

THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

(Chapter Six)

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Chapter Six – How to Walk In Love

Most Believers long to experience the fullness of biblical prosperity in their lives. But, the reality is many of us don't enjoy anything close to that fullness. In fact, some of us are frustrated, even mad at God, because we have prayed and released our faith and rested on the Word but abundant prosperity has not manifested as expected. Why does this happen to so many of us?

In the previous chapter we discussed that walking in love is the fundamental requirement for the effective operation of the *Laws* of biblical prosperity. In fact we concluded that the Laws just won't work for us unless love is present. We based this assessment on the words that Jesus Himself spoke as quoted from Matthew 22:37-40:

(37) You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and foremost commandment. (39) The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

When Jesus declared with such authority that the whole Law depends on just two requirements, He was saying that in the process of their fulfillment you will necessarily be fulfilling the entire Law. This served to emphasize their importance and the fact that love is supposed to be the focus of life under the New Testament. Then to be sure we understood they were not just suggestions, He used and reiterated the word commandment to convey that our obedience is expected. Indeed, there are many verses in the New Testament that refer to the commandments of Jesus and exhort us to obey them (see the previous Chapter).

The other point brought out from these scriptures is that Jesus said all the Law and everything the Prophets have ever said depend on these two commandments. In other words, none of the Laws or principles in the Kingdom of God will function properly and fully unless they come through love. Certainly then we must conclude that this applies to the Laws of Prosperity.

We Routinely Disobey the Love Commandments

We submit for your consideration in this Chapter that most of us routinely disobey the *commandments* of Jesus, Pastors and clergy included. We're so busy with all those "important" things we're doing in the world, so pressed down by the related pressures and distractions, that we frequently don't give quality consideration to the things of God. Also, we've tended to view these particular scriptures as beyond our ability to accomplish and have allowed our flesh to convince us that we don't need to be concerned with requirements in the Word that seem "impossible" to keep.

But these commandments are very possible to keep or Jesus wouldn't have given them. He would never have set us up to fail by leaving commandments behind that we couldn't keep because He loves us too much. He did, after all give up His own life out of His profound love for the Church. Therefore, it is not God's fault if we aren't manifesting prosperity; and since it's very possibly our loveless lifestyle that's at fault, what we need to do is apply ourselves more diligently to the task of loving and being obedient to what Christ has commanded.

Some Common Examples in Life When Love is Missing

A good place to start is to come to grips with any areas in our lives where love is regularly missing. Instead of continuing to just ignore them, shouldn't we begin to focus our attention on

those areas so we can pursue correction with the Holy Spirit? Following are some of the main examples of loveless conduct that happen frequently in the lives of many Believers:

Failure to spend time daily with the Lord and His Word
Grumbling and complaining
Selfishness
Competitiveness
Impatience
Gossiping and slander
Pride
Anger and strife
Resentment and bitterness
Unforgiveness

The flesh wants us to put ourselves first in everything instead of trusting God. As a result we're easily drawn into the types of conduct you see listed. It's not possible to involve oneself in one or more of these areas and at the same time manifest love. But it is possible to choose to live life in the spirit, override the flesh and manifest love.

If you conclude that any of these areas have been blocking the manifestation of your biblical prosperity, you don't have to continue in the same way. If you are a Believer, God has given you power over your flesh and power over sin. You don't have to continue to walk in defeat. Jesus won prosperity for you at the Cross of Calvary and He wants you to have it.

How Can We Come to Love as We should?

To be sure, it doesn't say anywhere that it's easy to walk in the spirit and manifest love. The flesh will always contend against the spirit (Galatians 5:17), both your spirit and the Holy Spirit, and fight to maintain its territory. You have to want to change enough to make the effort, to engage the enemy your flesh in battle. But if you will sow your attention and effort, it is guaranteed that the harvest of prosperity will follow.

Here's a process you might consider to set things right and start on a new course for manifesting love instead of the flesh:

1. **Ask God for help** – The first step is to admit you are unable to obey the commandments of Christ in your own strength. Ask God to cause His Holy Spirit to help you and then purpose to open yourself to receive His ministry.
2. **Spend time with the Lord and His Word** – You will never be able to enjoy the fullness of biblical prosperity from a position of ignorance and/or disobedience of His Word. Accept that this is true and get busy increasing your knowledge.
3. **Release your faith based on the promises in the Word** – The Word of God says you can have what you ask for (Mark 11:23-24). Therefore, ask God for the ability to love Him and your fellow man and then believe that He will grant what you ask for.
4. **Confess your agreement with the Word** – Those same scriptures tell us that we can have whatever we say. Therefore, confess with your mouth what the Word of God says (that you have received what you asked for) and it will be granted to you.
5. **Rest in the belief that what you have requested is happening** – Then rest in the assurance and confidence that this promise from His Word has been given to you. Don't worry about it; just believe and receive it. At first, you may not feel more loving but the truth

is God will have already given you what you asked for. Wait in faith for what you believe and say to manifest.

6. **Practice being loving** – Don't miss a day telling God how much you love Him and how much you appreciate your prayers being answered. Forgive someone. Stop arguing with your spouse. Be nice to telemarketers. Stop being impatient in traffic. Stop speaking badly about other people, all other people. Give love offerings to those in need. The more seriously you practice loving the more quickly love will flow in your life. And after a season, your loving will cease to be a special effort; it will become automatic, a part of who you are.
7. **Be quick to repent to God when you mess up** – In the past you might have ignored the occasions when you weren't very loving. Now you will want to take notice of those occasions and ask God to forgive you for allowing your flesh to temporarily take over the controls.

If you will faithfully seek the Lord for the purpose of obeying His love commandments, it is certain you will find Him (Jeremiah 29:12-12) and it is certain you will be successful. He will bless you for trying; He will reward you for your faithfulness with increasing prosperity.

Conclusions

The Bible says that Believers are to be grounded in love (Ephesians 3:17). In other words, the very foundation of New Testament life is the love of God and for one another. That love is supposed to be sincere, without hypocrisy (Romans 12:9). We should abound in love (1 Thessalonians 3:12); we are to love fervently and with a pure heart (1 Peter 1:22). In fact, by our love others will know we belong to Christ (John 13:35).

Even our faith must work through love (Galatians 5:6) and we must live by faith (Romans 1:17) if we are to be pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6). Friends, love is the key to receiving the blessings and favor of God; and it is clear that ***to experience the manifestation of biblical prosperity, we must walk in love***. The commandments of Christ are for real life and each of us has been equipped to keep them by the power of faith and the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

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BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Six – How to Walk in Love

1. The two commandments of Christ are to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.
2. When Jesus declared that the whole Law depends on just two requirements, He was saying that in the process of their fulfillment you will necessarily be fulfilling the entire Law.
3. None of the Laws or principles in the Kingdom of God will function properly and fully unless they come through love.
4. We routinely disobey the Love Commandments and tend to view them as beyond our ability to accomplish.
5. Jesus would never have set us up to fail by leaving commandments behind that we aren't able to keep because He loves us too much.
6. It's not God's fault if we aren't manifesting prosperity and is more likely our own loveless lifestyle that's at fault.
7. Following are some common examples of life where love is regularly missing:
 - Failure to spend time daily with the Lord and His Word
 - Grumbling and complaining
 - Selfishness
 - Competitiveness
 - Impatience
 - Gossiping and slander
 - Pride
 - Anger and strife
 - Resentment and bitterness
 - Unforgiveness
8. It is possible to choose to live in the spirit, override the flesh and manifest love in order to overcome the kinds of conduct that violate the Love Commandments.
9. Following is a process to consider to start off on a new course for manifesting love instead of the flesh:
 - Ask God for help
 - Spend time with the Lord and His Word
 - Release your faith based on the promises in the Word
 - Confess your agreement with the Word
 - Rest in the belief that what you have requested is happening
 - Practice being loving
 - Be quick to repent to God when you mess up
10. The very foundation of New Testament life is supposed to be the love of God and the love for one another.