

NOVEMBER 2008 Week 4 TEACHING

In Debt...Help Is On the Way!

Particularly within the last decade, the increased popularity of the prosperity message has skyrocketed. No matter the origin, Christian or secular, thousands upon thousands have flocked to see the latest self-proclaimed guru put a new spin on how to do better, live better, and have more. This message was said to contain the key to your long awaited breakthrough. Is it lost on anyone that although its proselytizers have lavished themselves in luxury while spreading it, the country on a whole is experiencing one of the worst economic seasons of its history?

It's possible that we are at the beginning stages of what has been prophesied to be that great tribulation period, when the consequences of greed, immorality, and spiritual neglect will converge to deliver a deadly blow to those who have denied Christ. Pessimistic, most assuredly, but the bible declares the reality of such a fate and it would be wrong not to consider that it may be presently upon us. But it is also possible that we are approaching the zenith of a remarkably unique and pivotal opportunity to usher in a revival, the likes of which has never been experienced in the history of mankind.

We all hope that things will get exponentially better, that after all the marketing gimmicks to get wealth fast and feel-better quick, we understand that God is the source of all comfort. He sees our suffering and has promised deliverance. For that reason, whether or not the season of great tribulation is upon us should have very little impact on the faith of a Christian. What should be of significant interest to us though is the missing element of the prosperity message. From its inception until now, the missing element of this message was, is, and continues to be the absence of accountability and responsibility to God's agenda and the importance to move it forward in the earth.

The equation for our current global situation is very simple... "*Wealth*" minus "*Responsibility and Accountability*" equals "*Unmanageable Debt*", which is precisely where many of us find ourselves today. Debt is a symptom of a much greater problem than a lack of finances. It represents our rebellion against God's order. James 4 speaks very clearly about our refusal to get it together.

James 4:1-10 (The Message)

1-2 Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it.

2-3 You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way.

4-6 You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn't care? The proverb has it that "he's a fiercely jealous lover." And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find. It's common knowledge that "God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble."

7-10 So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

The body of Christ has an awesome opportunity to revive the hearts of millions and bring God's love and light into the dark state in which the world now finds itself. In order to do that we must individually commit ourselves to some soul work. Debt is the consequence of an internal stronghold which of course manifests itself outwardly. It feels like the weight of the world on our shoulders, but we have to realize that its roots are internal; therefore its solution must emanate from the internal as well. If your debt is mounting and you feel as though you can't get from under it, you can. It won't be easy, but you must start by doing as James 4 tells you and purify your inner life.

Do away with any doubt in your mind about whether or not God has called you to a distinct purpose. That's the absolute first thing you must do. Although it may not feel like it, He has specifically picked you out for great and wondrous things. The second thing for you to understand is that you have a responsibility to the faith to carry out your purpose. Just as God has an agenda for the earth, He also has a plan for your life. Settle within your mind, heart, and soul to be sidetracked no longer.

Don't look to the left, nor to the right. You have witnessed firsthand that there are no quick fixes to your situation, but there are indeed Godly solutions that require your patience and will ultimately benefit your spiritual well being. Help is on the way and now is the time to keep your eyes locked upon Jesus Christ so that you don't miss it. Realize that you are embarking upon a new level in your walk with God and surrender yourself to where He desires to take you. Begin to pray about your release, but don't look for the quick fix. God is the source of your strength. Seek His wisdom and don't make any decisions without hearing from Him. And remember, if you don't absolutely need it do without it.

Stay tuned for more....

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