

5 Keys to Real Prosperity

(Part 5)

3 John 2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

INTRODUCTION: Review:

- Key #1 Prosperity begins with the realization that we need a Divine Revelation from God!
- Key #2 Divine Prosperity must accept the fact that you can't rush God!
- Key # 3 Prosperity must accept the God-given Principles of Biblical Authority.

1. WE MUST HAVE A TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF BIBICAL AUTHORITY.
 - THE ROD OF GOD (SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY) IS FOR GATHERING AND GUIDING.
 - OUR CONFESSION (OUR WORDS) IS FOR PROCLAIMING AND PRONOUNCING!
2. WE MUST FOLLOW GOD'S DIRECTIONS COMPLETELY AND ALWAYS OPERATE IN LOVE!
3. WE MUST RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO STRAY FROM THE WILL OF GOD.

Key # 4

We must resist the temptation to fall into the "The Judges Sin-Cycle"!

We must get off the Roller Coaster!

I. WHAT IS THE "JUDGES SIN-CYCLE"? (JUDGES 3:5-11)

And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:

6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

7 *And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.*

8 *Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years.*

9 *And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.*

10 *And the spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.*

11 *And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.*

* The Judges Sin-Cycle is very simple:

A. ISRAEL WOULD FALL INTO SIN AND BEGIN TO SERVE IDOLS! (JUDGES 2:7 & 10-12A)

And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

10 *And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.*

11 *And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:*

12 *And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.*

1. The people of Israel did not have a personal relationship with God! Their walk was based on the following of a man!

2. The fear of God was not passed on to their children! They did not create a hunger for God within the hearts of their children!
3. The reality of God turned into a tradition or just a fairy tale!

B. THEY WOULD THEN BEGIN TO REAP THEIR SPIRITUAL HARVEST!

1. The people insisted on doing their own thing and sowing seeds of rebellion!
2. God would become angry at their lack of respect and worship!
3. He would simply pull away and allow them to fall into trouble!

C. ISRAEL WOULD REPENT AND GOD WOULD SEND THEM HELP!

1. This would happen over and over again in the Book of Judges!
2. This why I call it the Judges Sin Cycle!
3. This is a pattern set by so many people today and then they wonder why things are so hard for them!

II. **HOW DO WE BREAK FREE FROM THE “SIN-CYCLE”?**

- * The answer can be summed up in one word: **“Separation”**! How can we become blessed and prosperous through a separated life?

A. ACKNOWLEDGE THE DANGERS OF “JOINING IN”! (3:5,6)

*And the children of Israel **dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:***

*6 And **they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.***

1. It began with dwelling (mixing and mingling) among the enemy!
2. They their sons began to marry the daughters of the enemy!
3. They finally started to give their daughters willing to the sons of the enemy! All this lead to serving the gods of the enemy!

B. ACCEPT OUR CALL FROM GOD TO BE SEPARATE!

(1 Peter 1:13-16)

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

(Romans 12:1 & 2)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

(2 Cor. 6:14-17)

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

B. AIM HIGH AND SEEK TO SERVE GOD IN EXCELLENCE!

(DANIEL 6:3 & 1:8A)

*Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because **an excellent spirit was in him;** and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...

1. **Daniel walked in submission and humility!** (V.8b & 9)

...therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

2. **He trusted in the ways of God!** (V.12 & 13)

Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

3. **He continued to follow the plan of God!** (V.15-17)

And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.