



Godly Prosperity

When we teach overseas, when we teach in bible schools (which we love to do), we have a standard procedure. Usually, we teach God's great plan of redemption intertwined with the study of spirit, soul and body. We highlight God's healing covenant, teaching the book of Job, Paul's thorn and other subjects that have been misunderstood and hinder people from embracing healing. These things are very real in our heart. We could teach them over and over again. Lately, though, we have had the opportunity to teach on other subjects. This teaching is one of those great truths, equally dear to our heart, **the things of God**.

One of the classic verses of Christianity is Mark 11:24. If you read this verse carefully, you will notice the word "things". Do you know what the word "thing" means? We can look it up in Webster's Dictionary. It is that which can be possessed. Using this definition, this verse says, "What possessions you desire when you pray, believe you receive them, and you shall have them." This is the promise of God. God wants you to have possessions. He wants to give you "things". And "[God's] not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it?* or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"¹ God keeps His word. If He says, "When you pray,

believing you receive...you shall have," then you shall have.

God's promise to give us "What things, or possessions, we desire" depends on the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"² Notice again that wonderful word "things", or possessions. God freely gives us things, things that were bought by the cross. Through the death and resurrection of our Lord,



they belong to us. They are our inheritance. And they are free. Is that a great word? Free!

Wayne, one of four children, received an inheritance from his father. Before his dad died, he divided the family property so that each child had an equal portion. It is their legal possession after the death of their mother and father. As a child of God, we have an inheritance of things through the death of Jesus. These things, this

inheritance, bought and purchased for us by the Lord Jesus Christ, are legally our possession.

As we consider the grandeur of God's generosity, our possession of things, we must clarify the scope of this inheritance. We need to narrow the parameters so that we don't go "out of bounds". One of the scriptures that helps us in this regard is 2 Peter 1:3. It says, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." Now, who is the "divine power"? Isn't it the Holy Ghost? What has the Holy Ghost given to us? He brings us those things pertaining to life and godliness. Yes, as we grow in God, our heart's desire is for those things that amplify God's life and represent His holiness. These are the things God wants for us and gives to us.

There are some things beyond that boundary. For years, I heard a minister relate the story of a man who came to him for the prayer of agreement. He wanted the minister to pray that he would marry the woman next door. Upon talking with him, the minister discovered that the lady in question was already married. Certainly, this is far, far beyond God's provision of life and godliness. It simply won't work.

The words of this verse, "pertaining to life and godliness," remind me of James 1:17. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no

variableness, neither shadow of turning." We can be sure that those things which are life giving, which are in the parameter of godliness and holiness, are good and perfect. These things have been purchased. These things have been bought for all of God's children.

There is one more parameter I want to mention in this teaching. Remember the words of Jesus, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."³ The only true way to walk in the provision of God is to walk with God, to honor Him, and to promote His will on the earth. We must be for the kingdom. "Give to me, do for me, and bring to me" will not, cannot, open the door for the bounty of "things" in our life. When God and his way are more important to me than all I possess or own, I can expect the blessings of heaven in my life. I can expect my faith in Him to make abundant provision for me.

In Mark 11:24, we are told to pray for the things that we desire and believe that we have received. Can I believe that I have received if my heart is "all for me"? I think not. No, definitely not. But, if I honor Him and love Him, He will bring to me all I need. He has provided more than enough.

¹ Numbers 23:19

² Romans 8:32

³ Matthew 6:33

In Remembrance

Juanita Hudson
March 23, 1924 - April 21, 2008

With the passing of Becky's mother, our thoughts turn to the scripture where Jesus' said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."^{*} We know Juanita Hudson is in that wonderful heavenly "place", and though our hearts may grieve, we rejoice for her. She is survived by her husband, Bud, 2 daughters, Becky and Debbye, 1 son, Philip, a brother, a sister, 5 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

^{*} John 14:2

