

KINGDOM: Prosperity Comes From Revelation and Work

The 'get rich quick' philosophy of our society not only drives our culture, but it has also infiltrated the church. This is exemplified in the modern-day prosperity gospel which is based on the idea that God will miraculously do every thing we ask because we have the right to whatever heaven possesses as part of our covenantal inheritance.

What we've missed is that our covenant is the Israeli covenant with expanded benefits. We are quick to claim all the promises in scripture (OT + MT), but we've missed the fine print as to how they are to be worked through. For example: Lance Wallnau talks about the OT containing principles for the health of a nation which we overlook in our ignorance.

The process to prosperity is pretty clear if we examine the history of the Jews.

- They weren't translated from Egypt to Canaan – they had to caravan through the wilderness.
- They weren't given the Promised Land miraculously – they had to take it by force.
- They didn't have perfect rulers – they had to work with who they had and maintain their national integrity at the same time.
- God intervened for them – only when they were totally unable to do things for themselves.
- The miraculous didn't just materialize – there were instructions and procedures to follow.

The Jews of the past few centuries exemplify the principles for prosperity. The Jews while dispersed around the nations were/are still God's covenant people (our eldest brother) and he blessed them to prosper. They were the commercial people, bankers and financiers wherever they dwelt, not because of miracles, but because they honoured God, followed his biblical principles for life and worked conscientiously, expecting God to bless the work of their hands.

We must follow the Kingdom principle that productivity coming from the work of our hands. Then add the principle that we honour God in everything we do. Next, we add the principle of excellence – excellence¹ is one of the hallmarks of the Kingdom. Finally, we must add to that the principle that prosperity originates with Heavenly revelation. Put the 4 together and the combined Kingdom principle is:

'revelation + honour + excellence + work → prosperity'.

Here's an example of how it has worked for Matt McPherson.²

"Matt McPherson is known as a man with great passion for God. His love is to minister the Gospel through music and leading in worship. However, after being handed a \$15 check for a weekend of ministry, he realized that it would be a very challenging way to support his family. Soon after that experience, the Lord gave him this wonderful promise: I am going to prosper you in business, so you can be self-sufficient in ministry. The following is a brief report of God's faithfulness to that promise.

Matt's approach to life is refreshing, as he is bothered by mediocrity. The thought of being average is frightening. He has no desire for fame or power, but refuses to be passive with his life. He wants to make a difference. His love for God has created a passion for excellence and creativity that is admirable.

One day God spoke something to him that would forever change his life. He said, I know every answer to every problem in the world. If men would only ask me, I would give them the answers. Matt was overwhelmed with the promise and the sense of awe he had for God in that moment. He dropped to his

1 – Not perfectionism.

2 – This item was presented by Peter Dunnet in the morning's community meeting on 19-4-2015

knees and cried out to God about the things that concerned him. As a young man Matt developed a hobby of making and shooting compound bows. He obtained the love of archery grew while hunting with his father and brothers in his early years. Following the revelation about God having the answers to every issue in life, he asked God about how to build a better bow. He knew hundreds of ways not to build one, but wanted to take God's invitation to ask for answers for any problem. Several weeks later, at around three o'clock in the morning, he woke up seeing a piece of paper suspended before his eyes. It looked as though it was torn from a notebook. On it was a sketch of a compound bow, revealing a new concept. When his wife, Sherry, asked him what he was doing, he said, "I think I'm having a vision." He was. In response to his prayer, God gave him the initial concept for what would eventually launch the Mathews Archery Company, changing the archery industry forever.

Compound bows have an intrinsic problem to them: they have two cams/pulleys that must be properly synchronized to get the bow to work correctly. The idea that God put on the suspended sheet of paper was a whole new concept in bow design. It was a single-cam bow that eliminated the synchronizing issues. This idea alone turned the archery industry upside down.

Today, Mathews Inc. is the largest archery manufacturing company in the world. They not only sell volumes of bows; they sell a product of superior design and excellence in craftsmanship. The combination of quantity and quality is a rare blend seen in the business community today. But the commitment of the McPherson family to honor God in all they do has increased the favor of God on all they do.

Not all creative ideas have to come from a suspended piece of paper. As exciting as Matt's story is, the bigger picture is of a man and wife who have given themselves completely to God, for His glory. It is because God found them trustworthy that He entrusted ideas of great worth to them. Matt is the owner of at least 20 patents, with more pending. They have embraced the call to ministry through business. He was inducted into the Bowhunters Hall of Fame in 1998...

The same excellence and creativity used for designing and manufacturing archery equipment is also used for making acoustic guitars. As a result of their innovation and quality, their master craftsmen make some of the finest guitars in the country. Many of the industry's top recording artists play the McPherson guitar. This is yet another testimony of the McPherson story of God's promised blessing. When Matt once asked God why he was chosen for a particular assignment, he discovered that while he wasn't God's first choice, he was the first willing. The assignment was challenging, but successful.

Today Matt and Sherry McPherson are living what God had promised many years ago. They are free to do their music ministry, travel, and support the Gospel around the world. They have also discovered the joy of bringing God-ideas to their sphere of influence. As a result, their business is ministry. Countless numbers of people are touched by their love and example in the business world through their integrity, creativity, and excellence.”³

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19-4-2015
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3 – Bill Johnson (2006) “Dreaming with God”, Destiny Image: Shippensburg, PA p:117-120