

“THAT YOU MAY PROSPER IN ALL THAT YOU DO.” (Deut. 29:9)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PROSPERITY?

There are two types of prosperity given in the Bible (physical/ temporary and spiritual/eternal) using the words prosper, rich, riches, gain, increase and wealth, etc. The following Bible verses refer to physical/ temporary prosperity.

Proverbs 27:24 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

Ecclesiastes 5:19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

The following are Bible verses which relate to spiritual/ eternal prosperity.

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

2 Corinthians 6:10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Is physical wealth always a blessing?

Mark 10:23,24 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

Proverbs 28:6 Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Proverbs 28:22 He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

James 1:11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

Ecclesiastes 5:13 There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

Are physical riches to be desired?

Psalm 62:10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

Psalm 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

Psalm 39:6 Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

*Psalm 52:7 Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his **riches**, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.*

*Psalm 73:12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in **riches**.*

*Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall **gain** the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

*1 Timothy 6:5,6 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that **gain** is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great **gain**.*

Does the Bible say that true believers are to prosper physically in this life?

*Proverbs 11:28 He that trusteth in his **riches** shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.*

1 John 15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

What are the true riches of the Bible?

*2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was **rich**, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be **rich**.*

*Proverbs 8:18 **Riches** and honour are with me; yea, durable **riches** and righteousness.*

*Proverbs 11:4 **Riches** profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.*

*Proverbs 13:7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great **riches**.*

*Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the **riches** of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

Matthew 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have **treasure** in heaven: and come and follow me.

Colossians 2:2,3 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the **treasures** of wisdom and knowledge.

Ephesians 1: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his **inheritance** in the saints,

1 Peter 1:4,5 To an **inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Proverbs 3:35 The wise shall **inherit** glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall **inherit** all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is **rich** in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the **poor in spirit**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Why are there many who teach that it is a blessing to be physically prosperous today?

2 Timothy 3:1-4 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

1 Timothy 6:9, 10 But they that will be **rich** fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the **love of money** is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have **erred from the faith**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

2 Corinthians 10:14,15 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Proverbs 22:16 He that oppresseth the poor to **increase** his **riches**, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of **riches**, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

Can a true believer desire to be rich in this world and still be faithful to the will of God?

Proverbs 15:27 He that is greedy of **gain** troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts

*Matthew 6:24 No man can serve **two masters**: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

*1 Timothy 6:17,18 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in **uncertain riches**, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be **rich** in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;*

Is it possible to be poor believer in Christ and yet be content?

*Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be **content**.*

*1 Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith **content**.*

Hebrews 13: 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

*Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his **riches** in glory by Christ Jesus.*

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