DESTINY TRAINING LEVEL 1
MODULE 1
CLASS 09

THE BLESSING OF PROSPERITY

Biblical Reference: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life (Psalm 23:6a).

I. A NOTE TO THE STUDENT

It's God's desire to bless every believer.

II. CLASS OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that the will of God is to bless us abundantly.
2. To comprehend the importance of an offering in receiving a blessing.
3. To study the Biblical truths of the importance of an offering.
4. To understand the Biblical importance of the relationship between giving your tithe and prosperity.
5. To begin to apply the principles for giving the best offering.

III. INTRODUCTION

David never forgot that God had called him from the sheep pen. As time went by, God continued to lift him up until he became one of the greatest kings the people of Israel have ever had. When speaking about the great challenge facing his son, Solomon, to build the house of God, David said of the Lord, "Wealth and honor come from You; You are the Ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all" (1 Chronicles 29:12).

David understood that his power as king and all the supply of treasures that were given by him and the people towards the work on the temple—the abundance of gold, silver, bronze, iron, precious stones, etc.—came from God's hand. God is the source of all power and prosperity, and He wants to get it into our hands!

IV. LESSON: PRINCIPLES OF THE BLESSING OF PROSPERITY

A. God Is Good

1. During creation, God spent five days preparing in great detail everything that man would need. He did this so that man would lack nothing. He prepared for the generations to come. He was so generous that He provided planet Earth with natural resources sufficient for every person to live like a prince.

2. In the midst of the garden, God placed two trees and gave man the freedom to choose. The fruit of just one tree was forbidden, and the destiny of the human race depended on man's decision. Amid the abundance God had provided, man chose the forbidden fruit, which caused him to forfeit paradise, and it destroyed him. Nevertheless, God did not close His heart towards man, despite his great sin.

3. God had a plan to recover all that had been lost. Because of His great love, four thousand years later, God took the best Seed in His Kingdom and planted it in the earth. Once it had fallen to the earth and died, it became the only Tree of Life (John 12:24).

4. The blessing of God is always comprehensive, all-inclusive and complete. It covers all areas of our lives: physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, financial, personal and material.

    - "Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well" (3 John 2).

    - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

    - "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8).

    - "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

    - "But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your forefathers, as it is today" (Deuteronomy 8:18).

B. The Desire Of God Is To Bless His Children

1. "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10). God doesn't need money from anybody; however, He is able to see what is in our hearts by observing how we honor Him with our possessions. Our attitude in this area determines our destiny.

2. Prosperity comes as a result of reciprocity between man and God. Reciprocity is the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit. God does want to bless us. He tests the faithfulness of the heart according to what we give Him as an offering.

C. Abel's Offering--Example Of An Acceptable Offering

1. "By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead" (Hebrews 11:4).

2. **Abel offered**. Giving an offering is an act of our will – through it we express our thankfulness to God.

3. **Abel's offering was better**. Abel did not simply give a good offering; he looked for what would be unequalled.

4. **Abel's offering was a sacrifice.** The correct offering implies sacrifice. Although Abel would have preferred to give himself, he searched for a substitute. He chose the best of the flock to represent his complete surrender to God.

5. **He was commended as a righteous man.** This offering was a substitute for what Jesus would do for our redemption.

6. **God made him an example.** His offering became a powerful argument in his favor.

7. **His offering speaks after his death.** Solomon said, "The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot" (Proverbs 10:7). The thing that made Abel's testimony immortal was the kind of offering that he gave. If the offering we give to God is so important, we should make an effort to always give the best.

D. The Offering Is A Mirror Of The Soul

1. "I know, my God, that You test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly Your people who are here have given to You" (1 Chronicles 29:17). David and the people of Israel had managed to gather a vast fortune for the construction of God's temple through offerings that the people had willingly given. In this prayer of David and other scriptures, we can see that:

2. **God tests the heart.** In Mark 12:41-44, the Lord Jesus entered the temple and watched the people who were giving their offerings. While the disciples focused on the external, the Lord examined the heart. Jesus identified those who seemed to be very generous as stingy, because although they were wealthy, they were giving to God out of what they had left over. However, He praised the poor widow who seemed to give so little as giving more than everyone else, because her offering cost her greatly.

3. **Integrity pleases God**. Integrity is the result of generosity. Cain's selfishness ruined him; Judas' greed destroyed him. The men who touched God's heart expressed their total surrender to Him through their generosity. Abel's offering still speaks today. Abraham agreed to offer his own son, and this pleased God so much that He said, "I swear by Myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies" (Genesis 22:16-17).

4. **God's people give voluntarily.** All the gold, silver, best quality wood and other costly materials Solomon used to construct the temple came from the voluntary offerings David contributed and collected from the people. Doing God's work implies a financial investment and may be challenging, but these challenges can always be overcome when the people sow joyfully, generously and voluntarily.

5. **God's people give willingly.** A freewill offering is when the people give willfully out of their generosity. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8). "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25).

E. There Is An Offering That Brings Salvation

1. "Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give Me any water for My feet, but she wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give Me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing My feet. You did not put oil on My head, but she has poured perfume on My feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little'" (Luke 7:44-48).

2. This is one of the most dramatic stories revealing the attitude of indifference that some have towards God, while others who are less privileged, through their humility and sincere prayer, manage to favorably affect the course of their circumstances. This woman did three things that led to her gaining her forgiveness:

    - **She poured out her soul before Jesus.** "And as she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair" (Luke 7:38). This woman cried out with all of her being. Every tear revealed the pain of an anguished soul, the desperation of someone who longs for God's presence in their life, the love and humility of someone who knows how to recognize the power of God. We all need to pour out our hearts before God.

- **She showed a thankful heart.** This woman kissed the feet of Jesus (verse 38). This is an attitude of pure thankfulness towards Him and humility, showing that she knew that Jesus was not just any person, but the true God. Having a thankful heart is part of our relationship with God. Hebrews 13:15 says, “through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name.”

- **She gave her best offering.** This woman poured perfume on Jesus’ feet (verse 38). She had poured out her soul and given thanks, yet something was missing – it was her offering. Some people offer their lives to God, but refuse to give Him anything financially. We must understand that God measures our spirituality by our material offering. Money is something negligible to God, but it tests the size of a person’s heart that gives an offering. The expensive perfume in the alabaster jar represented the woman’s savings. It was high quality perfume and to open it, the container had to be broken—this represents the brokenness of her life. If a person gives a correct offering to the Lord, everything becomes fragrant and this is what moves His hand.

F. Learning To Tithe

1. It was normal for the people of Israel to separate the tithe, the tenth part of their income for the work of God, even before He established it in Mosaic Law. Abraham gave a tenth of everything to the priest, Melchizedek, who blessed him (Hebrews 7:2-6) and Jacob gave a tenth of all his increase to the Lord (Genesis 28:20-22).

2. Malachi 3:10-12 is an important foundation scripture regarding the tithe: **“‘**Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

3. God has prepared a series of blessings that can only be reached by those who have learned and understand the important principles of tithing found in this scripture:

    - **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse.** The storehouse represents the church or place where we are spiritually built up. This is where we should bring our regular tithes.

    - **That there may be food in My house.** The tithes support those who do the work of God, and so God will reward you.

    - **Test Me.** This is the only text where God invites His children to test His faithfulness, and the invitation is for those who are faithful tithers. Here, the Lord Himself promises to open the floodgates of heaven, which represent when our prayers are answered. The promise to pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it means that Do will give beyond what we ask or imagine.

- **I will prevent pests from devouring y our crops.** The devourer is the spirit of ruin that the Lord promised to keep far from us.

- **And all nations will call you blessed.** The blessing will be so evident that it will spread to other nations; they will see the favor of God towards each on of His children.

- **For yours will be a delightful land.** This only occurs when the curse has been taken away and the blessing is restored in our territory.

G. Nine Key Teachings On The Offering

1. **Give the offering in secret.** "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets to be honored by men. I tell you the truth they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:2-4).

2. **Giving an offering is investing in the heavenly bank.** "Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

3. **Do not worry; have faith.** "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33).

4. **We receive according to how we give.** "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38).

5. **We are blessed when we give.** "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

6. **Learn to give offerings as Jesus did.** "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich" (2Corinthians 8:9).

7. **Carry out what you promise.** "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

8. **Bless God's servants with finances.** "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Galatians 6:6).

9. **Teach others to give offerings.** “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).

V. CONCLUSION

The Apostle Paul said that Jesus disarmed the powers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the Cross (see Colossians 2:15). Now we can give thanks to God “who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him” (2 Corinthians 2:14).

We must understand that the validity of Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross is eternal and so it is valid for every one of us today. The triumph that we enjoy as children of God is a proclamation of gratitude in the face of the definitive defeat of the enemy. God has triumphed over the enemy so that we can walk in total victory: power and prosperity in every area of our lives. Our generosity reveals the place that God holds in our hearts. Always be ready to your best offering—and get ready to experience God’s power and blessing of prosperity in your life!

DESTINY
TRAINING
G12