

**Module** : Soul Prosperity

**Session 1** : Understanding Total Life Prosperity

**Focus** : Word Effects on Soul; OT & NT View of Prosperity



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**Note:** It is suggested that before you study this series, that you study the series, 'The Spiritual Man', as the present series continues directly on from that one.

### **THE WORD OF GOD IMPRESSED WITHIN THE SOUL RESTORES THE SOUL (Deut. 11:18)**

The soul of man incorporates the **mind** (thinking/understanding), the **will** (decisions/choices) and the **emotions** (feelings). The spirit also has a mind, will and emotions and is to lead the soul in each of these areas (refer to previous sessions where this was exhaustively illustrated from the Scriptures).

The desire of God for the soul (and the spirit and body) is that it be 'preserved complete and be without blame' (**1 Thess. 5:23**). This means it must be faultless and also retain all that was originally allotted to it, lacking nothing for its wholeness.

The soul is being progressively restored into wholeness and also into its proper placement and function within man in reference to it being influenced/led by the spirit of man, which is endowed with the Light (self-revelation) of God through the hearing of and obedience to the Word of God, which is preached by an authentic messenger of God (usually a spiritual father).

The soul is being restored from a position of death because of sin to a position where the Divine Life of God totally saturates it. The principle of 'divine life' is vested within the Word of God (**John 1:1-4; 5:24; 1 John 1:1; Phil 2:14; Prov. 4:20-23**). Thus we are instructed to incline our ears to hear the Word that the soul may LIVE. (**Isaiah 55:3**). We hear with our spirits and by the processing of accurate hearing our spirits are cleansed.

Life and revelation fill the spirit as the Word gains entrance into it. A Word-saturated spirit is full of light. This word must then be impressed upon the soul, which is then renewed into its original form and function. The soul would then obey the Word within the spirit. Obedience would result in the body, and the person would reap the blessing and reward of the Lord upon obedience.

Through active obedience, the soul is purified and renewed and the person becomes a partaker of the divine nature of God – and portrays the nature of God before men – showcasing His glory (1 Pet 1:22; 2 Pet. 1:3; Rom 12:1,2). This is when spirit, soul and body come into complete alignment and synchrony.

The process described above is an **ongoing one**, as we progressively through time, practically step into all that we have already attained positionally in God.

Without exposure to the Word of God, the soul has no hope of being restored or renewed. What the **SOUL** consistently needs to be fully and wholly restored, is the **WASHING of the Word of God**. Consider the following Scriptures below:

### **THE EFFECTS OF GOD'S WORD ON THE SOUL**

#### ❖ **God's Word Separates Spirit and Soul, Judges Thoughts and Intentions**

**Hebrews 4:12** For the **word of God is living and active and sharper** than any two- edged sword, and piercing as far as the division **of soul** and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Note here that God's Word is able to separate the spirit from the soul and the body (joints and marrow). There are five descriptors of the powerful effects of God's Word in this verse, viz., - Living - Active - Sharper - Piercing - Able to judge

The Word 'pressed' into one's spirit is 'impressed' upon the soul (Acts 18:5; Deut. 11:18). The light of God's Word illumines the spirit, which then casts this light upon the soul, unveiling areas that need repentance, adjustment or renovation. (Proverbs 20:27; Psalm 18:28). In this sense, God's Word divides the spirit and soul, making you aware of areas in the soul that need change and upgrade. The Word then also judges, appraises and weighs our thoughts and intentions in our spirit and soul.

#### ❖ **God's Word Restores the Soul**

**Psalm 19:7a** The **law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.** [NASB]

**Psalm 19:7a** The **law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.** [KJV]

The perfection of God's Word is its restorative quality in the soul. 'Perfect' ('tamiym') here means 'entire, integrity, without blemish, complete and full'.

**Psalm 23:3a** He **restores** my soul.

#### ❖ **God's Word Revives the soul with the Principle of LIFE**

**Psalm 119:25** My **soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me** according to **Your word.**

'Dust' symbolically indicates fleshly carnality. Left to itself, the unrenewed soul has a natural tendency toward fleshly pursuits and sinful indulgence. The soul that sins results in spiritual death (Ezekiel 18:20a: The soul that sinneth, it shall die). The principle of spiritual death in the soul can only be cancelled and overcome through the reviving effects of God's Word. To revive means to make alive again. The Word of God contains the life of God and is able to bring revival to your soul. The soul must HEAR the Word of God and LIVE – Isaiah 55:3.

Isaiah 55:3a **INCLINE your ear**, and come to me; **hear**, that your **soul may live**;

❖ God's Word Strengthens a Weak Soul Beset by Negative Emotions

Psalm 119:28 My **soul weeps because of grief**; **Strengthen me** according to **Your word**.

Grief is a negative soul emotion that can only be overcome by the strengthening of God's Word. The soul, which has the Word of God IMPRESSED upon it (Deut. 11:18), is able to overcome the negative consequences of emotional turmoil that we may sustain because of painful or difficult experiences. Grief, disappointment, hurt, betrayal, etc. can be quickly overcome if one's soul is saturated in the Word of God. What your soul needs is STRENGTH in these times – and this only comes through God's Word.

❖ God's Word Fills the Soul with Hope

Psalm 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my **soul does wait**, And in **His word do I hope**.

The soul is able to express hope in God. Hope is a mental attitude of expectation. This attitude is not unfounded, but significantly grounded in the truth or a promise of God's Word. Hope is part of faith (see Heb. 11:1). Where faith is present, so is hope. Faith is generated by the hearing of the Word of God. Hope without faith is not biblical hope. The patient waiting in earnest expectation for the realisation of God's performed will in your soul is validated and fueled by its anchorage in God's Word.

❖ God's Word Purifies the Soul

1 Pet 1:22a Since you have in **obedience to the truth purified your souls**.

A prosperous soul is an undefiled soul, purified through active OBEDIENCE to God's Word. Every obedient act on our part further heightens the purity of our soul. Each entrenched inward mentality of obedience and every successive outward act of obedience is a step closer or another opportunity for the ongoing purification of the soul. Purity of soul is a perpetual personal process fuelled by obedient attitudes and acts

God's Word Saves the Soul

James 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the **word implanted**, which is **able to save your souls**

Deliberate setting aside of filthiness (immorality) and any residue of wickedness, together with the reception of the WORD OF GOD in an internal posture of HUMILITY, SAVES the SOUL.

Summarising the verses above, we conclude the following: The Word God is able to ...

- ✓ **Separate** the soul from the spirit.
  - ✓ **Restore** the soul.
  - ✓ **Convert** the soul.
  - ✓ **Renew** the soul.
  - ✓ **Revive** the soul.
  - ✓ **Strengthen** the soul.
  - ✓ **Fill** the soul with **Hope**.
  - ✓ **Purify** the soul.
  - ✓ **Save** the soul.
  - ✓ **Fill** the soul with **Divine Life**.
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### UNDERSTANDING TOTAL PROSPERITY

#### 3 John 1:2-4

- 2 Beloved, I pray that in **all respects** you **may prosper** and be in **good health, just as your soul prospers**.
- 3 For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are **walking in truth**.
- 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children **walking in the truth**

NOTE emphasis of John on the following phrases in this passage:

‘Beloved’; ‘walk in truth’; ‘in all respects’; ‘you may prosper’; ‘be in good health’; ‘JUST AS your soul prospers’. Let us explore these briefly.

#### “BELOVED”; “WALK IN TRUTH” :

Note that John is addressing sons of God – using terms like **‘beloved’**, **‘my children’** (implying sonship) and **‘walking in truth’**. This desire for soul prosperity is for sons of God, and hence the desire for all forms of prosperity (inclusive of financial prosperity) and divine health/healing. This is God’s will. For this reason, these **two areas of doctrine, i.e. financial prosperity and divine health** have either been **opposed or grossly misrepresented** in the church today.

#### “PROSPER AS YOUR SOUL PROSPERS” :

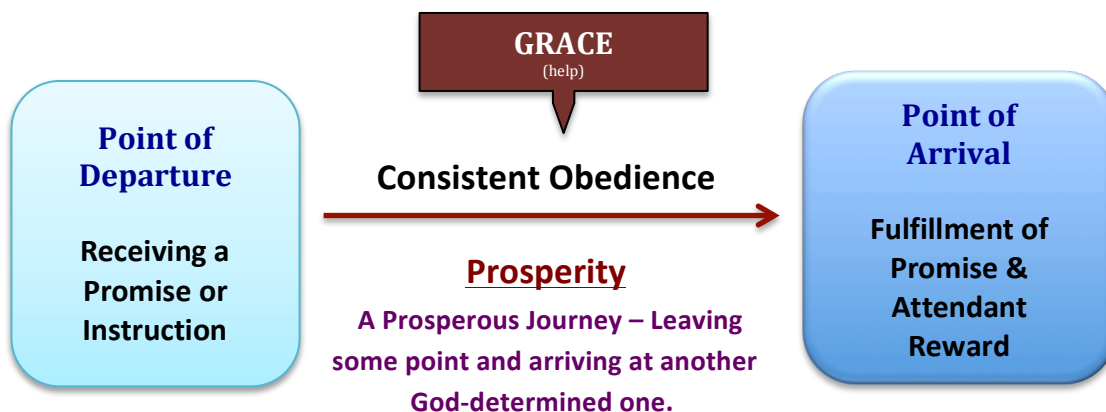
You prosper as your soul prospers. The prosperity or wellbeing of the soul is the defining factor affecting and actually causing external prosperity on all levels. Your soul prospers when its mind (understanding and thinking), will (decisions) and emotions (feelings) are submitted to and conditioned by the principles of God’s Word illuminated in one’s spirit - via the hearing of the voice of God echoed through one’s spiritual father. The evidence of this process would be outward OBEDIENCE in your body.

## “PROSPER”: PROSPERITY – GREEK N.T. VIEW

**Prosper = euodoo =** To help on the road, i.e. to succeed in reaching  
 Figuratively to succeed in business  
 To have a prosperous journey.

The idea of ‘prosperity’ relates to **reaching a determined outcome, goal or destination.**

Prosperity implies the embarking upon on a journey – a process – leaving one point and progressing toward another point of destination, which is a God-determined outcome or reality. There is a point of departure and a point arrival.



Prosperity implies that as you journey toward the destination that you receive HELP along the way, i.e. this HELP is GRACE (Heb. 4:16) that you’re receiving continuously until you embody the principle of the God’s Word you are appropriating.

There must be a deliberate departure from a point, and active progression toward another point. Your continual progression will be dependent upon consistent expressions of obedience to God’s Word.

For me, the ‘destination’ in reference to the soul is when the soul has come **to total renewal, reflected in absolute and unquestioning obedience and conformity to the will/word of God as it is revealed to the spirit.** The three areas of the soul, i.e. the mind (your understanding and thinking), will (your decisions/choices) and emotions (your feelings) must be totally compliant to the Word, Will and Ways of God, i.e. you must think like God thinks, you must understand as God understands, your decisions must be reflective of His intent, and your feelings and emotions must mirror His.

The notion of prosperity in the Greek language as that of a journey is interesting. True biblical prosperity is a journey, not an event. A prosperous person is never stagnant but always moving into something fresh and new. At the heart of prosperity is the idea of consistent upgrade and journeying. Present and prior success can potentially hamper advancement toward future success if your targets/goals are static and not dynamic. Enjoy your God-led path of prosperity – adapt and pursue new heights within the scope of God’s will for you. Do not be unduly overambitious also, but soberly reach toward the attainment of new things as God would lead you.

## OLD TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE ON PROSPERITY

Six important Hebrew words relate to prosperity.

{There are many other variants as well – but we will consider them as this series progresses}

### First Word :

#### 1. **PROSPER = SALAH SALEAH** = to push forward;

to break out mightily,

to go over,

to be profitable

to be victorious (see Psalm 45:4)

to succeed; to be successful

{Prosperous = tsalach tsaleach = same meaning as above}

The terms **BREAK-OUT, BREAKFORTH and BREAKTHROUGH** capture the essence of the meaning of this word. Prosperity relates to **attaining success** at any level or activity in the execution of God's will, or expressing His intent and will for your life personally, or for the people or sphere of impact to which you are called. Biblical prosperity incorporates the idea of **surmounting or overcoming an obstacle** in your path toward the attainment of the will of God generally, or in reference to any expression of prosperity (spiritual, mental, physical, financial relational, etc.).

### Examples:

- \* To be prosperous is to cause something **to turn out successfully.**

**Gen. 24:21 :** The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the Lord had **prospered his journey** or not (ESV)

**Gen 24:40 :** But he said to me, 'The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and **prosper your way**. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house (ESV)

(Study also 1 Kings. 22:12,15)

- \* The prospering of a **person by God, causing success in all things.**

**2 Chr. 26:5:** He continued to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding through the vision of God; and **as long as he sought the Lord, God prospered him.** {This refers to `King Uzziah'}

- \* It indicates a **successful person as a result of favour or grace by God given to him.**

### **Gen. 39:1-6**

- 1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

- 2 And the Lord was with Joseph, **and he was a prosperous man**; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.
- 3 And his master saw that **the Lord was with him**, and that the Lord made all that he did **to prosper in his hand**.
- 4 **And Joseph found grace in his sight**, and he served him: and **he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand**.
- 5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the **Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake**; and **the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field**.
- 6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. **And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured**.

### **Second Word:**

This is similar to 'salah saleah' described above, but this word relates to Divine impartation of a wisdom, skill or ability that secures prosperity in one or more expressions.

### **2. PROSPER = SAKAL =** to be circumspect - hence **intelligent**;

to be skillful,  
prudent and wise,  
to act wisely  
to act with insight  
to understand

{translated as 'good success' in Josh. 1:8}

E.g. : **Deut. 29:9**      So keep the **words of this covenant to do them**,  
that you **may prosper in all that you do**.

Here, prosperity incorporates **a divinely imbued wisdom or intelligence of the mind, as well as an ability to be highly proficient and skillful in any task**.

It refers to the possession of a divinely given wisdom capacity – like King Solomon had (Read 1 King 3 and 4). Solomon asked for wisdom in order to execute the function of Kingship effectively. He asked for something that would benefit God's people. God was pleased with his request and gave him riches and honour in addition to this. The key was wisdom, the result was riches. One of the keys to Financial Prosperity is divine insight and wisdom.

**Prov. 8:21**      To endow those who love me (i.e. wisdom) with wealth, That I may **fill their treasures**.

In describing the characteristic feature of Solomon's mind, the Scriptures use the phrase 'Breadth of mind'. I believe this has reference to both the mind of the spirit as well as the mind of the soul.

**1 Kings 4:29**      Now the Lord gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and BREADTH OF MIND, like the sand that is on the seashore.

Our mental capacity is nowhere near what Adam possessed before he sinned. Here are some interesting statistics I have come across:

Some assert that the average human being uses a fraction of their total brain capacity – and that these are the geniuses and scientists of our day. Some assert the following in reference to using the brain to think:

- only 5% think
- 15% think they think
- 80% would rather die than think.

Our total brain capacity must be restored. This is an essential part of the prosperity of our souls. Imagine the creativity, ingenuity and witty inventions that could result – and then the associated prosperity.

**Prov. 8:12** I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of WITTY INVENTIONS. **KJV**

**Witty Inventions = mezimmah = a plan, discretion.**

**Prov. 8:12** I am Wisdom. I live with Good Judgement. I am at home with Knowledge and Planning. **ERV**

**Prov. 24:3,4** Every enterprise is built by **wise planning** made strong through **common sense** and profits wonderfully by **keeping abreast with the facts** **[Living Bible]**

**Three elements here :** 1) Wise Planning  
2) Common Sense  
3) Keeping abreast with the Facts

**Hence ....**

Prosperity includes the divinely-given ability to have an intelligent mind – one that thinks broadly – expansively – creatively – generating ideas and inventions; a mind that can apply itself to learning a new skill and becoming proficient in it. This demands serious application of yourself to expanding your mental capacity. You cannot be mentally passive or lazy. This ability is divinely given, but requires you active co-operation and participation.

**N.B.:** **Our THINKING** – within the domain of our souls, is a major determinant for our attainment of prosperity in all of its forms. Our thinking – thoughts – beliefs – mindsets, etc. – must be influenced and conditioned by the WORD OF GOD (hearing it – studying it - meditating on it and obeying it).

**Prov. 23:7a** For as he thinks within himself, so he is.

In the original Hebrew this is read as follows, “**As a man RECKONS or CALCULATES in his SOUL, so is he’**. You will never amount to more than the quality of your thoughts and the state of your mind. You are what you think, nothing more and nothing less. External transformation takes place as the mind is renewed daily through the Word of God (more on this later). We must think of ourselves as God does and we must think and believe accurately as God has determined for us to think. Our thinking and our prosperity are connected. The quality of your life provides evidence of the state of your mind.



### Romans 12:1-3

- 1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
- 2 And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith

**{More on these verses in a later session}**

E.g.: If you reject the very idea that it is God's will for you to prosper – you probably never will. That which you reject, moves away from you; that which you embrace as true, comes to you. You will never experience that which you do not appropriate.

You must start to delight in your own total prosperity – because God does so – see **Psalm 35:27** below. The fact that His sons prosper, delights God immeasurably.

This brings us to the third word in Hebrew often translated as 'prosperity'.

#### Third Word:

**3. PROSPERITY = SHALOM, SHALOM** = peace, safe, happy, welfare, rest, etc.

**Peace is an essential dynamic of prosperity.** One of the redemptive names of God is Jehovah Shalom – The Lord my Peace (Judges 6:24). Peace is not simply an emotion; Peace is a person – God Himself. Jesus is called “The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). To be at peace is to be in a state of internal composure and equilibrium by virtue of the person of God Himself. Part of this peace is to feel secure and safe and thus have a sense of wellbeing and internal rest. All of this is part of biblical prosperity.

If we are to prosper as our souls prosper (3 John 2), then the soul must be filled with the peace of God.

**1 Thess. 5:23** Now may the **GOD OF PEACE** Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and **SOUL** and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In 1 Thess. 5:23, God, who is intent of bringing wholeness and completeness to the soul is deliberately described as a 'GOD OF PEACE'. His nature of Peace itself must saturate the soul.

**Psalm 35:27** Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, **The Lord be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant.**

Here David praises God, magnifying Him because God's internal disposition is favourably inclined towards you for good and not for evil – for safety, well-being, peace, etc.

**Consider:** Jeremiah 29:10-14

- 10 “For thus says the Lord, ‘When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill **My good word to you**, to bring you back to this place.
- 11 **For I know the plans that I have for you**,’ declares the Lord, ‘**plans for welfare** and not for calamity to **give you a future and a hope**.
- 12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
- 13 You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.
- 14 I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord, ‘**and I will restore your fortunes** and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.

Jer. 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “**PLANS to PROSPER YOU** and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” (NIV)

There can be no true prosperity without internal peace and rest. The soul needs peace and rest. There is a worldly expression of financial prosperity that comes along with deep sorrow (Luke 6:24; 1 Tim. 6:9), heartache and even a lost soul (Matt 16:24-26). True Divine prosperity brings with it tremendous deep-seated internal peace and a prosperous soul.

Prov. 10:22 It is the  **blessing of the Lord**  that makes rich, And He adds **no sorrow to it**

Psalm 147:12-15

- 12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
- 13 For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; **He has blessed your sons** within you.
- 14 **He makes peace in your borders**; He satisfies you with the **finest of the wheat**.
- 15 He sends forth His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly

A Fourth Word:

4. **PROSPER = SHALVAH** = security, abundance, peace, quietness

Psalm 122:6-9

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “**May they prosper who love you**.
- 7 “May **peace** be within your walls, And **prosperity** within your palaces.”
- 8 For the sake of my **brothers and my friends**, I will now say, “May peace be within you.”
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good

The verse above is not a reference to natural Jerusalem, but to the church:

Rev. 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in **the temple of My God**, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the **city of My God**, the **new Jerusalem**, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name

**Rev 21:2** And I saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as **a bride adorned** for her husband

### Walls of Peace and Palaces of Prosperity:

Peace and prosperity are part of our inheritance in God. Walls protect palaces. The PROSPERITY within your PALACES will be secured by PEACE within your WALLS. Peace surrounds and undergirds biblical prosperity. Divinely-given prosperity thrives in an environment of peace. Where there is no peace, there can be no true biblical prosperity. Internal peace within us and external peace in our relationships are fundamental principles for sustaining biblical prosperity. Deal quickly with anything that erodes internal and external peace. Strife and tension in your relationships are serious hindrances to total prosperity. Total all-round PROSPERITY is built on PEACE.

### Governmentally Decreeing Peace and Prosperity in Prayer:

Note the words '**pray**' (Ps. 122:6), '**now I will SAY**' (Ps. 122:8) and '**I will seek your good**' (Ps 122:9). We must position ourselves in OBEDIENCE to God's Word first, and then we can, in prayer, authoritatively ASSERT and governmentally DECREE the reality of PEACE and PROSPERITY upon true sons of God. Those eligible to do so will be those who ...

- sincerely seek the GOOD of the church (v. 6 & 9) and
- are committed to the family ideal and ethos of the house of God (v.8)
- have an ardent desire to see EVERYONE (not just a few) in the church prosper (v.8).

[For your own study, in reference to the above, consider the following: Haggai 1; Acts 10]

We must pray for the peace and total prosperity of the church.

**Psalm 118:25** O Lord, do save, we beseech You;  
O Lord, **we beseech You, do send prosperity.**

Apostolic fathers can **IMPART peace**, as Paul consciously did in his salutations. This must be done more often and more deliberately so in our churches.

e.g. **2 Tim. 1:2** To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord

**2 Chron. 26:5** He continued to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding through the vision of God; and as long **as he sought the Lord, God prospered him.**

### A Fifth Word

**5. Prosper = YATAB =** 'to do GOOD, to go well' [this word closely related to the adjective, 'TOB' (Good)]

This word denotes the basic idea that things are "**GOING WELL**" for people, e.g. Joseph urges Pharaoh's cupbearer to remember him when things "go well" for him.

**Gen 40:14** Only keep me in mind when it **goes well** with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.

The cupbearer was restored or reinstated to his privileged position of serving the King. While this job was self-sacrificing (for he had to taste every drink before the King would drink it in case it was poisoned), this role afforded him many personal benefits and privileges of the palace – thus living a quality of life that was indeed prosperous.

This word describes the kind of prosperity Israel would enjoy in the promised land and as they keep covenant with God through **OBEDIENCE**.

**Deut. 4:40** So you shall **keep His statutes** and His commandments which I am giving you today, **that it may go well** with you and with your children after you, and that you **may live long on the land** which the Lord your God is giving you for all time

**[Study:** Deut. 5:16,29; 6:3,18; 12:25,28;22:7; Jer.7:3,5, 23].

The Shunammite's reality of her prosperous state was not conditioned by her present plight (death of her son). She, by faith, asserted. "It is well" (2 Kings 4:26). 'Well' is 'shalom', discussed above.

#### **2 Kings 4:22-26**

- 22 Then she called to her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and return."
- 23 He said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath." And she said, "**It will be well.**"
- 24 Then she saddled a donkey and said to her servant, "Drive and go forward; do not slow down the pace for me unless I tell you."
- 25 So she went and came to the man of God to Mount Carmel.  
When the man of God saw her at a distance, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Behold, there is the Shunammite."
- 26 Please run now to meet her and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child? "' And she answered, "**It is well.**"

Affirm your wellness and prosperity through your obedience. Boldly affirm in faith that **it is WELL** with you even though actual evidence may suggest something contrary. God will honour your faithful and governmental assertion of WELLNESS and PROSPERITY built on the foundation of an obedient life. In verse 23, the Shunammite woman prophetically asserted in HOPE that, "**it WILL BE WELL**"; and then in verse 26, without physical evidence, she confidently affirmed, "**IT IS WELL**". She migrated from "It **WILL** be well" to "It **IS** well". Soon afterwards, her son was raised to life – her faith-filled confession, borne out of peace and rest within her soul (Shunammite means 'double rest'), coupled with her honour for Elisha as a man of God and a spiritual father, ensured that the principle of life, peace and prosperity prevailed for her and her family.

## “PROSPER IN ALL RESPECTS”:

Note that the prayer of John in 3 John 2 is that we **PROSPER “IN ALL RESPECTS”** – i.e. every expression of prosperity, including good health. Both of these aspects are prefaced by a desire for the soul to prosper. Some expressions of prosperity are briefly referenced later in this study.

## TOTAL PROSPERITY IS FOUR-FOLD:

**Luke 2:52** And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

<b>‘Stature’</b>	: Physical and Material Prosperity - Health and Wealth
<b>‘Favour with God’</b>	: Spiritual Prosperity - A well-formed, undefiled and mature spirit
<b>‘Favour with Men’</b>	: Social or Relational Prosperity
<b>‘Wisdom’</b>	: Mental Prosperity - Inclusive of a mind that thinks like God, a will that decides like God, and emotions that feel like God.

**Physical Prosperity:** The goal of Physical Prosperity is the health or wholeness of the body to effectively execute God’s purposes. This includes divine healing until we live in divine health. Divine health is a step beyond healing. Jesus was never once ill. He functioned above viral or bacterial threats. He pulsated with the very LIFE of God.

**Material Prosperity:** The goal of Material Prosperity is wealth to be able to finance Kingdom initiatives and efficiently accomplish Divine will or assignment. Material prosperity is relative to God’s assignment over you. Your prosperity is always commensurate to the bigness or ambit of the will of God attendant with you. The material needs of Jesus were constantly met - He was never in lack. There is sufficient biblical proof that He was wealthy as well.

**Spiritual Prosperity:** The goal of Spiritual Prosperity is expressed by the state of mature sonship and the strong and accurate representation of the Father to men. It demands a Word-illuminated spirit leading the soul and manifested in body, that accurately reflects the fullness of the nature of God, especially LOVE. It also would refer to one who is wholeheartedly pursuant of the will of God for his/her life at any cost - as it relates to the mandate vested in his/her spiritual father.

**Relational Prosperity:** The goal of Relational Prosperity is the development of covenantal relationships, governed by love and mutual honour, and that reflects the wholeness and corporeity of the Body of Christ. Through this BODY, Divine grace may be transmitted to each person, and so enhancing and facilitating the Divine purpose attendant with the entire group and also the unique Divine purpose of the singular persons within the group. In this context of the Body of Christ, Divine purpose in each one is done /secured, to a degree beyond what was possible individually without being part of the whole body.

Relational prosperity includes submitting to and representing the will of God FOR ALL your relationships, e.g. between spiritual fathers and sons, brothers and sisters in the Household of faith to which you belong, relationships with other households of faith, relationships with the wider Body of Christ, husbands and wives, your enemies, your superior in the work place, your subordinates in the workplace, etc.

### Mental Prosperity:

The goal of Mental Prosperity is to 'have the mind of Christ' – to think as HE does in ALL RESPECTS. This demands that the mind of the soul be shaped and thus follow the dictates of the mind of the spirit, which has been instructed in the Word of God. "As a man thinks, so is he" – and our thinking in the domain of the soul determines success in all other areas of life.

### Soul Prosperity may include the following:

- 1) A soul led by the Spirit via the Word of God in one's spirit.
- 2) A mind of the soul that thinks LIKE God - having the mind of Christ.
- 3) A will of the soul that decides like God - it follows the resolution in the spirit, which is led by the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Emotions of the soul that feel like God.
- 5) Emotions that are whole, healed, complete – no bruises or scars.
- 6) A soul not tormented by carnality or works of the flesh.
- 7) A soul that is advanced in its renewal or renovation process by the Word of God.
- 8) A soul having a sound mind. A sound mind would include a mind that is ...
  - a. devoid of fear, but filled with divine love and power.
  - b. well-balanced.
  - c. disciplined.
  - d. saturated in the Word of God through of constant meditation thereon.
  - e. focused and clear.
- 9) A soul that has FOUND REST in the Grace of God, not given to reliance upon works of human effort to attain spiritual results.
- 10) A soul infused with the 'ZOE' Life of God – the God-quality of life.
- 11) A soul that embraces the truth and reality of prosperity in all of its varied expressions.

Some of these aspects will be addressed in ensuing sessions.

**Based on our study above, here are some terms and phrases that broadly summarize what TOTAL LIFE PROSPERITY would incorporate:**

- To be Favoured by God.
- To be Favoured by Man.
- Success in reaching a Goal.
- To Succeed.
- To be Successful.
- Consistent Upgrade and Development.
- To Push Forward.
- To Break Out Mightily
- To Breakthrough.
- To Break-forth.
- To Go Over.
- To be Profitable
- To be Victorious.
- To be Intelligent.
- To have Breadth of Mind.
- To Understand.
- To be Skillful.
- To be Prudent.
- To be Wise.
- To Act Wisely.
- To Act with Insight.
- To be Creative.
- To be at Peace.
- To be Safe and Secure.
- To have Wellbeing.
- To Have Abundance.
- Things going Well with You.
- To be in Good Health.
- To have Covenantal Relationships.
- To have Peace in Relationships
- To have a Prosperous Soul (see the 11 points on previous page)

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### **TAKING ACTIVE STEPS:**

**Physical Prosperity:** Assert divine health for your physical body. Also steward your body well as it is the temple of the Holy Ghost. Exercise regularly. Eat wisely healthily.

**Material Prosperity:** Honour God with your finances, giving first fruits, tithes and offerings. Be faithful in all your giving. It is more blessed to give than to receive. With the measure you sow, you will accordingly reap. The more you give, the more you receive. If you want to breakthrough into a higher realm of financial reception, you have to consciously breakout from a previous or present level of giving and elevate, breaking forth into a higher realm of giving. Also, manage all your financial affairs with wisdom and soberness. Do all giving out of the purest motivation of simply desiring to please God through obedience.

**Spiritual Prosperity:** Keep yourself under the sound of your spiritual voice and teaching. Hear with a view to immediate obedience. Maintain God's Word as your ultimate love and priority. Develop consistently in the nature of God, especially love. Prioritize the gathering of the saints. Pray much for your spirit.

**Relational Prosperity:** Love all people. Forgive quickly. Make sacrifices for the good and betterment of others, especially your brothers and sisters in the Lord. Desire the total prosperity of all in the church of God. Pray after and decree this.

**Mental Prosperity:**

Fill your mind with God's Word - meditate on it daily. Avoid harmful elements from entering your mind. Forsake worldly thoughts in favour of God's thoughts and ways. Accept that is biblical and thus God's will for you to prosper in all respects. Expand your wisdom capacity. Avoid been mentally passive. Engage in mentally difficult task – exercise your brain. Explore and tap into the creative potential given to you by God. Solve a problem. Invent a new product or idea.

**N.B.**

**ALL expressions of prosperity flow from**

**OBEDIENCE to GOD'S WORD.**

**This will be illustrated in our next session.**

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