SEEDS OF WEALTH & GENEROSITY from the Word of God

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7 SEEDS OF WEALTH & GENEROSITY FROM THE WORD OF GOD

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Introduction

In the pursuit of wealth and prosperity, the Book of Proverbs offers timeless wisdom that guides us in our financial endeavors. Additionally, sowing seeds of generosity into our local church and community can lead to spiritual and material blessings. This booklet outlines seven scriptures from Proverbs that speak to wealth and financial wisdom, along with seven meaningful seeds you can sow into your Pastor and local Apostolic Pentecostal Church. Through metaphors, poetry, and fables, we will explore the richness of these teachings.

> Seven Scriptures from Proverbs on Wealth and Making Money

1. Proverbs 10:4 "Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth."

Metaphorical Meaning: Like a farmer who tends to his fields, our efforts cultivate the soil of our future. Diligence is the sun that nurtures growth, while laziness is the frost that stunts it.

Poetic Reflection: In fields of gold, the diligent sow,While lazy hearts let opportunities go. With every seed of effort, wealth will rise, For hard work is the key to the skies. 2. Proverbs 10:22 "The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it."

Illustration: Imagine a river flowing freely, nourishing the land around it. The blessings of the Lord are like this river—effortless and abundant, providing for all who seek its waters.

Fable: Once, a thirsty traveler sought water from a well. He dug tirelessly, but the water eluded him. An old man said, "Stop digging and seek the source." The traveler followed the river upstream and found an abundant spring. Sometimes, blessings come when we seek the source—God.

3. Proverbs 13:11 "Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow."

Metaphorical Meaning: Wealth built on integrity is like a sturdy tree, while ill-gotten gains are like a sandcastle washed away by the tide.

Poetic Reflection: Brick by brick, the honest build, While thieves in shadows find their field filled. For in the light, true wealth will grow, A garden of trust where blessings flow.

4. Proverbs 21:5 "The plans of the diligent lead to

profit as surely as haste leads to poverty."

Illustration: Picture a wise architect carefully drafting blueprints for a grand structure. Each line drawn with intention leads to a masterpiece, while a rushed sketch crumbles under its own weight.

Fable: In a village, two builders set out to construct homes. One rushed, while the other planned meticulously. When storms came, the hasty builder's home fell, while the diligent builder stood firm, a testament to careful planning.

5. Proverbs 22:7 "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender."

Metaphorical Meaning: Financial freedom is like a bird soaring in the sky, while debt is a chain that holds it captive.

Poetic Reflection: In chains of debt, the spirit weeps, While freedom sings where wisdom keeps. Choose your path with care and grace, For wealth is found in a mindful space.

6. Proverbs 28:19 "Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty." Illustration: Envision a diligent gardener tending to their plot, nurturing each plant. The fruits of labor yield a bountiful harvest, while those dreaming of a garden without toil remain hungry.

Fable: A young man dreamed of a magical tree that bore golden apples. He neglected his farm, waiting for the tree to appear. When he finally sought to plant seeds, he found only barren soil. Dreams without action yield nothing.

7. Proverbs 3:9-10 "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."

Metaphorical Meaning: Giving to God is like planting the first seed in a garden; it promises a harvest beyond measure.

Poetic Reflection: With open hands, I give my best, In faith, I trust, my heart at rest. For in the soil of sacrifice, Abundant blessings will suffice.

> Seven Seeds to Sow into Your Pastor and Local Church

1. Encouragement Metaphorical Meaning: Encouragement is like sunlight breaking through the clouds, bringing warmth and hope.

Illustration: A single word of affirmation can light up a dark day, much like a candle in a dim room.

Practical Application: Write a heartfelt note or share a testimony of how their ministry has impacted your life. Consider forming a small group to regularly send notes of encouragement.

2. Financial Support Metaphorical Meaning: Financial support is the life blood of the church, nourishing its mission and outreach.

Fable: A small stream fed a great river, reminding all that even small contributions can lead to great impacts.

Practical Application: Review your budget and consider increasing your tithes or making a special offering. Encourage others in your congregation to do the same.

3. Time and Service Metaphorical Meaning: Time and service are seeds planted in the soil of community, yielding a harvest of love and unity.

Illustration: Just as a gardener tends to each plant, your service nurtures the church community,

allowing it to flourish.

Practical Application: Identify a ministry or service project in the church where you can volunteer. Commit to a regular schedule to help out.

4. Prayer Metaphorical Meaning: Prayer is the thread that weaves the fabric of the church, binding hearts and minds in unity.

Fable: A flock of birds took flight, each one lifting the other higher. In prayer, we lift each other to new heights.

Practical Application: Set aside specific times each week to pray for your Pastor and church leaders. Consider starting a prayer group focused on interceding for the church.

5. Hospitality Metaphorical Meaning: Hospitality is the open door of the heart, welcoming others with warmth and love.

Illustration: A meal shared is a bridge built, connecting souls in fellowship and understanding.

Practical Application: Organize a meal or fellowship event for your Pastor and their family. You could also invite them into your home for a casual dinner. 6. Gifts of Resources Metaphorical Meaning: Sharing your skills and resources is like planting seeds in fertile soil, allowing growth and innovation to flourish.

Fable: A wise owl shared its knowledge with the forest, and soon, all creatures thrived. Your talents can uplift the entire church community.

Practical Application: Assess your skills and consider how they can serve the church. Offer to help with tasks like graphic design, social media management, or organizing events.

7. Sharing Testimonies Metaphorical Meaning: Testimonies are the stones of remembrance, marking the path of faith for others to follow.

Illustration: Like stars in the night sky, each testimony shines a light, guiding others toward hope and encouragement.

Practical Application: Speak during church services or small groups about how the church has impacted your life. Encourage others to share their stories as well.

Conclusion

Sowing seeds of wisdom and generosity not only enriches our lives but also strengthens the body of Christ. By applying the principles found in Proverbs and actively supporting your Pastor and local church, you contribute to a thriving community that honors God and fosters spiritual growth. Let us commit to being good stewards of our resources and blessings as we seek to grow in faith and prosperity.

Reflection Questions for Personal Growth

1. How can I apply the wisdom from Proverbs in my financial decisions?

2. In what ways can I actively support my Pastor and church community this week?

3. What specific talents or resources can I offer to benefit the church?

Seven Simple Seeds from the Old Testament

1. The Seed of Faith (Abraham's Promise)

• Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:1-3

• Result: Abraham's faith in God's promise led to the miraculous birth of Isaac and the establishment of a great nation through his descendants.

2. The Seed of Obedience (Noah's Ark)

• Scripture Reference: Genesis 6:13-22

• Result: Noah's obedience in building the ark saved his family and preserved humanity, demonstrating how obedience can lead to supernatural deliverance.

3. The Seed of Worship (Abel's Offering)

- Scripture Reference: Genesis 4:3-5
- Result: Abel's offering was accepted by God,

illustrating the importance of giving our best to Him and how worship can lead to divine favor.

4. The Seed of Prayer (Hannah's Petition)

• Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 1:9-20

• Result: Hannah's heartfelt prayer for a child was answered by God, resulting in the birth of Samuel, a significant prophet in Israel's history.

5. The Seed of Courage (David and Goliath)

• Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 17:45-50

• Result: David's faith and courage led to a supernatural victory over Goliath, showing how God can use small acts of faith for great outcomes.

6. The Seed of Generosity (The Widow's Oil)

• Scripture Reference: 2 Kings 4:1-7

• Result: The widow's obedience to gather vessels resulted in a miraculous multiplication of oil, demonstrating how God can multiply our resources when we act in faith.

7. The Seed of God's Word (The Valley of Dry Bones)

• Scripture Reference: Ezekiel 37:1-10

• Result: Ezekiel's proclamation to the dry bones led to their resurrection, illustrating the transformative power of God's Word.

Seven Simple Seeds from the New Testament

1. The Seed of Faith (The Centurion's Servant)

• Scripture Reference: Matthew 8:5-13

• Result: The centurion's faith in Jesus' authority led to the miraculous healing of his servant, showcasing the power of faith.

2. The Seed of Obedience (The Disciples' Fishing)

• Scripture Reference: Luke 5:1-11

• Result: Peter's obedience to cast his nets again resulted in a miraculous catch, illustrating how obedience can yield abundant blessings.

3. The Seed of Worship (The Woman with the Alabaster Jar)

• Scripture Reference: Luke 7:36-50

• Result: The woman's act of worship brought her forgiveness and became a lasting testament to her faith, demonstrating the power of heartfelt worship.

4. The Seed of Prayer (The Early Church's Intercession)

• Scripture Reference: Acts 12:1-17

• Result: The fervent prayers of the early church resulted in Peter's miraculous release from prison, emphasizing the power of collective prayer.

5. The Seed of Courage (Stephen's Martyrdom)

• Scripture Reference: Acts 7:54-60

• Result: Stephen's bold proclamation of the gospel, even unto death, inspired others and became a seed for the spread of the gospel.

6. The Seed of Generosity (The Macedonian Churches)

- Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- Result: The Macedonian churches' generous giving, despite their poverty, led to joy and blessings,

illustrating the power of generosity.

7. The Seed of God's Word (The Great Commission)

• Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:18-20

• Result: The command to make disciples resulted in the spread of the gospel and the establishment of the early church, showcasing the transformative power of God's Word.

Conclusion

These seeds from both the Old and New Testaments represent foundational principles that, when acted upon, can lead to supernatural results in our lives today. As Apostolic Pentecostals, we believe that the incorruptible seed of the Word of God, empowered by the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues, continues to produce fruit and transform lives, just as it did in biblical times. Each principle faith, obedience, worship, prayer, courage, generosity, and the power of God's Word—remains vital in our journey of faith and in experiencing the supernatural work of God in our lives.

Seven Keys to Financial Freedom in the Famine: Lessons from Isaac

In Genesis 26, Isaac thrived during a time of famine

by sowing in the land and reaping a hundredfold due to his obedience and God's blessing. His experience serves as a powerful model for achieving financial freedom, even amidst challenging circumstances. Here are seven keys based on Isaac's actions and faith, along with illustrative fables and takes that you can apply during your financial famine.

Key 1:

Listen for Divine Instruction

• Be Attentive to God's Voice: In Genesis 26:2–3, God instructed Isaac to stay in Gerar instead of going to Egypt.

• Fable: A traveler once sought the advice of a wise old man about which path to take. The wise man told him to listen closely to the winds, for they would guide him. When the traveler heeded the wind's whispers, he found the safest and most prosperous route. Similarly, we must listen for God's guidance in our financial decisions.

• Prayerful Decision-Making: Make decisions guided by prayer and the Holy Spirit rather than fear or desperation.

Key 2: Obedience to God's Word

• Stay Where God Places You: Isaac obeyed God's

instruction to remain in Gerar.

• Fable: A farmer had two fields, one lush and one barren. He was tempted to abandon the barren field for a more fruitful one. However, he decided to tend to it faithfully. Over time, through hard work and care, the barren field flourished, teaching him that obedience to his commitment reaps rewards.

• Trust in God's Plan: Sometimes the strategies God instructs you to follow may not make sense, but your obedience can lead to unexpected blessings.

Key 3: Sow in Faith

• Plant in Famine: Isaac sowed seeds even in a time of scarcity (Genesis 26:12).

• Fable: A wise old owl once told a young bird, "Even in winter, when food is scarce, you must gather what you can." The young bird followed this advice, and when spring came, it found that it had enough food to thrive, illustrating that sowing during tough times can lead to abundance.

• Expect a Return on Your Sowing: Sow your time, resources, and finances into good ground, anticipating God's blessings in return.

Key 4:

Cultivate Patience and Persistence

• Persevere Through Challenges: Isaac faced opposition, yet he persevered.

• Fable: A small seed was planted in rocky soil. Despite the odds, it pushed through the stones day by day. After much struggle, it grew into a magnificent tree, reminding us that persistence through adversity can lead to remarkable growth.

• Patience in Process: Understand that sowing and reaping require time. Trust God's timing for your harvest.

Key 5:

Value Hard Work and Integrity

• Work Diligently: Isaac didn't merely sow and wait; he actively managed his resources and worked hard (Genesis 26:13).

• Fable: A tortoise and a hare once raced. The hare was confident and lazy, while the tortoise worked steadily. In the end, the tortoise's hard work and determination led to victory, teaching us that diligence pays off.

• Integrity and Honesty: Uphold integrity in all financial dealings. Doing so honors God and positions you for long-term blessings.

Key 6: Innovate and Adapt

• Embrace New Strategies: Isaac dug wells that his enemies had stopped up, finding new water sources (Genesis 26:18–22).

• Fable: A clever fox faced a drought and found that the river had dried up. Instead of giving up, he explored new paths and discovered a hidden spring. This teaches us to look for creative solutions in challenging times.

• Adaptability: Be open to change and willing to try new methods that align with God's guidance.

Key 7:

Acknowledge God's Provision

• Give God Glory: Isaac built an altar to honor God (Genesis 26:25).

• Fable: A merchant who prospered from his trade always set aside a portion of his profits to give thanks to the divine. Each time he did, his business flourished even more, illustrating that gratitude opens the door to further blessings.

• Maintain an Attitude of Gratitude: Regardless of your financial situation, continuous gratitude opens the door to further blessings.

Additional Examples of God's Provision During Famine in the Old Testament

1. Abraham and the Famine in Canaan

• Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:10

• Story: During a famine in Canaan, Abraham went down to Egypt for sustenance. Although he faced challenges there, God protected him and eventually brought him back to Canaan with increased wealth and blessings.

2. Joseph's Preparation for Famine

• Scripture Reference: Genesis 41:46-57

• Story: God revealed to Pharaoh through dreams that a severe famine was coming. Joseph interpreted the dreams and advised Pharaoh to store grain during the seven years of plenty, making Egypt a source of sustenance for many during the famine.

- 3. The Widow of Zarephath
- Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 17:8-16

• Story: During a severe famine, God sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath. She had only a handful of flour and a little oil left, but when she obeyed Elijah's request to make him a cake first, her supplies miraculously multiplied.

4. Elisha and the Famine

• Scripture Reference: 2 Kings 4:38-44

Story: During a famine, Elisha multiplied twenty loaves of barley to feed a hundred men, demonstrating that even small resources, when blessed by God, can meet significant needs.
The Israelites in the Wilderness

• Scripture Reference: Exodus 16:1-36

• Story: After leaving Egypt, the Israelites faced hunger in the wilderness. God provided manna from heaven and quail, emphasizing His faithfulness and ability to sustain His people.

6. Naomi and Ruth

• Scripture Reference: Ruth 1:1-22

• Story: During a famine in Bethlehem, Naomi and her family went to Moab. After losing her husband and sons, Naomi returned with Ruth, who gleaned in Boaz's fields, leading to restoration and blessings.

- 7. God's Promise to Elijah
- Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 17:1-7

• Story: God instructed Elijah to go to the brook Cherith during a drought, where He provided for him through ravens that brought him bread and meat.

Conclusion: Walking in Financial Freedom

Isaac's story encourages us to trust God's promises even in lean times. By applying these seven keys listening for divine instruction, obeying God's Word, sowing in faith, cultivating patience, valuing hard work, innovating, and acknowledging God's provision—we position ourselves for abundant blessings even in financial famine.

Final Blessing

May you find peace and confidence in your financial journey, knowing that God is faithful to provide and multiply your resources a hundredfold, just as He did for Isaac. Continue sowing, trusting, and believing in the power of God's promises. Amen.

Written by Elder Keith Joel Walker Read and Obey Acts 2:38

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