

God's Ready!

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God's ready! Are you? God is and always has been ready. Ready for what you might ask? God is ready to give you the Kingdom, the gifts, the riches, the peace everlasting that is promised to all those who believe in Him. God wants you to have an abundance of Divine Life. He gave his only son who said, "I have come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

God wants us to prosper. You've read or heard these words before:

- "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper."
- "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich and He addeth no sorrow with it."
- And my personal favorite: "prove me now herewith, said the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be not be room enough to receive it."

Yes, God wants us to prosper in all things. Even doing these times. Even when appearances, such as the murders, diseases and the war we are presently engaged in – God still wants us to prosper in all things.

If God wants us to prosper in all things, if we claim that we want what God wants for us, why then do we not prosper in all things? And by all things, I mean health, wealth, relationships, love, for example. If we are not experiencing those things, what gets in the way of our receiving what God intends for us to have?

Some say the key to prosperity is the state of the soul or state of the mind. Sometimes my soul has not been in a good state, particularly when I focus more on what I don't want in my life than what I want. Or, when I let others influence me to take the low road instead of the high one, or when I have given others permission to hold me back. But no where is it more evident than when I let circumstances override the truth that God is a provider and a deliverer; or when I fail to follow Roman 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Consider these examples from my life that illustrate transformed thinking vs. error thinking:

1. The first house I ever bought was bought with no job and \$500 in the bank. And although I was not a churchgoer at the time, I had faith that all would be well despite the circumstances. The realtor loaned us his commission; a friend loaned us \$10,000 and the house was ours.
2. Years later, when it was time for my daughter to go to school, I decided on a Thursday that it was time to find a new home. By that Sunday, I had found a home, made an offer despite the fact that I needed to sell the home I was in to purchase the new one. The first person who made us an offer was a very famous person. His check bounced and he reneged on the deal. No panic. The universe was going to take care of us for sure. Needless to say, as it got

closer to the time for the closing of the new home, the right purchaser showed up and we sold the house for four times what we had paid for it – even more than the famous person had offered.

3. Now it's time to buy a new home. Sometimes I find myself I Find myself easily slipping into error thinking as in will we get a mortgage we want and can we afford the house the house of our dreams? What I know to be the truth is that nothing will stand in the way of getting the house except error thinking.

In the face of adversity, and the appearance of lack, wrong thinking makes it easy to forget God's promise to give us the Kingdom. Yes, God wants us to prosper. God wants us to renew our minds and when we do, it is in God's interest to prosper us in all things, including material things. But first, we must be willing to receive the good God stands ready to give each and everyone of us when we think rightly and when we have faith.

I like Napoleon Hill's definition of faith: "A state of mind where you relax your own reason and willpower, opening yourself completely to the inflow of power from infinite intelligence, God, or said another way, faith is a mental attitude were mind is cleared of all fears and doubts and directed to the attainment of something definite through God Applied faith enables right action."

How is your mental attitude? Each and every one of us has the power to condition our mind to the expression of faith because as Hill says, God provided us complete control over our minds. Control over our minds is really the only thing we have complete control over.

Now, how do we express that faith? It is easy to say we are faithful when things are going well in our lives. When I had all the money I ever needed, I had a lot of faith. When things got tough, well I turned to those faith killers and gave over my mind to unfaithful thoughts. Hill says faith is the mainspring of our souls through which our aims, plans, desires and purpose may become a reality. But where is your soul? Where is your mind?

You know the mind attracts what it dwells on. And even though we say we are dwelling on health, peace, harmony, wellbeing and wealth, we have a tendency to keep our minds on what we don't want: Poverty, ill health, criticism, sadness, fear of growing old and the violence we are presently experiencing around the world, for example

We actually put our faith in these things while waiting for God to give us the opposite. Often while we may pray for good, we sometimes do it without believing that not only do we deserve it, but that it is on its way to us. And when adversity shows its "beautiful" head, the right mental attitude is that our faith will hold steady the promise of God that a greater value will take its place.

I had an epiphany while I was writing this and that is how I may have harmed others by worrying for or about them when sickness or death, or loss of love or money for example was present in their lives If my state of mind is to worry about the, then I am drawing to them the very thing they are wanting to avoid. Why not join in their healing by seeing it right instead of suffering for them and adding negative energy into their world?

Remember the passage in the bible that says, "All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye have received them ye shall have them?"

The secret to getting what you ask for, the secret to abundance is to want what God wants for you. And I know with all my heart that God wants your life to be filled with miracles and sunshine. money and love and good health – even when they are not present at a time certain. You have to just be ready to receive by doing what God wants you to do.

Bruce Wilkerson in the Prayers of Jabez Devotional talked about what God wanted people to do to reach the promise land (which by the way is right here, right now):

To Abraham he said, "It's already yours but you have to start a journey away from the comfortable and known and toward the new and unknown." Do you need to do that?

To Moses he said, "It's already yours but you have to step up to leadership, service and ministry." Have you stepped up? If you haven't, ask yourself what you need to do to step up.

To Joshua he said, "It's already yours but you have to fight for it." How many of us lay down our swords when confronted with challenges?

To the people upon entering the Promised Land he said, "It's already yours but you have to follow me in patient trust and wholehearted obedience." Now think about this. What must it take for us willingly follow someone or something you can't see, touch or feel when right in front of us is the mortgage you can't pay or the job you don't have

To the people after they took possession, "It's already yours, but you must believe and act upon the truth to keep it."

And that is where applied faith comes into play. We must believe that God is the provider and the deliverer. And we must demonstrate that belief through our sharing with others.

Finally, if you are really ready to receive, remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that gives you wealth. So God's ready. Are you?