm 119:105
2. The Foundation of Faith

Faith cannot be based upon speculation, what we think or the philosophy of man – Romans 10:17. The Word of God has integrity

 - a. Faith is the product of TRUTH – John 8:31-32
 - b. The Word will not lie – Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2
 - c. It has authority – Matthew 5:18
3. Living By Faith – Hebrews 10:38
 - a. We cannot please God with human weakness or in fleshly operations – Romans 14:23
 - b. Our faith makes us overcomers – 1 John 5:4 (*prevail or conquer*)
 - c. Faith is the substance that resist the devil – 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - d. Faith is the target of Satan – Luke 22:31-32