

# Bible Way Church

OF ATLANTA ROAD

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

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## "Empowered to Prosper"

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)

III John 1:2 (NKJV)

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- Last week we began a series on the subject of empowerment by examining the question, "*What are we empowered to do?*"
- We stated that one of the things God has empowered us to do, as believers, is to pull down strongholds that are blocking us from walking in divine purpose.
- God has always empowered His children to prosper and to be in health.
- In III John, verse 2, the Apostle John writes that he wishes above all things that we, the children of God, prosper.
- The word prosper is defined as "to succeed or to thrive."
- The words *prosperity* and *success* are often used to describe someone who **seems** to be doing very well.
- However, it is important for us to understand that when the Bible refers to our prosperity, it is not just referring to what we possess. It is also referring to who we are.
- Our character determines our prosperity more so than our bank account.
- Prosperity is linked more to our attitude than to our net worth.
- Proverbs 23:7 reads "for as one thinketh in his heart, so is he."
- There are many who have great possessions and little, if any, character; many who will never be prosperous individuals.
- There are also those with little possessions and great character who are considered by the Lord to be very prosperous.
- The question for us to consider today is, "How do we prosper in the sight of God?"

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- Let us consider three ways we can become prosperous, ways that we can have what God has for us **and** have godly character:

### **1. Our Attitude Toward Others**

- One of the basic principles of life is to treat others as you want to be treated.
- In St. Matthew 7:2 (AMP), Jesus tells his disciples, "In accordance with the measure you deal out to others, it will be dealt out again to you."
- Paul writes in Galatians 6:7 (KJV), "... whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."
- If we treat people right regardless of who they are, we will prosper.

### **2. Our Attitude Toward Our Possessions**

- What we think about what we own is perhaps more important than what we own.
- The Bible tells us that the **love of money** is the root of all evil.
- In our scriptural text, Moses tells Israel "To remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth you the power to get wealth."
- God has empowered us to get wealth, and he expects us to do the right thing when we get it, such as paying our tithe and helping those who are in need.
- In Malachi 3:10-12, the Lord tells Israel that if they are faithful with tithes and offerings, then, He would open the windows of heaven, and pour them out blessings, that there shall not be room enough to receive it... and all nations shall call them blessed.

### **3. Our Attitude Toward God**

- It is important for us to always remember that God is the source of the power that allows us to prosper.
- We must always acknowledge God as the source of all our blessings.
  - "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path."  
*Proverbs 3:6*
- Finally, we must have an attitude of gratefulness.
  - "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits?"  
*Psalms 116:12*
  - "...be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."  
*Psalms 100:4*