Part 4 Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

Day 38 All Sufficiency in All Things

**🡺Feel free to divide this chapter into two lessons.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. What are the warnings about money in the first paragraph that the author is assuming the reader understands?
2. What does true prosperity include? What is the focus of this chapter? What are the two extremes to be avoided in this discussion? Why is money such a difficult area for so many? In what ways is prosperity “relative”? How does our individual perspectives on life affect how we perceive “success”?
3. **The Lord is Our Provider**

* In what ways is God our Provider beyond finances?
* How does God as our Provider contrast with the description of Satan as a thief, destroyer, and murderer? In what false ways is God often accused of behaving like our enemy, and what does He actually want for us? Name some of the examples given in this section, and add others that come to mind.
* What does the author mean by, “God is not our nemesis!” Have you ever seen Him this way? What is His true desire for us and action toward us?
* What different ways might we view 2 Corinthians 8:9? How does this differ from the many negative ways God’s intentions for us are presented?

1. **Don’t Worry**

* Why do we not need to worry about food and clothing? How can the promise in Matthew 5:25-34 give us confidence when we pray?
* Read again the paragraph after the above-mentioned passage. Some have misinterpreted verse 33 because they fail to notice that Jesus was speaking before the cross. How are we who have sought and found the kingdom to interpret it?
* In what ways may we rest when we realize that we are righteous by means of a gift, and not by works?

1. **A Word about Tithing**

* Why are believers neither blessed nor cursed when it comes to tithing?
* Why does the curse spoken of in Malachi regarding tithes and offerings not apply to us?
* In what ways does knowing we are neither cursed or blessed because of tithing set us free to give?

1. **Grace Giving**

* What should characterize our giving as believers?
* How does God respond to this type of giving?
* Why do we give as believers under the New Covenant?

1. **An Abundance for Every Good Work**

* In God’s economy, what is true prosperity?
* Something to think about: We are taught in 2 Corinthians 9:6 that if we sow sparingly, we will also reap sparingly, and if we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully. How does this differ from the Old Covenant requirement to tithe which came with a blessing or curse?

1. **I Can Do All Things**

* In context, what is the actual meaning of, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,”?
* God has promised to provide, but it is a fact that sometimes life gives us an abundance and sometimes it doesn’t. This could be due to many factors, some of them out of our control. In what ways does Christ strengthen us during these times of plenty and times that are tight financially?
* How can we gain encouragement, not only through Paul’s example, but through Habakkuk’s words of praise?

1. **A Better Covenant with Better Promises**

* As New Covenant believers, we have a “better covenant based on better promises”. Carefully read Deuteronomy 28:2-14 which lists the blessings of obeying the law. How might these same blessings be “better” for us? Follow this pattern: “And all these blessings shall come upon me and overtake me, because I believe in Jesus.” Change the sections that refer to the blessings of the law to reflect the better promises that are yours by FAITH.
  + I will be superabundantly blessed when in the city, and I will be superabundantly blessed in the country because I trust in Jesus.
  + My children will be blessed exceedingly because of my faith in Him.

1. **We Are Not Under Law but Under Grace**

* Without negating the original meaning of the Psalms and Proverbs, how can we make them more relevant to us as those who live by grace through faith (the New Covenant way of life)?
* In Psalm 1, the Old Covenant believer prospers by means of obeying the law. We, on the other hand, prosper (in every way) by grace through faith. How does the sentence, “And whatever he does shall prosper,” impact you in the area of financial prosperity (employment, business, etc.)?

1. **Entitlement**

* The Christian life is expressed in generosity and care for each other. How does this NOT translate into ***expecting*** others to provide for us because they have more than we do?
* Paul, who had a right to expect that those to whom he ministered would provide for his needs, did not insist on it. Instead he worked night and day to provide for his needs and for those who labored with him. Why?
* Explain this concept, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”
* Discuss how we as believers might balance the above with the concept of Christian’s caring for each other in practical ways?

1. **Facts of Life**

* What is the harm we do when we over-spiritualize every success and set-back?
* What is God’s attitude toward us when we make unwise choices that negatively affect us? How can knowing His perspective help us during these times?
* Why shouldn’t we take the weather personally?
* How is it that Christians can actually prosper when the financial markets don’t seem favorable?
* How does having an image of God as someone who is working against us negatively affect our faith and prosperity?
* The author shares the ins and outs of God’s provision for her and her family while in Christian ministry. What zigzags has your life taken to get you where you are today; or, what hope do you have that God is leading you to where He wants you to be?

1. **I Will Never Leave You or Forsake You**

* While it is appropriate to deduct from Hebrews 13:5-6 that God will never leave us or forsake us in every situation we face, how does this passage speak to us about not needing to covet and not being afraid of what “man” will do to us?

1. **Financial Prayer of Praise**

* It might be that many of the concepts spoken of in this chapter contradict what you’ve been taught in the past. You might need time to rethink your position. As you pray the prayer given at the end of this chapter, if you come across something that you are not sure about, take the time to look up the reference.
* You might want to bookmark this chapter to pray this prayer of praise again.
* Share how certain parts impact you.
* Since faith comes from hearing good news, how can the good news in this chapter encourage our faith in the area of financial prosperity? How can knowing and believing these things help us avoid the mental ups and downs we face in life?