

## Outline

- I. There are ways that you can prosper outside of God, but it takes away your life (Prov. 1:19).
  - A. The blessing of the Lord will make you rich, and He adds no sorrow with it (Prov. 10:22).
  - B. Although my wife and I lived in poverty for a time because of my own stupidity, God taught me some things, and I've learned to cooperate with Him.
  - C. There's a way to prosper through God that is different than just working your fingers to the bone and stressing yourself out.
  
- II. Consider what God said to Abraham: "*I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing*" (Gen. 12:2).
  - A. If you aren't blessed, you can't bless others.
  - B. Afraid that someone would kill him to get his beautiful wife Sarah, Abraham lied, saying, "She's my sister."
  - C. So, Pharaoh took Sarah into his harem, intending to make her his wife (Gen. 12:10-20).
  - D. Abraham did this same thing a second time, with King Abimelech in Gerar (Gen. 20:1-18).
  - E. God rebuked Pharaoh and King Abimelech and gave Abraham servants, cattle, and sheep.
  - F. Abraham became one of the richest men on the face of the earth, not because he was the most upstanding and perfect guy, but because he believed he was blessed.
  
- III. Because Abraham believed he was blessed, he was able to let Lot choose the best land for himself (Gen. 13:1-11).
  - A. This shows that Abraham was trusting God.
  - B. He wasn't looking just to natural things.

## Living in God's Best

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- C. God was his source and he was obeying Him.
- D. Abraham believed in the blessing, and it was the blessing of God that made him rich.

### IV. God has said that He will bless you (Deut. 15:6).

- A. It took me a while to figure some things out, but we're blessed now.
- B. I'm cooperating with God's spiritual laws much more these days, and His blessing has been made manifest in a supernatural, abundant way.
- C. You must believe!

### V. This blessing of Abraham is now ours:

*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: [14] That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Galatians 3:13-14

- A. This blessing that God gave Abraham made him very prosperous, but when we read about the blessing, it isn't referring to things.
- B. The blessing of Abraham that is ours today as believers is the favor of God spoken over us.
- C. God blessed by *saying* (Gen. 1:28).
- D. This is important!

### VI. The Bible is full of blessings—God's favor that has been spoken.

- A. The words *bless*, *blessed*, *blesseth*, and *blessing* occur about 500 times in the Bible; the words *miracle* and *miracles* occur 37 times.
- B. Sadly, we live in a culture where words don't mean much.
- C. Nowadays, people make covenants, contracts, constitutions—whatever—and then just ignore those things and do whatever they want.

- D. Many Christians have been raised in this kind of culture.
- E. We don't understand the power of a blessing.
- F. Since the way that we access the blessing is through faith (Rom. 5:2), we stop that blessing from coming to pass when we don't believe in its power.

VII. In the blessing of Genesis 1:28, God spoke for you to have dominion over the animals and to subdue them.

- A. The truth is, the animals are afraid of you:

*And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. [2] And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.*

Genesis 9:1-2

- B. Many Christians don't exercise their God-given authority.
- C. If you are afraid of dogs and bugs, it's because you don't believe that you've been blessed and have dominion and authority over them.
- D. So, it won't work for you.
- E. But you have much more authority than you realize.

## Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: There is no way to prosper outside of God (Prov. 1:19).
2. The blessing of the Lord will make you \_\_\_\_\_, and He adds no \_\_\_\_\_ with it (Prov. 10:22).
  - A. Pay / joy
  - B. Sorry / wealth
  - C. Rich / sorrow
  - D. Greedy / remorse
  - E. Generous / simplicity
3. *Discussion question:* What are some ways to prosper God's way?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. According to Genesis 12:2, "I will \_\_\_\_\_ thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a \_\_\_\_\_."
5. True or false: If you aren't blessed, you can still be a blessing.
6. True or false: Abraham became one of the richest men on the face of the earth because he was the most upstanding and perfect guy God could find (Gen. 12:10-20 and 20:1-18).
7. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God did not rebuke Abraham?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What shows that Abraham was trusting God (Gen. 13:1-11)?  
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9. *Discussion question:* How is God your source?

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10. What did God say He will do (Deut. 15:6)?

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11. What must you do with God's spiritual laws?

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12. What else must you do?

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13. True or false: The blessing of Abraham isn't referring to things (Gal. 3:13-14).

14. What is the blessing of Abraham?

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15. How did God bless (Gen. 1:28)?
- A. By saying
  - B. By pointing
  - C. By singing
  - D. By dancing
  - E. By crying
16. True or false: The Bible has more to say about miracles than about blessings.
17. *Discussion question:* Why do you think words don't mean much in today's culture?
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18. If you don't believe in the power of the blessing, you will \_\_\_\_\_ that blessing from coming to pass (Rom. 5:2).
19. According to Genesis 1:28, God spoke for you to do what?
- A. Have fun with the animals and tame them
  - B. Make pets of the animals and coddle them
  - C. Take captives of the animals and exploit them
  - D. Have dominion over the animals and subdue them
  - E. Stay away from the animals and fear them
20. True or false: The animals are afraid of you (Gen. 9:1-2).
21. True or false: If you're afraid of dogs and bugs, it's because God hasn't given you dominion and authority over them.

## Scriptures

PROVERBS 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

PROVERBS 1:19

So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

GENESIS 12:2

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.

GENESIS 12:10-20

And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land. [11] And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: [12] Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. [13] Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee. [14] And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. [15] The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. [16] And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels. [17] And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. [18] And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? [19] Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way. [20] And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

GENESIS 20:1-18

And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. [2] And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. [3] But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. [4] But

Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? [5] Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. [6] And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. [7] Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine. [8] Therefore Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and told all these things in their ears: and the men were sore afraid. [9] Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done. [10] And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing? [11] And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake. [12] And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. [13] And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother. [14] And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and womenservants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife. [15] And Abimelech said, Behold, my land is before thee: dwell where it pleaseth thee. [16] And unto Sarah he said, Behold, I have given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver: behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes, unto all that are with thee, and with all other: thus she was reprov'd. [17] So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. [18] For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife.

## GENESIS 13:1-11

And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. [2] And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. [3] And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; [4] Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. [5] And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. [6] And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could

not dwell together. [7] And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. [8] And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. [9] Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. [10] And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. [11] Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

### GENESIS 14:14-23

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. [15] And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. [16] And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. [17] And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. [18] And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. [19] And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: [20] And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. [21] And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. [22] And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, [23] That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich

### DEUTERONOMY 15:6

For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.

## DEUTERONOMY 28:8

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

## GALATIANS 3:13-14

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: [14] That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

## GENESIS 1:22

And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

## GENESIS 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

## ROMANS 5:2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

## GENESIS 9:1-2

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. [2] And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.