

January 3, 2010

HOW TO PROMOTE PROSPERITY
LUKE 6:38

The Lord Jesus had a lot to say about money. Perhaps it was because money is important, touches every life, and is so liable to misuse. In fact, both Solomon and Jesus gave many warnings regarding wine, women, and wealth. Here the principle is that we cannot out give God. Naturally, all we have belongs to the Lord, but as we give it back to Him, He is always more generous in returning it to us again.

Every cheerful giver knows both the joy of giving to God, and the joy of receiving God's provisions. God entrusts more wealth to those who will properly dispense it.

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF LOVE IS TO GIVE.

- A. The commandment of Jesus Christ is to give, and to keep on giving. Leviticus 27:30 states, "All the tithe is the Lord's; it is holy unto the Lord." It is not my money; but God's!
- B. The consequences of giving are revealed in two ways.
 - 1. There is joy and satisfaction in giving as God has commanded us. He is honored and we receive blessings.
 - 2. There is judgment when we rob God. We live with the guilt of this sin, and we will not spiritually prosper or materially prosper as we could.

II. THE PROMISE OF THE LORD IS TO GAIN.

- A. The guarantee is to give, and it shall be given unto you. II Corinthians 9:6-7 states, "But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

This is the law of harvest, and it applies both physically and spiritually. When it comes to rewards in heaven and blessings received here on earth, the principle is that you get what you give. In your checking account or savings account, you get out what you put in. The same holds true with worship and church.

What are you giving back to God? Are you sowing bountifully or sparingly?

- B. The generosity of mankind is often God's avenue of blessing – "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom."

This metaphor is from measuring out grains in such a way as to ensure that full volume is given. The robe is pulled up high above the belt or sash forming a huge pocket that is generously filled.

We get back what we put into life through our money and our ministry. If you sow prayer, you reap blessings. If you sow love, you reap love. If you sow God's Word in lost souls, you will reap saved souls. If you sow money, you will be blessed financially.

- C. The greed of mankind withholds God's blessings. James 4:2-3 states, "You have not because you ask not, you ask and receive not because you ask amiss, that you may consume it on your lusts." In this context, Luke 6:38 could be understood to say, "You have not because you give not."

According to Malachi 3:8-10, some people can't make it financially because they are robbing God and are under the curse of this sin. They want their family to bail them out again and again. They want the church to bail them out over and over. I'm referring to those able to work and won't. Give God your soul, your life, and all that belongs to Him and then He will bless you.

If you rob God, He will allow you to be robbed (Haggai 1:6). If you give God what belongs to Him, you will be taken care of. In Genesis 22:15-18, Abraham gave God what He asked for.

Faith motivates giving to spread the gospel. Hope motivates giving because Jesus is coming. Love motivates giving because God commands it, and God deserves it.

Have you given your soul to God? How much of your life is God in control of? The part of your life that you let God control is the part He is Lord over.