

MORE Faith & Faith

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Merry Christmas

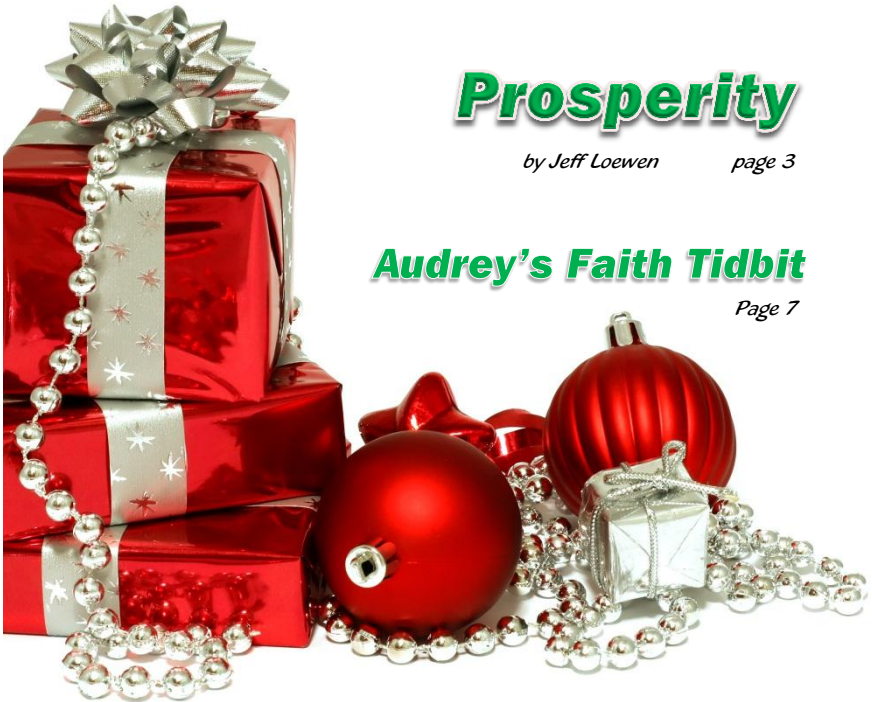
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Hi Partners and Friends

We want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year.

We want to encourage you whether 2013 was better than expected or not - choose to believe that we are heading into the best year of our lives to this point! God always does things better and better, He increases and does not decrease.

One thing to remember is that preparation time is never wasted time. It is interesting and encouraging to me that at the age of 12 Jesus knew He was to be about His Father's business but it wasn't for another 18 years till He stepped into His full time ministry. Preparation time is never wasted time. The higher the skyscraper the deeper the foundation and the bamboo tree is a wonderful example or illustration of this. After you plant the seed you tend to it for 4 years and see absolutely nothing happen but in the 5th year in 5-6 weeks it grows 80-90 feet tall. That is about 24 inches a day. Why did it take 5 years to see results? Because in those 4 years it was sending it's roots deeper and deeper to prepare for the height of the 5th year. Preparation time is never wasted time. Let's continue to believe and trust God for the greater things He has planned for us because HE IS FAITHFUL.

We love you & God Bless
Jeff & Audrey



Proclaiming the Word of Faith unto Soteria - Rom. 10:8-13

PROSPERITY

I had the wonderful opportunity to speak at the Canada Word of Faith Bible Training Centre Edmonton campus the beginning of November. One of the classes I taught was "Prosperity in the Plan of Redemption" and how prosperity in every area of our lives is the will of God. The Holy Spirit in 2 Cor 8:9 makes it very clear that by the grace of God Jesus took *our place* and became *our substitute*. He became *poor for us* in order to *make us rich* - and the Greek word translated rich can also be translated make us wealthy and increasing in goods.

Since we can't teach on the God kind of prosperity without talking about tithes and offerings - I taught on the value, importance, honor and the love for God demonstrated thru tithes and offerings. Then there are those who say tithing is under the law and we are free from the law so tithing is not for today. Being free from the law doesn't mean we can now do whatever we want. No, on the contrary we are now free from *having* to do it and are free to do it. You see the motive has changed. According to Hebrews chapter 7 we can see that tithing was **before** the law (vs 1-2), **during** the law (vs 5) and **after** the law (vs 8, 17). So along with other scriptures we can see and understand that tithing is the will of God for all time. Therefore let's throw away that silly excuse to be selfish and disobedient.

The word tithe means *tenth* or *10%*. God reveals to us in Deut 26:13 that the tithe is *HOLY*. The Word holy means *separated, set apart or dedicated*. The top 10% or the firstfruits of our increase are separated and set apart and returned to God. They are dedicated to and for Him. This is where honor comes in. Because He has separated it as His own we show honor and love for Him by returning to Him what is His.

Prov 3: 9-10

Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase. So shall your storage places be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine

Everything good starts with God and we know tithing is His will. So then God thought up tithing (not the devil) as a way to protect and increase His man financially. God taught Adam to tithe while he was in the garden. The result was His instruction that he could eat of all the trees in the garden but *one*. That one tree and its fruit were

separated from the rest of the trees but he was still to tend and keep them *ALL*.

Genesis 2:15-17 God's Word Translation

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to farm the land and to take care of it. The Lord God commanded the man. He said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden. But you must never eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because when you eat from it, you will certainly die."

God gave him the responsibility to tend and farm *all* the trees of the garden and harvest the fruit from them **all**. BUT he could not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for it was holy and separated to God. He was to harvest it and return it to God as the first fruits of the garden. While he was returning it to God and honoring Him would have been a great time to ask to be taught about the knowledge of good and evil and God would have taught him. Adam and Eve did not have to experience evil to learn and understand evil. How do we know this is true? Because Jesus never sinned or experienced sin/evil for Himself in order to understand it and teach about it. He learned about it from His Father and the Word of God.

Adam taught his boys - Abel brought the first fruits but Cain brought the 3rd or 4th fruits. First fruits are first but everything else is leftovers and leftovers are dishonorable. That is why God respected and received Abel's gift but didn't receive Cain's. The next time we see tithing in action is in Gen. 14:18-24 when Abram met Melchizedek after defeating and plundering the kings that captured his nephew and the cities around him. Abram took the 10th of the spoil and honored God by giving it to Melchizedek (Noah's oldest son Shem) king of Salem and Priest of the Most High God. Then God responds toward Abram in:

Gen 15:1

After these things (tithing ch 14:18-24) the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

After these things - honoring God with the tithe and then giving the remainder of the spoil to the king of Sodom God said "Don't be afraid because I am your shield and defense. I am your abundant

compensation, and (the Hebrew rendering of “I’m your exceedingly great reward” is) I am quickly and speedily increasing and multiplying your wage, salary and worth.” There is a benefit and reward for tithers.

Mal 3:10-12

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

There are a few things the Lord reveals to us in this passage of scripture. We are to bring our tithes to the storehouse which is the place we are being fed spiritually - primarily our local church. Honoring the Lord with our tithe produces results in 4 areas. One, the devourer is rebuked for our sake - meaning our stuff is protected. Whether we tithe or not we don't get to keep the 10%. If we refuse to tithe the devourer gets to break our stuff and we have to spend more than the 10% to fix/repair or replace that stuff. But as tithers our stuff is protected from the devourer. Two, the fruit of the ground is protected - meaning our income and harvest from seed sown. Third, our harvest and increase will be right on time. And then fourth, the blessing on our life will be seen by others and they will delight or desire to be like us and enjoy the same results.

Lastly I do want to mention that a lot of people think this portion of scripture says that God will pour out blessings on us but if you look again it is *blessing* - singular and not blessings plural. The *blessing* produces the 4 results that followed in verses 11 and 12. Also Jerry Savelle has mentioned a number of times this year that one of his spiritual Fathers, Oral Roberts, believed that this *blessing* was God giving us “ideas, concepts and insights.” I will talk more about this next month.

Most of us who believe in tithing (10%) and offerings (anything above the 10%) operate from a cheerful heart of love for God and for others and expect a return based on the Word of God. Based on Prov 3, Malachi 3, 2 Cor 9, Phil 4, Mark 10 and many other scriptural references, when we give we can expect it to be given and multiplied

back to us. What I have found and observed is that as we do the Word that we know and give in our tithes and offerings that we then stand and look around waiting for the harvest. Or we take the posture of sitting on the couch and expect the doorbell to ring and expect someone to give us \$1000 or \$10,000 each month. If we give \$100 a month over and above our tithe (10%) according to Mark 10:30 we can expect up to a 100 fold return which is \$10,000 a month. Yet nothing seems to change. We may receive a onetime financial blessing but as we continue to give month after month we have more than a onetime harvest with our name on it. So here is the life many Christians live. Waiting for the increase to come but have no idea how to reap the harvest and then wonder why nothing is happening or changing. In other words we don't know enough - we are perishing because of a lack of knowledge - Hosea 4:6.

The purpose of being blessed is to be a blessing and it is very, very, very hard to be a big blessing if we are not very blessed ourselves.

As I close for this month I want to bring to your attention that a number of times the Lord has talked about income. My focus next month will be on income. Many of us have released our faith for things that we need or have wanted and received them. But what I want to focus on is our income. We have been giving consistently each and every month but have not been experiencing increase each and every month in our income. I will share a few things that you may or may not have ever heard and trust the Holy Spirit to spark and ignite a thought, or idea and open up or reveal a way or path that you may never have thought about before - in order to experience and enjoy your harvest of financially increase and be the blessing God has created you to be.



We were blessed to have the opportunity to minister Sept the 29th at All Nations Harvest Church in Red Deer and we had a wonderful time ministering the Word of God.

Audrey's Faith Tidbit

1 Thess. 5:18 “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”

1 Tim. 2:1 “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men”

Christmas is a great time to remind ourselves to be thankful and to say thank you. First to God for what Jesus has done for us and also for all the people in our lives that have helped us and blessed us and taught us. And even for people who were not for us but have actually helped us to grow in our faith and character.

Everyone has something they can be thankful for right now. You can be thankful that you are alive right now even if the devil has tried to take you out. He hasn't and he can't as long as you are following God. You can be thankful for where you are in life right now – maybe if you look back you can see how far you have come and be grateful for being in a different place than you used to be. Start with anything you can see in your life – do you have enough groceries? A warm place to sleep? Clothes you like? Your vehicle runs well? You live in a safe neighborhood? A blessed family? Find something and build upon it. Tell God how grateful and thankful you are. Praise Him for what He has done for you, how He has kept you and preserved you and provided for you and your family. Glory to God! He has done great things for all of us! And He is not finished yet. This isn't the best yet, there is more to come. God is going to do even greater things yet all for His Glory. He isn't finished with you; He wants to take you from Glory to Glory and in doing so it will be a witness for the nations. You will be blessed and you will be a blessing to others as you testify and share God's goodness with the people around you.

Remember to be thankful for what God has done for us as we enter into the Christmas season. Even though it can be busy and hectic, we can still keep that thankfulness in our hearts and carry it with us throughout the holidays. Enjoy being with family and loved ones and appreciate what we already have. Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday!