

**Bible study notes:**  
**The prosperity of His servants.**

**Objective**

**Psalm 35:27 Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favour my righteous cause; And let them say continually, “Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.”**

There is so much good in store for those who chose to serve God. God delights in the prosperity of His servant. In this bible study we will see to understand what this prosperity looks like.

**Introduction**

Serving God comes with a lot of challenges and opposition. But David admonishes us to magnify the Lord. He said, “Let the Lord be magnified who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant”. Don’t magnify the challenges that you are facing! Magnify the Lord! Don’t magnify the worst-case scenario, magnify the Lord! Don’t magnify your shortcomings, magnify the Lord! Don’t magnify what they said about you! Magnify the lord! He has pleasure in your well-being! In your prosperity! God is not a reluctant participant in your story, he is a willing participant. He is the instigator of your story and he delights in your prosperity!

In this bible study we will seek to understand the biblical understanding of that word prosperity. The scripture is clear that God delights in the prosperity of His servants. There are those who have demonised the idea of a servant of God being prosperous. These people are crippling you as servants of God, because **the establishment of the kingdom of God is facilitated by the prosperity of God’s servants!** This is why it is imperative that we understand God’s heart for the prosperity of His servants.

If you believe a perverted idea of prosperity as a servant of God, you will either become severely crippled in your ability to serve the purpose of God or you will become a self-obsessed glory hunter. Both will produce disappointed, disengaged, disconnected believers! Because the longer you walk with God, the more you will see your perverted ideas for what it is. Let’s get some understanding!

**The biblical meaning of the word “Prosperity”**

That word there in **Psalm 35** is shalom, it means the completeness, soundness, welfare, peace. This is the popular understanding of the word prosperity. However there is also another Hebrew Word that we translate as “to prosper”.

It is the Word “Tsalech”. When we understand these two words I believe we will get a good understanding of what it means to prosper.

There is a famous law of bible interpretation called, the law of first mention. It just means that if you find the first time a Word was used in the scripture, you will get a very good idea of what the word means and the context in which it is used across scripture.

In Genesis 24, we find the first time that the Word prosper is used, and guess what? The word is used for the first time for a servant. And it was used in the context of having a successful journey, a prosperous journey! That’s what true prosperity looks like. It is having a successful journey through life. It is having a successful outcome in every situation. ***Notice I didn’t say a positive outcome, I said a successful outcome.***

So let’s look at this story in Genesis 24. I think it is healthy to understand your prosperity as a servant of God within the context of your service to God. Because real prosperity is enablement for service. Prosperity is enjoyed as God intended when it is used for service. We don’t want to be people who know about prosperity and not about service.

The story is about Abraham (God), sending His Servant (Holy Spirit in a man), to find a wife-Rebecca (The Church) for Isaac (Jesus) His son. If you see yourself this servant, on a mission in everything you do, to reconcile the world to Christ, you will never be without what you need for every good work!

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**

Bible prosperity is having sufficiency in all things, so that you may have an abundance for every good work. The work of this servant demands prosperity! We follow His purpose; His prosperity follows us.

**Here is what prosperity looks like:**

**1-A strong commitment.** True prosperity is having a commitment to a cause bigger than you. The story starts in **Genesis 24:1-3**, with Abraham, asking the servant to swear by the Lord, to put His hand under his thigh and swear. **A truly prosperous servant is committed to something bigger than Himself!** I don’t mean a casual commitment, a strong commitment!

Many believers want to prosper but you’re not committed to the God who is the source of their prosperity. For many he’s more like your GP, you hardly think of Him unless you need Him! That’s we can be casual about your using our gifts and responding to our calling. There is no real commitment. Many of us are involved but you are not committed!

In a bacon and egg breakfast, they say the chicken was involved, but the pig was committed! Are you involved or are you committed! **The level of Godly prosperity that is set aside for you requires a strong commitment and not a casual involvement.**

You are not prosperous because you have money in the bank. You are prosperous because you have something to live for!

**2-A Promise.** Real prosperity is having a high-quality promise. The servant in verse 5 had a little bit of doubt, like we all do about the success or the prosperity of our mission, and when you have doubts, just like the servant we start to consider compromises...but see what Abraham said to Him in verse 7: **7 The Lord God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. 8 And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there."**

Every good master sends out their servants with an assurance of success! God is no exception! He sends us out with an assurance of His word! He has given us His oath and his promise so that we would have a strong assurance! If you have a promise you have the assurance of the one who sent you!

If you compromise on the promise, you compromise your prosperity. Your prosperity is in the promise! To compromise is to lower your standards, to lower your expectation. The servant was about to lower his standards, but Abraham had a promise. Abraham said, I know I want a wife for my son, unless she is willing to come to the place that God has promised me and asked me to be, let's leave it!

Because some things are more important than what you want! Abraham said I'd rather you compromise on my agreement with you than to change the my expectation from the Word of God!

Compromise is necessary part of life, but compromise becomes a problem, when it becomes a deviation from the promise of God. Your prosperity is in the promise! Your success is tied to the promise. Show me a person who has a promise from God, I'll show you a prosperous servant!

**3-Prosperity is having an angel go before you!** In verse 7 Abraham says to the servant, **He will send His angels before you!** Prosperous people have people go ahead of them to do the ground work. To prepare hearts and mind!

Just in case you don't know, there is an angel that have been assigned to minister to you as you go about God's business. As you make His vision for this earth your purpose the angel of the Lord will always go ahead of you. I think that this is why sticking with the Word of God is always the best way to go. Angels hearken to the voice of His Word. Regardless of what it looks like, when God gives His Word, an angel has also been instructed to go ahead of you to prepare things for you.

When you compromise, you go to a different place, a place where the angel hasn't prepared...and I think that's when life gets even more complex! But prosperity is having an angel go ahead of you!

Sometimes the angel that God sends are ahead of you are people who God places over your life. That is why the scripture encourages us to honour our parents, those in authority in our lives, mentors. These are people who are often sent ahead of you. To walk a path that you are going to walk. Show me a person who is prosperous by any standard, I'll show you a person who has learned from someone who went ahead of you. When God is looking to prosper you, He sends an angel ahead of you.

#### **4 - Prosperity includes access material things.**

Look at Verse 10 - After the servant committed to Abraham...Verse 10 says that the servant took 10 of His master's camels! He took 10 cars from the car-lot in Abraham's yard! For all the goods were in his hand!

Don't let anyone tell you any different, material things are needed to accomplish the will of God. The man took an entourage of 10 donkeys! Don't let people who don't understand your calling diminish your ability to fulfil your calling. It's people who were not there when Abraham sent this man, that'll be like, why do you need 10 donkeys? How many can you ride at a time? If you read the whole story, you'll see that the man did not just come home with Rebecca, he came home with her maidservants!

All the master's goods are in your hand! Never apologise for material wealth! Our goal is not material things. Our goal is to accomplish the mission. And if your mission needs 10 camels, 10 cars, £200 million, then let's go get it! Let's enjoy these things too all within the context of our service to the King!

#### **5-Prosperity is having heaven's attention.**

As a servant of God, God prospers you by responding when you call. The servant gets to the city He was sent to, when He gets there He prays in accordance with the promise He has...now look at **verse 15: And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.**

You know you have heaven's attention whenever you are doing the will of the one who sent you. If what you are doing is in line with the Word of God, and your motive is in line with the heart of God, be rest assured that heaven is backing you up!

The scripture says that before the servant finishes with His prayer the answer was there. I pray that as a bond servant of Jesus Christ, may heaven answer you even before you have finished praying! May wisdom show up in your heart even before you ask!

Prosperity is about what you have access to. And you have access to the God who creates "coincidences". This is why one of the best things we can do for ourselves is to invest more in understanding the will of God, than we invest in satisfying our own desires. The will of God is ALWAYS backed up by heaven. Your desires are only prosperous when they align with the will of God.

## **6-Prosperity is about Generosity.**

In Verse 18, we see Rebecca meet a need...in verse 22, we see the servant respond generously! God prospered the servant with material things so that He can be generous on his journey.

Generosity gives birth to generosity. You see, part of the wife selection process for the servant was a test of generosity. He said I will know when I have found a wife for my masters son, when she demonstrates generosity to me and to my camels!

Remember that the servant is a type of the Holy Spirit, when he comes to Rebecca the bride of Jesus, the way that He determines if this person is ready to live as the bride of His master's son is by testing her generosity level.

Rebecca had no idea that the man she was being generous to had the key to the next dimension of her life. What appeared to be a casual moment for Rebecca was actually a life changing moment. And she was ushered into that season by her generosity. Don't let tightfistedness keep you locked in this level! You might be comfortable where you are but your generosity will unlock a greater season for you! God is on the lookout for generous people!

## **7-Prosperity is God giving you favour.**

The servant had favour with Laban and Bethuel. Favour is what happens when people agree with what God has called you to do. Favour is when it seems like you are getting preferential treatment. When you are serving the purposes of God you will face opposition in many place. You will have rejection in certain place, however you will always find favour in the right places.

When Joseph was on the path to the palace, the favour of God kicked in just at the right time. Don't be obsessed with the rejection and opposition you face as you serve, all you need is favour in the right places. Potiphar might put you in jail, the butler might forget you, but all you need is favour before Pharaoh to turn all of that around and set you on course to the purpose of God for your life.

As a servant of God you have favour. Know this, you are on an assignment from God & for God! He has assigned men, women and systems to favour you. Expect favour on your journey.

## **Conclusion**

One of the biggest mistakes I have made in ministry is trying to do what God sent me to do without complete dependence on God's desire to prosper the work of my hands. It is important that you understand that God delights in prospering you because you delight in His righteous cause. Go over these features of prosperity. Get them etched in your mind. Don't settle for less. You are not your own. You are on an errand from a God who is well able to prosper your ways. Commit yourself to Him. He will prosper your path.

## **Discussions**

- What inaccurate definitions of prosperity have you come across in popular culture or even amongst christians?
- In what way would you like God to prosper you?
- In what ways can God's desire to prosper us be perverted?
- How can we align ourselves in such a way that we experience the prosperity that God has reserved for you as His servant?