

THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

(Chapter Seven)

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Chapter Seven – The Role of Faith

As discussed in previous chapters, most Believers long to enjoy the fullness of biblical prosperity (nothing missing, nothing broken), but the reality is many of us aren't actually experiencing it. In fact, some of us are frustrated, even mad at God, because we've prayed and waited but the abundance of Christ (John 10:10) has failed to manifest as we had hoped. Our preachers and ministries tell us different things to try but prosperity continues to be elusive. In frustration, many of us conclude that prosperity must be reserved for the next life.

In truth though, God does want Believers to be prosperous in this life. In Christ Jesus the blessings of Abraham have come to the Gentiles (Galatians 3:14) which is to say that because Jesus became a curse on our behalf (Galatians 3:13), we have been delivered from the lack and insufficiency in this present life that the World is subject to. Since neither God nor His Word can lie (Numbers 23:19 and John 17:17 respectively), Christians must discover how to tap into the blessing and prosperity He wants us to have. And as we have discussed in previous articles, the door to that prosperity is His Word. All the *laws* of conduct that activate biblical prosperity are contained in the Word of God and it's up to us to find out what those *laws* are and put them to work. The bottom line here is this: the main reason prosperity is not abounding to Believers as it could be is because of our ignorance of the Word.

One of the key areas in the Word we certainly don't know enough about is faith even though Christians talk about it a lot. The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God and that He rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). It also says that whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). It says further that Believers must live by faith (Romans 1:17, Habakkuk 2:4) and that we should walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Therefore, it is apparent God doesn't do anything outside of an environment of faith. In other words, the laws of conduct in the Kingdom of God including the laws of biblical prosperity must work through faith. Biblical prosperity is for Believers who live by faith; He will reward those who seek Him in faith.

Understanding Faith

In our thinking we tend to limit faith to mere belief. But the King James Version of the Bible defines it as *the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen* (Hebrews 11:1). This is the rather poetic-sounding definition that many Christians can quote. But what does it really mean in simple modern English that we can fully understand? It certainly is more far reaching than just belief in something but do we really comprehend this scripture so that faith can be operating effectively in our lives as God intends?

The more modern English translation of the Greek word translated in the KJV as *substance* is the word *confidence*. Thus, faith is having the *confidence* or the *assurance* that what we are hoping for will actually come to pass. By faith we believe in God, we accept Jesus as Lord and we are *confident* that the result will be eternal life. By faith we believe that the Word of God is Truth and we are confident that the promises it contains will come to pass. In addition, this particular Greek word conveys a sense of *ownership*. So we can say that faith involves taking *ownership* over the things we are hoping for before we actually receive them. It is a knowing, a certainty, that God will bring to pass what we are hoping for.

The use of the word *evidence* in the second part of this passage is synonymous with the words *proof* or *conviction*. Therefore, the scripture says that our faith is itself the *proof* that what we are hoping for is already a reality even though it does not appear to be so to our physical senses. By faith we have the *conviction*, we are convinced, that what we are hoping for is reality before we actually receive it.

In short, the meaning of faith is the act of *trusting* in God. We trust in His Word, we trust in what He has promised, we trust that what He tells us will come to pass in the natural, we trust that He will only cause goodness and blessing to come into our lives, we trust that soon by our faith we will come to enjoy the fullness of biblical prosperity. The Word says so and we believe it is *already* true even though we can't see it or touch it. You are debt free even though you may have outstanding balances on your credit cards. You are healed even though your physical body is fighting and resisting symptoms of illness. By faith you stand in agreement with what the Word of God says even though what you see in the natural is in disagreement with it. Which of these is your reality today: what the Word says or what you see in the natural? Do you walk by faith or only by what you can see?

Faith also involves *acting* on what we believe. The Bible says to be a *doer* of the Word (James 1:22) and that faith without works is dead (James 2:17). Another way to say this is that your faith will not be effective, that is it won't function properly, unless there is corresponding action. Your faith is confirmed by what you do. If you believe that Jesus is Lord then you can't continue to live like you belong to the World. If the Word says you are prosperous then you can't continue to speak and act as though you are in poverty and lack. Faith requires "stepping out" and trusting through your actions and speech that God will provide as He has promised.

Although we tend not to think of it this way, faith is also a *force*. The truth is our faith overcomes the world (1 John 5:4); it is not a passive emotion or feeling. It is a power force! Faith can cause situations in your life to change. It can cause prosperity to manifest. It can change your body and your health. It is a spiritual force that can activate the power of God in your life sufficient to accomplish what seems impossible in the natural. Faith can overcome any trial or tribulation you are facing and make it seem unimportant. It can completely change your perspective about anything. Indeed, faith is a force to be reckoned with.

Nevertheless, as we have discussed in previous chapters, we must keep in mind that faith won't be able to do any of these great things unless it comes through love (1 Corinthians 13:2). We won't be able to overcome anything important without love. But faith *with* love and *with* works will inevitably produce biblical prosperity. You can be confident that this is true because the Word of God says so.

Conclusions

The Bible says to put your trust in God and His Word and you will be established and successful. (2 Chronicles 20:20). The person who trusts in the Lord will be blessed and live without fear or anxiety (Jeremiah 17:7-8). Your faith will justify you so you can live in peace with God (Romans 5:1) and in victory over the World (1 John 5:4). So we reach the following new *Law of Biblical Prosperity* for you to consider: ***In order to experience the manifestation of biblical prosperity, you must walk in faith.***

Walking in faith means to *live* by faith. Most of us go through the details of life and give little thought to the involvement of the Lord. But He wants to be involved in everything. He wants you to trust Him for everything. Therefore, Christians by and large need to give much greater attention to what faith really is and where it resides in their personal lives. We need to examine everything we do and where necessary redirect whatever is not going through faith. If it's not going through faith, it's not pleasing to God and the reward of biblical prosperity can't manifest.

In the next chapter we'll talk about how we obtain faith and make it grow. In short, it's a gift from God. But many of us need to learn more about the power our faith can release. We can't let our faith stop at salvation. God has much more for us to do, more for us to accomplish for the Kingdom of God that requires a strong and growing faith.

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BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Seven – The Role of Faith

1. We can be confident that God wants Believers to be prosperous in _____ life even though we may not be seeing it manifest as we had hoped.
2. We have a tendency to limit faith to _____ but the real meaning is much more profound which can be seen in Hebrews 11:1.
3. Faith is having the _____ that what we are hoping for will actually and certainly come to pass. It is a _____, a certainty, that God will bring to pass what we are hoping for.
4. The meaning of the Greek word for *confidence* in Hebrews 11:1 conveys a sense of _____. Therefore, faith involves _____ over the things we are hoping for before we actually receive them.
5. Faith also means that we are _____ by the evidence that what we are hoping for will come to manifest even though it doesn't seem possible to our _____.
6. In short, the meaning of faith is the act of _____ in God and in His _____.
7. Faith involves _____ on the Word by stepping out and trusting through our _____ and _____ that God will provide as He has promised.
8. Faith is not a _____ emotion or feeling; it is a _____ that overcomes the world. It is a spiritual force that can overcome any _____ and make it seem unimportant.
9. The Bible says to put your trust in God and His Word and you will be _____ and _____. It says that the person who trusts in the Lord will be blessed and live without _____.
10. If what we are doing in life is not going through _____, it is not pleasing to God and _____ is not able to manifest.

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Lesson Seven – The Role of Faith

1. We can be confident that God wants Believers to be prosperous in this life even though we may not be seeing it manifest as we had hoped.
2. We have a tendency to limit faith to mere belief but the real meaning is much more profound which can be seen in Hebrews 11:1.
3. Faith is having the confidence that what we are hoping for will actually and certainly come to pass. It is a knowing, a certainty, that God will bring to pass what we are hoping for.
4. The meaning of the Greek word for *confidence* in Hebrews 11:1 conveys a sense of ownership. Therefore, faith involves taking ownership over the things we are hoping for before we actually receive them.
5. Faith also means that we are convinced by the evidence that what we are hoping for will come to manifest even though it doesn't seem possible to our physical senses.
6. In short, the meaning of faith is the act of trusting in God and in His Word.
7. Faith involves acting on the Word by stepping out and trusting through our actions and speech that God will provide as He has promised.
8. Faith is not a passive emotion or feeling; it is a force that overcomes the world. It is a spiritual force that can overcome any trial and make it seem unimportant.
9. The Bible says to put your trust in God and His Word and you will be established and successful. It says that the person who trusts in the Lord will be blessed and live without fear or anxiety.
10. If what we are doing in life is not going through faith, it is not pleasing to God and biblical prosperity is not able to manifest.