

A Key to Blessings and Prosperity

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Today we are going to consider the most important keys to your means to have a good job, your own business and ongoing prosperity. It is a seldom preached message for prosperity.

Let us look at where Moses sang a song to the Israelites just before he blessed them, before he died. Deut 32:3-5, 12 (about Israel), 15, 24, 28, 35, 36, 39, 43, 46, 50-52.

God is supreme, in Gen 1:1 the Bible states He creates the universe. No ranting and raving of the atheists, communists and other religions can change this. No matter how bad the persecution can change this.

For prosperity and blessings, we like to quote scriptures like Jer 29:11, Gen 12:2-3 with Gal 3:28-29. (Read all of them). But there are also scriptures, well-known, like Hosea 4:6. But we often stop quoting the verse after the verse sentence, because we do not like the rest of the verse. The missing knowledge is the Word of God. God does not expect you to repeat verse like a parrot, but to apply the Word to your life.

Israel started well at the end of Numbers until the end of Deuteronomy – they followed God's Word and prospered. At the time of their best King, David, they conquered all. King David gives us the key as he declares in Psalm after Psalm. Here is your answer.

Psalm 2:11; 5:7; 15:4; 19:9; 22:23, 25; 23:4 – David goes on and on. David had no fear for the lion, the bear, the giant, the enemies, because his fear for God was bigger. David did not speak against the evil king of the day, Saul, because he knew that God appoints Kings and removes them. His fear of God did not allow him to overstep certain boundaries. His fear of God let him step in and act – if he, who was prepared by God did not step in and do his job, what would have come of Israel?

We often do not realize where those boundaries are, because we were not brought up in the fear of God. That sounds to old fashioned – to fear God. Today we want to be free, do our own thing, determine our own lives and by my own boss. But this is a lie from the devil, because you will always have authority over you. If you don't, you will get nowhere: you can lose the job God gave you yesterday, lose your wife/husband, even end up on the street and in some cases end up in jail.

I must call a spade a spade, because I fear God, not because I judge. God is the judge, only He decides who will go to heaven or hell, but the bible is here to help us. Gal 6:1; 1 Tim 4:16; Ps 111:10; Prov 1:7; Eph 5:21; 1 Pet 5:5

Any leader must always be self-correcting. We need to criticize our own actions in the fear of God. God wants us all to be leaders, but therefore we need to grow up and start doing the right thing.

We must show God's love, out of the abundance of his love. We must be filled with his anointing, so that we can operate in the Spirit. We must bow down to God, but also to authority. Sometimes it is easy to bow down to King Jesus as He is so loving, gentle and patient, but not to people. People are not perfect, but God's perfect will happen when you can also submit yourselves to people.

The fear of God should also make you to submit to the authority you have and this is the difficult part. In Ex 20:12 God gives the only commandment with a promise. Honour (Hebrew - *Kabad*) your parents. That applies to all authority, because parenthood and eldership is the Godly form of authority.

Now Jesus submitted himself to the evil self-centred Roman authority and said nothing in his trial. He is the perfect example. Also, when you submit yourself to human authority you will be receiving human blessings. We are all familiar with the labour laws and insubordination. The standard in your life must be

uniform. You cannot just submit to authority at work and to God and not to your parents and the pastor. It doesn't work like that.

Now, the Word used in Ex 20 is Kabad, which means to make "weighty" / "heavy" and "important". You take on the burden to load the other person with glory and honour. There is no limit to the expectation, and you also must not bring shame. (Ref: www.hebrew4christians.com) This is also in Eph 6:1-3.

To get this right you need the fear of God, because everything we do, we do to the honour of God. If we were faithful in the small, we will be rewarded in the big. Day to day. We need to bend our knees. God wants us to have this knowledge, but remember that each one is on his / her own journey. You might be in a time of blessing or in a time of pruning, but remember that bending your knee is the first thing you should do.

Think of what Job had to go through and he did nothing wrong to deserve it! Think of Joseph being sold by his brothers and thrown into jail and he did nothing to deserve it. Therefore, the best advice for a peaceful and prosperous life I can give you is to have the fear of God within you.

This fear is not to break you down or to keep you a slave – God wants you to be free. He gave all the laws to the Israelites to keep them out of trouble and their minds focussed on God. They prospered tremendously during their time of obedience, but suffered severely for hundreds and later on 2000 years for rejecting Him. Satan hates Israel and he hates you.

The fear of God will get you to be obedient and then God will be your protection, your hedge. If you lose your protection by following your own will the devil will come in to kill, steal and destroy. With God's protection, you will continue to prosper even in times of famine.

Therefore, God says in Matt 10:16...

When God prunes you or when you are criticized or persecuted the first thing you need to do is to bow down to God, to humble yourself before Him. When you are suddenly blessed, you need to remind yourself where you come from, so that you do not let pride into your heart. Remember what happened to Nebuchadnezzar when he became boastful. You need to move when God directs, in his good and holy fear for Him.

So, today, make the choice to humble yourself before God, in fear of Him. Do not fear people that much. If you must choose between something unethical your boss asks you to do, or to deny Christ by the government, then you apply the fear of God and resist.

Let us pray.

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PS: The congregation responded well to this harsh word. Part of this response: Brother Gavin reminded us of Abraham and that he had to be willing to offer up his only son and even God's promises. Ps Doreen pointed out that Abraham told his servants in such a way, that he and Isaac would return. He trusted God even though the instruction seemed contradictory to the promise.