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**M**inisters **U**ncompromisingly **S**ubmitted to **C**hrist in **L**ove and **E**ndless **S**ervice

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### **The Heart of Financial Prosperity (covenant wealth)**

The subject of financial provision (abundance, prosperity, wealth, supply or what ever you want to call it) has been one that has stirred much controversy in the body of Christ and it ought not to. Before any of us get wrapped up in the quest for financial gain at the expense of knowing the Father God or purport a false image of humility in the guise of poverty as a sign of spirituality please note that **the bible explicitly declares that God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants and HE is the one who gives the power to make wealth. In this lesson we will be looking at some of the reasons and what I believe to be the foundational reason or purpose of godly wealth and why God wants to put money in your hands.**

Our Father God wants to bless us abundantly in every area of our lives inclusive of finances. Does that mean that we will all become millionaires or billionaires? No. Is the potential of becoming a millionaire or billionaire in every believer? Yes, because the one who is wisdom (the principal thing) dwells in every believer. Will every believer become a millionaire or prosper financially? No. Will there always be the poor amongst us? Yes. Jesus said “the poor you will always have”. Haven said that please don’t confuse a statement of fact as opposed to the will of God. Just as it is the will of God that all humans come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, it is a fact that not all humans will be saved. And please note that you cannot define what constitute financial prosperity by a certain number. What is financial abundance for one may be financial lack and poverty for another. Financial prosperity or covenant wealth begins in God. Wisdom is the principle thing and when we begin to operate in wisdom God will put money in our hands foundationally for the purpose of establishing His covenant on earth which is simply translated: God wants to bless you or put money/wealth in your hands so that you can be a channel for funding and taking the good news of His love through Jesus Christ to a dyeing world. In the course of been caught up with love for Him, (knowing He is a good God who owns all the natural resources in and on the earth) and His purpose by funding the gospel it also gives God pleasure to see you as His child having all your needs met and seeing you enjoy life to the fullest.

I want to categorically and vehemently state that true prosperity of any kind (finances, health, emotional, family etc) cannot be defined independent of God. Humanity was not created to live life or exist independent of God. God is our life source and sufficiency-**2 Corinthians 3:5**. Prosperity of any kind without God in the eternal schematic of the human soul is profitless. Jesus asked the poignant question, “What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul.” A person can only be as prosperous in the divine perspective as they are born of the spirit of God in Christ, love God (and know that He loves them) and His purpose (the spreading of the gospel) Romans 8:28. Without been born again possessing the abundance of the good things of this life will be profitless in the eternal scheme of a person’s soul. However, having been born again and possessing the abundance of the good things of this life makes life more

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enjoyable and there is absolutely nothing wrong in living life to the fullest when you love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.

In this segment on finances, I want to major on some aspects of the why of the heart of financial provision and what I believe is the fundamental purpose of money. It is evident in the word that tithes and offerings transcend the law. Abraham (the father of our faith) was not under the law yet He tithed. Jesus speaking about the tithe said this ye are supposed to do and the writer of Romans speaking of the present in a New Testament setting said that men received tithes. **Therefore we are to pay our tithes. The tithe is a no brainer. It is owed to God.** The core of financial provision is directly linked to the tithe (and offerings; Malachi 3:10), which is a **central test of the commitment of your heart to the Lord, fear and reverence of Him as well as.** Do you know that **money** (specifically the love or lust thereof- the spirit of mammon) is **the dominant thing that can compete with your affection on a par equal to or greater than your affection/love for God?** So if you want money to loose any hold on you give the tenth to Him. In fact, if I dare to be candid with you (and I dare) I will say that you give it all to Him and let Him in wisdom teach you how to dispense the 90.

Why did God institute tithes and offerings? In **Deuteronomy 14:23** it poignantly declares “**that we may learn to fear the Lord always**”. The word fear is reverence. This is not something that is taught much. God declares in his word that through the tithe He will teach his people the fear (reverence, awe) of the Lord. When you surrender that which represents part of your life in wages to the Lord you are declaring and acknowledging Him as your source and sustainer. You are demonstrating that you have reverence for God because you are obeying Him in tithes and offering. **My dear your commitment to surrender the one thing (wages, money) that represents an exchange of your life’s labor to the Lord is not only a declaration of your faith and trust in Him but a reflection of where your heart truly is.** Jesus’ demand to the rich young ruler to sell all he had, give to the poor and follow him was a test of his heart and he miserably failed the money test. His love for and trust in money exceeded his love for God. **If God can get to your money and through your money He can get to your heart.**

God owns all the riches in the entire universe. We are merely stewards. **The heavenly Father is not after your money for money sake. He is after your heart and He wants to link your heart to His covenant which is the gospel. He wants to get people saved and the only way they can be saved is through the hearing of the gospel and it cost money to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. How can they go except they are sent Paul declares to the church in Rome as he is saying to us?** Christians who know to do the basic of tithing and don’t do so close the door/window for God to do a work in their heart that only this aspect of our submission to Christ can accomplish. I know believers who don’t tithe and they are always in financial disarray. I also know believers who don’t tithe and always seem to have much money. It is entirely possible as a believer to go out there and succeed by your own strength. Check out your bible. You can do it in your own strength but God will not get any glory in it and you will not use that money to fund His gospel. The reality of the situation though is that both individual always come up short and empty in the inside. I personally believe that believers who do not submit to the grace of Christ in tithes and offerings will miss out on the eternal reward and joy of seeing what the Lord of the harvest would have accomplished with their finances/money in reaping souls into the kingdom.

Another fundamental reason God instituted tithes and offering is that there may be “meat in His house” according to Malachi 3:10. It takes money to run a church building and pay the staff. It is such a weird sense of thinking that some believers expect the preacher/pastor/youth pastor to hold a full time job outside the church and leave their job and come take care of them and their teenage sons and daughters in regular and

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youth church while their own families are been neglected. Or a pastor to hold a full time job and take care of every aspect of the church business. All the while these men and women have families of their own that they are missing time on because people are not bringing all the tithes and offerings into the store house (local church) where they are been fed spiritually. Churches also have other needs as maintaining the building, paying electricity, water, heat and air conditioning and the list goes on and tithes and offerings are determined by God for this purpose. The main function of a pastor is to be given to the word and prayer (not working a full time job out in the world) and then expected by believers who are not showing reverence to God through tithes and offering to neglect time with their family and take care of other peoples family because they have to work outside the church and are expected to work full time in the church. It cost money to run and manage the basic essentials of a church.

The last reason and what I believe to be the most fundamental purpose for money in financial prosperity is in **Deuteronomy 8:18**, where The Lord admonishes his people to remember Him because he is the one that gave them the power (ability) on how to make wealth, **so that God may establish his covenant on earth** which He promised to their fathers. In this verse wealth/money is tied to the covenant. There is a connection between your money and the spreading of the gospel. What was this covenant? This covenant is the promise that God gave to Abraham that through his seed who is Christ, God will bless the inhabitants of the earth. The establishment of the covenant of grace in Christ is linked to you releasing your finances to God in tithes and offerings so that the gospel can be preached (**Romans 10:13-15**) A believer who truly walks in the fear of the Lord is one who is constantly submitting who they are and all that they have to Him for his purposes. God owns it all. The heartbeat of the father is that all should come to the saving knowlwdge of Jesus.

**Financial prosperity is relative.** However, for all it means that as a child of God you have more than enough for just you and your personal needs or your family's need after paying your tithe to be free to give into the give into the gospel and to others and godly causes. The saying and idea of, "I just need enough for me and or my family" is a very selfish concept as covenant redeemed humans in covenant with the God of the universe who has a need to establish His covenant of grace and love Christ with all humans of all tribes and language and race. Yes I say God has a need and that that need is to establish His covenant through the seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ to all humanity by the preaching of the gospel. Will you link hands with God by surrendering your finances to Him?

My dearly beloved, Paul refers to the church in Philippians as his crown and joy. People are the only true riches we will take to heaven with us. People are the greatest investment we can invest our finances into for eternal purposes. The gospel is the greatest investment you can ever invest in because apart from other dividends, the highest dividend it will yield to you is the reward of seeing souls won into the kingdom of God. The song "Thank You" by Ray Boltz gives us a glimpse of what it will be as we stand before the Lord of the harvest Himself and we are overwhelmed further with everlasting joy by the multitudes of people we never knew or met on earth coming to us and saying thank you for giving of your tithes and offerings to the Lord. I am alive today because you invested your finances in the hands of Jesus who used it to send a missionary, preacher, a Christian, a tract, TV show, etc to my school, jail room, country, impoverished home to feed me, give me water, cloth my naked body and that touched my heart and I knew that Jesus really cared and loved me and I accepted Him as my Lord and Savior. I want to encourage you to become a money missionary. You may not be able to go physically but your money sown into the hands of God can reap souls into the kingdom eternally. How can they go except they are sent? It takes money to send them and people are at the core of the gospel and God's need to establish His covenant is the foundational purpose of covenant financial wealth and prosperity.

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**What are we doing with our finances in the face of God's need to establish His covenant on earth with a dying world? Jesus is in our midst disguised in the little helpless baby, boy, girl suffering from malnutrition, the elderly who needs assistance, the prisoner crying out for love and hope, the homeless needing shelter, food and comfort, the lonely widow needing someone to talk to, the teenage boy and girl who knows no love from home and school, the girl/woman/boy who has been sexually molested and has lost all sense of self esteem** and the list goes on and on. **Are we playing our part to lay down our lives to be Jesus to the world around us?** As an individual you may not be able to reach everyone but as the body of Christ we can each do what we can where we are like Mary anointing Jesus and God will take what we give and multiply it like the little boy's five loaves and two fishes and touch multitudes beyond what we could ever do. You always win when you give to God.

Money has a purpose and a mission and it goes beyond just meeting your personal needs. The fundamental heart of covenant wealth in financial prosperity in tithes and offering is tied to God's covenant to take the gospel into all the earth. He wants you to release the 10<sup>th</sup> into His hands and break the love of money so you can be so liberated from the power of the lust for money and things. A heart that is surrendered to the spirit of Christ in finances is a liberated channel that God can **entrust with more** so that He can establish his covenant with all humans through the gospel of the blood covenant of His beloved Son Jesus Christ. **He takes pleasure in the prosperity of his children and that is inclusive of finances.** How can we be free to give if as some believe that our Father wants us under the bondage of lack and poverty? It is not so. This line of thinking is contrary to everything the bible teaches. The bible says that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law and He became poor so that we can be rich. That statement was not used by Paul in context to simply spiritual things as some claim. He was talking about giving.

You cannot and will not take money/wealth to heaven or any inanimate object with you in the after life. What man hordes (Gold and precious stone) and hurts others to possess, God uses in heaven as construction material. So you cannot take money with you to heaven but you can use the power of your money to bring the gospel to the lost so that they can have an opportunity to accept Jesus who alone has the power and right to bring humans to the Father in this life and in heaven. You can sow and use your money to reveal the love of God to the lost or someone in need in uncountable ways or you can remain in your lust for money or false humility in the guise of poverty and allow the unrighteous to continue to use that same money which has no mind or nature of its own (but assumes the nature of the one who possesses it) for unrighteous purposes.

God in His foreknowledge put wealth in the earth as a medium through which He would propagate the gospel of His love to the nations of the world. The fundamental value and purpose of money is to be a servant for the spreading of the gospel. Money in the hands of a God fearing believer or person will assume the personality of that person. You can use bricks to build a hospital or you can use them to hurt and destroy people. You can use money to reveal the love of God to people or you can use it to kill people like the terrorists do. Money is a neutral agent, an amoral substance. It is neither righteous nor unrighteous. However it assumes the personality of the one who possesses it.

I want to encourage parents (if you haven't or don't) to start teaching your children the importance of giving finances to the Lord in tithes and offerings. If the present generation of parents will do that, not long from now we will have a whole generation of believers who are radical financial givers into the kingdom of God than the pathetic display of many (mostly adults) occasional God tippers and robbers in the church today. If our children and teens can make Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, the creators of X Box and Nintendo

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multi millionaires and billionaires (and there is nothing wrong in buying these) they can give and give more to the causes of God. Parents you are their examples. Teach them well.

Remember **The Father loves you so much** so that **He gave his all in Christ**. Let's all continue to surrender all that we are and have to His loving arms. **He alone is your increase**. He is your inheritance in Christ. He is your prosperity and exceeding great reward.

**Shalom,**  
*Kenneth Etta*

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