



STUDY GUIDE | LESSON 4

Taking Back Our Prosperity: Turning Back to God and Overcoming Strife

"As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God."
(Ecclesiastes 5:19)

I. Dreamers Do Big Things for God

- A. Dreamers believe outside of what seems possible.

"People of vision see the invisible, hear the inaudible, believe the incredible, think the unthinkable, and do the impossible."

- B. Proverbs 29:18 encourages us, *"Without a vision, people perish."*
- C. **Story:** How I was an accomplice to my own robbery!!!!

II. True Prosperity

- A. Definitions of prosperity:

1. *"A successful, flourishing, or thriving condition, especially in financial respects."*¹
2. Hebrew *tsalach*, *"to push forward, to break out, to make profitable, to make prosperous, to advance, to bring to success."*²
3. Greek *eudomai*, *"to help on the road, to succeed in business, to succeed in reaching, to lead by a direct and easy way, to be continually prospered"*

unto success in every way.”³

4. In short, prosperity is about financial blessings and success, but so much more.

“Beloved friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way and that you continually enjoy good health, just as your soul is prospering.” (3 John 1:2, TPT)

B. The beginning of prosperity is turning back to God—revival.

1. Amalekites and Midianites robbing the threshing floors. (Judges 6)
 - a. Midianites means “strife, contention, and brawling.”
 - b. These will rob from mental and emotional well-being, causing division and destruction.
2. **This was God’s judgment on idolatry**—so they could turn back to Him.
3. **Pattern in scripture:** God blesses, protects, provides, fights for them. Then Israel says, “No thanks. We’ve got this, God. We don’t really need you.” God always forgives, then punishes those used to bring them back.
4. *“The love of money is the root of all evil.” (1 Timothy 6:10)*

C. The battle for deliverance from the oppression of the enemy:

“Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, 2 and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds, which are in the mountains.

“3 So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. 4 Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. 5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as

numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.

"6 So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord." (Judges 6:1–6)

1. Impoverished = Feeble, oppressed, distressed and beaten down.
2. Languishing rather than flourishing.
3. Living as fugitives in dens and caves.
4. **Focused on the problem rather than the promise.**

D. God sent a prophet: A call to repentance:

"7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord because of the Midianites, 8 that the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; 9 and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 Also I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.' But you have not obeyed My voice.'" (Judges 6:7–10)

1. **God still sends prophets today to reveal the hearts of men.**
2. Make Jesus Real!
3. God still sends prophets to turn us back to God.
4. Divine Recovery: a life that was lost is now found!

E. God sent an angel: A call to attention.

"11 Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!' 13 Gideon said to Him, 'O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, "Did not the Lord bring us up from

Egypt?” But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” (Judges 6:11–13)

1. An angel was sent to get Gideon’s attention.

2. While he was hiding out, threshing wheat in a wine press—afraid—God saw him as a mighty man of valor. “Who, me?”
3. Gideon started conversation by blaming God for trouble.

4. Angels—from Genesis through Revelation—come bearing important messages:

- a. They assist those who inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14)
- b. Their purpose: To protect, provide, to get you in position—*not* to play with, chat, be best friends, et cetera!
- c. Angels are sent to help us recover all the enemy stole.

F. God appeared Himself—A call to us, to connection:

“Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’

“So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’ And the Lord said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’” (Judges 6:14–17)

1. Gideon is so steeped in failure he ends up arguing with God about what he can and cannot do.
2. God was patient with him and sent him signs and wonders—a confirming fleece.

G. God raised up a champion. ... A call to courage.

“Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face.’ Then the Lord

said to him, 'Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.' So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it *The-Lord-Is-Peace* (Jehovah Shalom). To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites." (Judges 6:15–18, 22–24)

1. Gideon named the altar **Jehovah Shalom**—the God who destroys chaos!
2. Courage: I used to think the definition of courage was the absence of fear. But I later learned it was "the ability to control your fear in a difficult or dangerous situation."⁴
3. **The Spirit of Robbery looks for spiritual legal ground on which they base their attack.**

III. Curses that May Be Operating to Keep You out of Blessing

God has turned the curse to a blessing for you because He loves you.
(Deuteronomy 23:5)

A. **Generational curses:**

1. **Amalekites were descendants of Esau**, who had sold his birthright to Jacob. God loved Jacob, but hated Esau. (Romans 9:13)
2. **Generational tension between these tribes of people.** This indicates a generational issue was affecting the conflict.

"The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." (Exodus 34:6–7)

3. God's first choice is always to see generational blessings. However, at times we see curses and consequences of sin and iniquity following family lines:
 - a. Addictions, drugs, alcohol, sexual addiction
 - b. Greed, avarice, slavery, robbery, injustice, extortion, et cetera

- c. “My parents were poor. So were my grandparents. I will always be poor too.”

- i. **Old-line Christianity equating poverty and spirituality**
- ii. **Catholic or Pentecostal: Vows of Poverty**
- iii. **Humanism—self-made man**

B. Territorial curses

1. Can land hold a curse? Can demonic spirits occupy a space?

- a. **The Israelites crossed into the territory occupied by the Amalekites, called valley dwellers, and occupied parts of the desert.**
- b. **Conflict came when God’s people crossed into their territory.**

2. No part of the earth belongs to the devil.

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof, and all they that dwell therein.” (Psalm 27:1)

Example: Ephesus (magic and occult training); Artemis. Yet Paul preached the gospel and the city came into revival, and by the first century, the temple fell down.

- a. **Our area:** Poverty and witchcraft; land of pirates; mob.
- b. **Gad and Meni,** wealth and destiny.

C. Self-participating curses

1. These come when one forms an agreement with the wrong things and enters into sin.

- a. **Example:** When Balaam was hired to curse Israel, he couldn’t curse them because *“the shout of a king was in their midst.”* (Numbers 23:21)

- b. His strategy to win the favor and money of Balak: If they tricked Israel into sin, it would open the door for the curse to come.

“8 Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.”
(Malachi 3:8–9)

- c. **If someone isn’t walking in covenant with God with their finances, the devourer will try to claim access to their lives.**

“10 ‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,’ says the LORD of hosts. 12 And all nations will called you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,’ says the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:10–12)

- d. **Taking that which belongs to the Lord for your own use:**

- i. Prophecies of great wealth will often go through process to see how you handle it.
- ii. God delivered the spoils before Israel, but said it belonged to Him.

- e. ***“Thou that says a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You that abhor idols, do you commit sacrilege?”***
(Romans 2:22)

Sacrilege = Greek *Hierosuleo*: “A temple robber, a church robber, a God robber”?

D. God wants to turn the curse to a blessing for us! (Deuteronomy 23:5)

1. Decree of victory:

I am blessed and not cursed. God loves me and desires to fill my life with His goodness in every area. He will make provision for the vision He has given me and will supply my every need, in Jesus' mighty name.

2. Questions for consideration:

- a. What is your dream? How much money will it take to see the dream fulfilled?
- b. Can you identify any area of prosperity that has been robbed from you?
- c. Is there any area of your life which needs to be turned back to God?
- d. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify any areas of generational curses or mindsets that need to be repented of and broken off.
- e. Can you identify any unbiblical belief you may have regarding God's blessing and prosperity in your life? If so, ask God's forgiveness and build a new biblical belief.

1 <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/prosperity>

2 Strong's/Brown, Driver Briggs 6743 – Divided words into Strong and Brown

3 Strong's, Thayers 2137 (TPT notes by Brian Simmons)

4 <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/courage>