**Truth Sowers Life Group**

July 22, 2012

**God’s Secret Kingdom – Part Two**

**3 John 1:2**

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

**Introduction: What does prosperity mean to you?** The word, “prosperity” means different things to different people. I can remember a time that just being able to put a full tank of gasoline in my car at one time would make me feel prosperous. As we continue through this study on The Secret Kingdom, we are going to discover that there are certain laws or principles that, if we follow, we will begin to walk in true prosperity.

**The Bible is, “a practical book of life containing a system of thought and conduct that will guarantee success. And it will be true success, true happiness, true prosperity, not the fleeting, flashing, inconsistent success the world usually settles for.”**

My cousin, a minister for many years and someone who I highly respect, asked me one day, “Are you one of those ‘blab it and grab’ it guys?” I laughed and told him that no, I wasn’t but I do believe that God wants to prosper His children. As we read the Bible, it is very clear that God’s blessings for our lives are abundant!

1. **God WANTS You to Prosper!**

**Ephesians 3:20 Amplified Bible**

*Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]*

1. To understand how the Kingdom of Heaven works and how it holds sway over the natural world we must realize that
2. There is absolute abundance in God’s Kingdom
3. It is possible to have total favor with the Ruler of that abundance.

**Ephesians 2:8**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

1. Times of testing come to all.
	1. God never tempts us or tests us.

**James 1:13**

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

* 1. Job’s trials did not come from God but from Satan.

**Job 2:1-7**

*1 When the day came for the heavenly beings to appear before the Lord again, Satan was there among them.2 The Lord asked him,
Where have you been? Satan answered, I have been walking here and there, roaming around the earth. 3Did you notice my servant Job? the Lord asked. There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil. You persuaded me to let you attack him for no reason at all, but Job is still as faithful as ever. 4 Satan replied, A person will give up everything in order to stay alive.5 But now suppose you hurt his body—he will curse you to your face!  6 So the Lord said to Satan, All right, he is in your power, but you are not to kill him.7 Then Satan left the Lord's presence and made sores break out all over Job's body.*

* 1. God ended up giving Job twice as much as he had before

**Job 42:10**

*,,,And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.*

* 1. **James 1:2-4**

*2My friends, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way,3 for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure.4 Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

* + - 1. *Endure – Grk. hoopomanay –* patience
			2. *Perfect – Grk. Telios – of full age, mature*
1. **God Has Enough and He Wants You to Tap Into His Riches!**

**Matthew 13:18-23**

*18 “Hear then the parable of the sower: 19When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.[*[*b*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23560b)*] 22As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”*

* 1. Even in this lesson, the Word of God is being sown into your heart.
	2. What are you going to do with the Word.
		1. Are going to let Satan take it away from you?
		2. Are you going to let persecution and trouble take this away from you?
		3. Are you going to let the “cares of this world” or the “deceitfulness of riches” rob this truth from you?
		4. Are you going to learn the principles or laws that God wants you to learn and practice them so that the Word of God will bear fruit and prosperity in your life?
	3. Notice from this lesson that **God has MORE than enough**!
		1. Some produced 30 times more, some produce 60 times more and some, 100 times more!
		2. There is NO SHORTAGE in God’s kingdom!
		3. **You must get that into your spirit!**
		4. There is **NO economic recession** and **NO shortage in the Kingdom of God!**
	4. When you walk in God’s kingdom, you are not dependent upon this natural kingdom.

**Matthew 14:16-21**

*16But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” 18And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

* 1. Jesus can take the little that you have and **make it more than enough!**
	2. AGAIN - There is NO economic recession and NO shortage in the Kingdom of God!
	3. The Kingdom of God is a **sphere or realm of TOTAL POSSIBILITY.**
	4. God is never diminished by circumstances.
	5. God created the natural laws that affect this world but **is not limited by them!**
		1. God can create something out of nothing (Gen. 1 “Let there be,,,).
		2. God can change existing matter into what He wants it to be.
		3. God can change what is spoken into something else that people hear.
	6. In God’s kingdom, there is
		1. Total health.
		2. Total life.
		3. Total energy.
		4. Total strength
		5. Total provision
1. **God Has Given You, the Believer, Total Favor with Him!**

Ephesians 2:8-18

*8-9For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.10 God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do. 11 You Gentiles by birth—called the uncircumcised by the Jews, who call themselves the circumcised (which refers to what men do to their bodies)—remember what you were in the past.12 At that time you were apart from Christ. You were foreigners and did not belong to God's chosen people. You had no part in the covenants, which were based on God's promises to his people, and you lived in this world without hope and without God.13 But now, in union with Christ Jesus you, who used to be far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ.[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%202:8-18&version=GNT" \l "fen-GNT-32250a" \o "See footnote a)]14 For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jews and Gentiles one people. With his own body he broke down the wall that separated them and kept them enemies.15 He abolished the Jewish Law with its commandments and rules, in order to create out of the two races one new people in union with himself, in this way making peace.16 By his death on the cross Christ destroyed their enmity; by means of the cross he united both races into one body and brought them back to God.17 So Christ came and preached the Good News of peace to all—to you Gentiles, who were far away from God, and to the Jews, who were near to him.18 It is through Christ that all of us, Jews and Gentiles, are able to come in the one Spirit into the presence of the Father.*

1. God’s **“GRACE”** is His **“Unmerited Favor.”**
	1. God chose us.
	2. God gives us absolute favor when we accept the gift of what Christ did on the cross!
2. Because of His favor, we have absolute access to His throne and Secret Kingdom – NOW!

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

*14Inasmuch then as we have a great High Priest Who has [already] ascended and passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith in Him]. 15For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning. 16Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God’s unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].*

1. Because of God’s unmerited favor, we have absolute access to the Secret Kingdom!
2. We can go BOLDLY (we are commanded to go boldly) to God’s throne!
3. **We Operate in God’s Secret Kingdom Through Faith**
	1. The difference between how the world operates and how faith operates.
		1. The natural world says, “Seeing is believing.”
		2. The Secret Kingdom says, “I believe it, then I will see it!”
4. **How and Why Does this Secret Kingdom Work?**
	1. God entered into a COVENANT or PARTNERSHIP with man.
		1. We don’t have anything in our generation as strong as a covenant.
		2. It was a contract, almost like a marriage contract.
		3. It was enforceable by death.
		4. If someone killed one party, the other party was obligate to kill the murderer of the first party.
		5. Whatever one partner had was totally shared by the other partner.
		6. Many societies would “cut the covenant” leaving scars and marks on their bodies as reminders of the covenant.
			1. Abraham – circumcision in the most precious part of a man’s body.
			2. Jesus – marks from the whippings and crucifixion.
	2. God made this covenant with man because of His love for us!
	3. As we realize the POWER of this covenant,
		1. We realize that whatever we ask, God will grant (**Mt. 7:7-11**)
		2. Whatever God asks, we will give.
		3. We will follow the laws of His kingdom.
		4. We can walk in conformity with the Holy Spirit and do God’s will on this earth.
		5. He will bless us and prosper us!

**Conclusion:**

When we are redeemed by believing what Jesus did on the cross, we enter into a covenant with God. We become His children and He becomes our Father. There is nothing we can do to earn this position with Him, it is solely by His deep love for us that we can be called His own. Most Christians know that when they die, they will go to Heaven but very few Christians realize that they are in a covenant relationship with God and what that means. When believers discover this truth, through the Word of God, they will begin to understand how Jesus taught about the Secret Kingdom and how it is available to us NOW, not just in the future. The revelation of this truth will change believers’ lives forever as they begin to walk in God’s abundance and prosperity here, in this life!