

A woman in a grey tank top and black pants is jumping joyfully in the center of a paved road that stretches into the distance. She has her arms raised and a wide smile. The road is flanked by lush green and yellow trees, suggesting a forest or park. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of freedom, happiness, and achievement.

Living *the* PROSPEROUS LIFE

CREFLO DOLLAR

Living
the
PROSPEROUS LIFE

C R E F L O D O L L A R

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CHAPTER I

WHAT IS PROSPERITY?

When most people hear the word “prosperity,” they instantly think of money. Now they’re not incorrect, but their perspective is incomplete. Money cannot define prosperity. Money is just a part of it. Prosperity is so much deeper than money, yet our society has reduced it to that one meaning.

Prosperity is having God’s ability to meet the needs of mankind, regardless of what those needs are. Prosperity is also the ability to be in control of your circumstances and situations. For example, if a negative thought attacks your mind, God has given you His Word to renew your mind and gain control over whatever is attacking you mentally. If something attacks your body, God’s Word is medicine to your physical body. It’s His prescription, which gives you instructions on how to use His Word in order to receive your healing. That’s what prosperity is. God wants you to prosper in every area of your life, including your finances.

So when you begin to deal with the different areas

of prosperity, you have to label them. There's health prosperity, soul prosperity, family prosperity, marital prosperity, and there's also financial prosperity. The God-kind of prosperity is *total life prosperity*, which is wholeness, with nothing missing, lacking, or broken in your life. God wants you to experience the abundant life in Christ, the God-kind of life, here on this earth.

TWO KINDS OF PROSPERITY

To truly understand prosperity, you have to realize that there are two different types of prosperity. I don't want you to ever forget this. There's the kind that springs from the Word, and there's the kind that people gather from the world.

The devil has spent a huge amount of time camouflaging things so that we only notice the prosperity that comes from the world. In the world's system, money is the highest form of power. In the kingdom of God system, the anointing is the highest form of power. The world says "Give me political power and financial wealth. I don't need your God." The world looks at people who have God

in their lives as being weak, or not too intelligent. But here's what the devil doesn't want to happen; he doesn't want Believers coming over into the world's system, with the anointing on their lives, and demonstrating to people that there's something more powerful than money. When you have the anointing on your life, money will come! Money will be your servant, not the other way around. Money will be used to stop misfortune in the lives of others, rather than used as a power tool or weapon that destroys lives.

Amazingly, many in the Body of Christ pay little to no attention to the prosperity that can come from the Word. In fact, oftentimes I hear people, even some preachers, talking about the prosperity that comes from the Word, and it's usually something like this, "Well, now, you really believe it's possible to lay hold of all those promises in the Bible?" Or, "You can't take everything the Bible says *literally*." Or, "I really don't think it takes all of that; you know, all that praying and flipping to all those scriptures in church and saying all those faith confessions." Others say, "You've got to use wisdom now, to rightly discern

the Bible.” Well, my response to them is, “The Word *is* wisdom” (Colossians 3:16).

Here’s a verse of scripture that lets us know that there is prosperity in the world.

“Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches” (Psalm 73:12).

Unfortunately, this is the kind of prosperity that most of us are familiar with—the financial prosperity that comes from the world. We’ve grown up with only an understanding of true prosperity. Our religious, traditional ideas have led us to believe that prospering financially is bad, evil, and ungodly. We’ve also observed people who lie, cheat, and steal their way to wealth, so we have the mistaken idea that financial prosperity, or riches, must be of the devil. Unfortunately, even some preachers in the pulpit have hammered these erroneous beliefs into our way of thinking. There’s also a whole religious group of people out there who actually believe that poverty is associated with godliness and holiness. Isn’t it amazing how even in the area of financial prosperity the devil tries to put shame on the Body of Christ? But we can’t allow the ignorance

that's out there in the world today to cause us to settle for less and discount the life that God has for us.

Third John 1:2 states, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as they soul prospereth." If prosperity were evil, why would God, above all things, want us to prosper? That doesn't make any sense. Obviously, prosperity is not evil if it's God's wish, or will, for us.

Now, you can go about seeking worldly riches, prosperity, and all the accolades the world bestows on those they deem successful. But what are you going to do when your intellect runs out? What are you going to do when you come across something that you can't figure out in your own natural ability? What are you going to do when you come up against something that the world has no cure for, or when you confront something that all the money in the world can't buy your way out of, or fix? What will you do when the world's definition of success is your measuring stick and then you run into a dead end? This is why so many people out there become depressed and suicidal. They fail to attain what the world defines as

success, and as a result, succumb to the lie that they're miserable failures in life. You have to realize that man is limited in his own natural ability. Even the resources that are in the world are limited.

“Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant” (Psalm 35:27).

This scripture says that the Lord is magnified, and He takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant. So, if God takes pleasure in your prosperity, then prosperity can't be wrong!

The Hebrew word for “prosperity,” as it is used in Psalm 35:27, means *shalom*. Shalom translated into English is “peace.” Shalom is also translated as *well-being*, *completeness*, and *wholeness*. So the Lord takes pleasure in the prosperity (i.e., well-being, completeness, wholeness, and peace) of His servant.

Now, total life prosperity begins in the soul (3 John 1:2). The prosperity of your soul must be your first priority because it determines your position in life. Soul

prosperity comes from the revelation contained in God's Word. If you're "down on your luck," it's not because of luck but because you are lacking the light of God's Word. Without the light of God's Word, you'll stay the same or regress. It's impossible for you not to prosper and become whole when the Word is operational in your heart.

When I think about prosperity, I can't help but to use the illustration of an apple pie. Before the pie is sliced, there is a whole pie in the pan. Likewise, prosperity is a whole pie, and each slice represents an area of life in which God wants us to prosper.

Now, still using the whole pie illustration, let me explain something. Satan, mankind's enemy, showed up one day in the form of a snake in the Garden of Eden. He deceived Adam and Eve and tricked them into eating the forbidden fruit that God had warned them not to eat (Genesis 3:6). Satan sliced the "pie" that God had freely given them, which He had instructed them to guard and have dominion over (Genesis 1:28). Satan stole it from them.

Because of their disobedience, God put them out of the Garden of Eden. However, He said, "I have to

restore them to wholeness. I have to restore their peace, prosperity, and everything else they lost when the pie was sliced and stolen by the enemy. So I'm going to send my Son, Jesus, to restore all the slices back into that pie, so the pie will be whole again."

The whole pie equals *total life prosperity*. You'll never be whole in life as long as there's a slice missing from that pan. Jesus showed up to take all of the areas in your life where something's missing and broken, and restore every slice until the whole pie exists again.

"The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]" (1 John 3:8, *AMP*).

CHAPTER 2

WHY GOD PROSPERS

So far we've established that kingdom prosperity is not merely finances or money. Prosperity is wholeness and complete well-being in every area of life. Now that we understand that, the most logical question that comes to mind is this: What is God's purpose for prospering us? After all, God is the most purposeful being around. So when He releases power, anointing, or ability, it is going to be for a purpose.

THE ORIGIN OF FINANCIAL PROSPERITY

“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day” (Deuteronomy 8:18).

This scripture says God has given you power to get wealth. Power is a necessary element to move you from one place in your life to another. Therefore, you must arise, or “change your posture and position,” in order for

prosperity to manifest in your life (Isaiah 60:1).

Prosperity is born out of a covenant God made with His words. We wouldn't know anything about prosperity if God hadn't said anything about it. So if having wealth is wrong, then God would be wrong, because He's the One Who promises to give you power to get wealth.

Now, why is God talking about power to get wealth to begin with? There are two main purposes for prosperity. One purpose is found in the scripture I just referenced above, Deuteronomy 8:18, "That he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

God made a covenant commitment, a promise to Abraham. He promised Abraham that He would bless and empower him and his seed. If you're born again, you're the seed of Abraham, and you have a right to the promises of God (Galatians 3:29; 2 Corinthians 11:22). God wants to establish His covenant in the earth with Abraham's descendants.

God also desires to prosper us financially so we can be a blessing to those who are in need (Ephesians 4:28). Financial prosperity is not just about you; it's about

having enough to be a blessing to others. Selfish people will not benefit from the covenant to prosper because they have no intention of meeting the needs of others. Prosperity is never complete until it can be extended out to somebody else. You're not prosperous because you have a lot of money, or you have a lot of things. That's a part of prosperity, but real prosperity can be extended. It will affect and impact somebody else's life for the better. You're blessed in order to be a blessing to others!

In John 10:10, *AMP*, Jesus said, "The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)."

God wants you to have abundant life in your marriage, in your family, on your job, in your ministry, in your finances, and in your physical body. He wants you to have and enjoy the abundant life! I'm telling you, it's alright to enjoy life! In fact, it's the will of God for us to enjoy life. According to that scripture, if you're not enjoying life, you're not fulfilling the will of God for your life! You're not supposed to get saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy

Ghost, only to be defeated all your life. God's desire is that you experience life in abundance, to the full, till it overflows!

CHAPTER 3

THE DIVINE ORDER OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

#1 The Lord must be with you. That is the first and foremost step toward enjoying the prosperous life. You've got to recognize that you will never have true biblical prosperity without God. You must be with God, and He must be with you.

Do you remember the story of Joseph? He was sold into slavery by his own family (Genesis 37:28). But he prospered because God was with Him (Genesis 39:2). He couldn't be stopped. I don't care where they put Joseph, he became a success and the person in control. The Egyptian who bought him as a slave made him overseer over his entire household. God blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake (Genesis 39:4). They put him in jail and he ended up running the jail (Genesis 39:20-22). Pharaoh made him governor over all of Egypt and put him in charge of everything he owned (Genesis 41:41-44). You can't stop a prosperous man or woman, regardless

of what happens! It was not Joseph's material things that made him prosperous; He was prosperous because God was with him.

I know the wicked also prosper in this world's system (Psalm 73:12), but remember the full definition of prosperity. Prosperity is not a man who simply has money. You can have a lot of money but be dying from an incurable disease. That's not prosperity is it? You can drive expensive, fancy cars but lose your whole family because of neglect. That's not a prosperous life. Do you see what I'm saying? You can't look at people and call them prosperous because they have plenty of money and material possessions. I know people who have lots of money, but they're not happy. Genuine prosperity is the man who is blessed financially, blessed in his family life, and blessed in his health. In other words, he is whole, spirit, soul, and body! Most importantly, he's in control, no matter what happens, no matter how situations or circumstances shift and change. Why? God is with him.

#2 Know God's ways and how He operates. If you want to prosper in your spirit, soul, body, family,

marriage, and so on, you've got to learn God's ways. Deuteronomy 5:33 instructs us to "Walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess."

When you begin to learn God's ways, He'll show you how to get from one point to another point. He'll begin to show you a way that's higher than the way that you're operating in right now. Isaiah 55:9 declares, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

You can never read the Bible too much, pray too much, or spend too much time with God. When the answer to whatever you need comes from Him, it comes because it costs you something to learn His ways and way of thinking.

#3 You must renew your mind and thoughts with the Word on prosperity. You're going to have to use the Word to root out all those thoughts and worldly beliefs that you gathered while you were growing up.

For instance, beliefs that said you were never going to be anything, that you were never going to make it, or that you were never going to amount to anything. You cannot trace your heritage back to your natural family lineage, the family you were born into. You have to renew your mind with the Word of God, which promises you that as a child of God, total life prosperity is your divine heritage, your blood-bought right.

#4 You must begin to release words out of your mouth to establish your prosperity. The Word of God coming out of your mouth helps to establish whatever you're trying to get a hold of. John 1:1 declares, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Whatever you begin must begin with the Word. The Word of God is the origin of all abundance and prosperity.

You have to speak the Word and make it the final authority in your life. Why would God have every Believer start with the Word? The Word of God is incorruptible seed; it is seed that will produce all the time, and it never fails. (1 Peter 1:23).

#5 Meditate upon the Word. The purpose of meditation is to place you in the position to perform or act on the Word. You've got to spend time meditating on the Word. You just can't read the Bible and, all of a sudden, do the Word. Meditation is how you get fixed or settled in the laws that govern prosperity. You have to meditate on them until they get deep within your spirit. When you meditate and become convinced by the Word, confidence in the Word will grow and motivate you to act on the Word which you now believe.

#6 Obey the Word. If you're not willing to obey God's Word, you're not going to prosper in the kingdom of God. You have to judge your life. "What am I doing where obedience is concerned?" "Am I obeying God's Word?" It's not enough to say you love the Lord. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). When you walk in obedience to God's Word, He is going to cause you to prosper—spirit, soul, and body.

#7 Begin the process of seedtime and harvest time. If whatever you have, financially speaking, is not

enough to meet a particular need, that's not your harvest; that is your seed. When you go to God with a need, God is going to talk to you about your seed. Genesis 8:22 declares, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." This verse is not only talking about money. Life itself is based on the concept of seedtime and harvest. In order to reap a harvest, you have to sow something. A farmer plants corn seeds in order to reap a harvest of corn. The Bible tells us that you will reap whatever you sow (Galatians 6:7).

#8 Recognize the difference between multiplied seed and harvest. When you plant a seed, two things will come forth: a harvest, and more seeds. The farmer who plants corn seed will get a harvest of corn, and a harvest of corn seed. It's vital that you know the difference between a harvest that is additional seed and a harvest that is the thing you've been expecting and believing God for. If you didn't receive the full manifestation of what you were believing God for

that additional seed is multiplied seed that should be replanted. Don't "eat" or squander your additional seed. Keep sowing it. Continue to plant your seed until you receive the desired result that the Word of God has promised you.

#9 Stay consistent and committed to that which you've planted. If you want breakthrough in your life, you're going to have to make a decision to be consistent and committed. Breakthrough doesn't occur by taking a principle and doing it one time. Breakthrough occurs when you take a principle and practice it over and over again. Consistency is the key to breakthrough in any area of life.

#10 Change your posture and position and act like it's so. I touched on this topic briefly in the previous chapter. You have learned how to look in the mirror and say, "I'm prosperous now. I'm healed now. I'm delivered now. I'm whole now. I'm complete in Christ, right now! I have more than enough to do whatever God has called me to do, right now!" Whatever you need to manifest in this natural world is already done,

because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Total life prosperity is a finished work! (John 17:4). Lay hold of it, by faith. Start calling those things that already exist in the spirit realm over into this natural realm (Romans 4:17).

#11 Trust in your prophet. It's so important to trust in your man or woman of God, the pastor or spiritual leader that God has anointed to feed you the Word of God. Your prosperity will be based, in part, on whether you believe and trust in your man or woman of God. Don't allow doubt and unbelief where your pastor is concerned to hinder what God wants to do in your life. If you don't trust your pastor's ability to lead, or his or her integrity, for whatever reason, leave that church! It makes no sense to remain in a church where you don't have confidence in the person leading the flock. Put yourself in a position where your prosperity can be manifested.

#12 Seek and practice the presence of God diligently. If you're going to prosper, you have to have daily contact with God. How do you practice His presence?

If you take a shower every morning, pray in the shower. If you drive to work and it's thirty minutes away, pray on the way to work. If you give it some thought, you can find lots of ways where you can begin to practice the presence of God. The purpose of practicing His presence is to develop your ability to hear from God. How can He lead and guide you into total life prosperity if you can't clearly discern and recognize His voice? God speaks to you through His written—logos—Word, and the Person of the Holy Spirit speaks God's rhema words to you.

#13 Quickly repent when necessary. To repent means to change your mind, your heart, and your position. So when you sin or miss the mark, verbally acknowledge to God that you missed it, receive your forgiveness by faith, then get up and keep it moving! God's got a job to do with you. Because of His grace, all of your sins—past, present, and future—are already forgiven. So don't sit around talking to Him about what you did last week, last month, or last year. God does not condemn you, so refuse to condemn yourself (Romans 8:1).

#14 Intercession. Intercession is prayer on behalf of other people. It's an act of compassion and mercy. This is a vital step toward achieving a prosperous life. What you make happen in somebody else's life, is what God will cause to happen in your own life. Therefore, take your attention off of your needs, your hurt, or your pain and place it on somebody else's needs, hurts, and pain.

CHAPTER 4

TOTAL LIFE PROSPERITY

Psalm 112 is a summary of your prosperity profile. “Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be

exalted with honour. The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.”

That’s an illustration, or representation, of your prosperity profile! That’s who you’re supposed to be. That’s the complete pie! But listen to me carefully now. In the previous chapter, I outlined God’s divine order for biblical prosperity. However, don’t assume that your self-effort, or your works, or your willpower, are the means through which you’re going to achieve total life prosperity. God’s *grace* is how it will manifest in your life.

Grace is God’s enabling power that gives you the ability to do what you could never do on your own. Grace has been made available to everyone; however, it takes faith to access this grace (Romans 5:1, 2). The Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing God’s Word (Romans 10:17). The Word of God produces faith, and our corresponding action is the evidence of what we believe. But if there is no action, your faith is dead (James 2:26). Your prosperity is not going to simply fall out of the sky. God has already done His part; you have to do yours. When you act in

line with God's Word, the result is that your faith gives you access to God's grace, which is His divine power. Whatever your weaknesses or shortcomings may be, grace empowers you to overcome them, get the job done, and get tangible results in life.

So today, what piece is missing from your prosperity pie? What do you need in order to enjoy the whole pie and experience total life prosperity? Whatever it is, grace is available to you today. Best of all, grace is a free gift from God (Romans 5:15). It cannot be earned. If you will develop your faith in God's Word, you can receive what Jesus has already accomplished on your behalf, instead of trying to earn the promises of God.

Whatever you need already exists in the spiritual realm. So the question isn't, can God do this? God has already done it! Whatever you need to manifest in this natural world, whether it be healing, deliverance from some addiction, financial provision, a healthy marriage, a thriving business, well-adjusted children—whatever—it is already done. Today, put your faith in Christ's finished works. Reach out and lay hold of everything you need

to partake of and enjoy the prosperous life that God preordained for you to live!

“If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity and their years in pleasantness *and joy*” (Job 36:11, *AMP*).

It is the will of God that every single one of His children enjoy *total life prosperity*. He wants you to experience days of heaven on earth, where nothing is missing, lacking, or broken in any area of your life. But you must renew your mind and accept the truth that biblical prosperity, the God-kind of prosperity, is your divine, covenant right. In *Living the Prosperous Life*, Creflo Dollar outlines:

- The true definition of prosperity and why it consists of so much more than material possessions or money
- Why prosperity is God's idea, and His purposes for prospering us
- The difference between worldly prosperity versus kingdom of God prosperity
- Practical steps you must take in order to walk in divine, biblical prosperity



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