

Prosperity Agents for the Kingdom of God by Kenneth Copeland

Forty-seven years ago, when I was a student at Oral Roberts University, I had the opportunity to have lunch with the great evangelist T.L. Osborn. I was so thrilled about it, it seemed like my hair stood on end for an hour before I ever sat down with him at the table. If you know anything about Brother Osborn you can understand why.

There was something extremely powerful about him. He knew God, and had a miraculous ministry. He's gone home to be with The LORD now, but when he was on the earth, his ministry was one of the most outstanding the world has ever seen.

I'll never forget that first meeting with him. Before we even ordered our meal, he looked at me and said: "Kenneth, would you like to know how to be rich?"

I was in pitiful financial condition back then so I didn't have to think twice about how to respond.

"Yes!" I answered.

"Find a preacher God has given a work that's too big financially for him to do, and get in there and help him do it."

With those words, Brother Osborn introduced me to a vital principle of heavenly economics. I took it to heart, acted on it, and—sure enough—The LORD made me rich. He took me from being so broke that if leaving town was a dollar I couldn't get out of sight, to a life of such faith for abundance that I can do every good work He calls me to do and still have plenty left over to enjoy. He taught me not just to be a receiver but to be a giver, and in the process revealed to me that, as a born-again believer, I am called to be a "Prosperity Agent for the Kingdom of God."

Although it's a calling I take very personally, and I enjoy it to no end, it's not something that's unique to me. It's what every Christian is called to be.

God intends for us all to walk in such abundant financial grace that we, "always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). He wants every single believer to be wealthy enough to continually be a financial BLESSING to others all the time.

Sadly, many Christians have been taught for years (in church, of all places!) that it's God's will for some people to be poor. But that's an unscriptural lie. Poverty has never been part of God's plan for anyone. He hates it. It's a killer and a destroyer. It's part of the curse and He is not the source of it.

God has never, ever made anyone poor.

On the contrary, look at Deuteronomy 15:4, "There should be no poor among you, for the Lord your God will greatly bless you in the land he is giving you as a special possession" (New Living Translation). He's looking to pull people out of poverty. That's why He included

prosperity in the plan of redemption. It's why Jesus, though He was rich, became poor for our sakes so that we "through his poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Let the Miracles Begin

"Well, Brother Copeland, that's all great and I'd certainly like to be rich enough to BLESS some folks, but I already know what you're going to say about it. You're going to tell me to do the same thing that evangelist told you. You're going to tell me to give and, frankly, I can't afford it!"

I understand. I couldn't afford it either when I first got started in these things. In 1967, when The LORD told me in one of Brother Oral Roberts' meetings to become a financial partner with him at \$10 a month, I didn't have a dime. But because I knew in my heart I'd heard from God, I was so determined to give that I took the little pencil they'd passed out with the partner cards, put it in an envelope and dropped it in the offering bucket.

"LORD, this is all I have right now," I said, "so it will have to represent my commitment. But I want You to know, as soon as I get \$10 I'll give it."

Right at that moment a woman sitting a few rows behind me hollered, "Hey, you!" I looked around to see who she was talking to and saw she was pointing at me. Although she couldn't possibly have heard my prayer, she was waving the answer to it in my direction. "Here!" she said, "The LORD wants me to give you this \$10!"

Thrilled, I took it from her, retrieved my offering envelope, pulled out the pencil and put the money inside.

From that day on I started having \$10 miracles one after the other. Before long, they increased to \$20 miracles.

One of the most memorable of them took place one evening when Gloria and the kids and I were driving from Tulsa to Oklahoma City. I was scheduled to preach a meeting there and I'd used every penny I had to fill the gas tank of our old, worn-out Oldsmobile. By the time we got to the outskirts of town, dinnertime had rolled around and the kids were saying, "Daddy, we're hungry! When are we going to eat?"

"Any minute now," I answered. I didn't mention the fact that we didn't have any money to buy food. Neither did Gloria.

She just laughed and believed God right along with me.

A few miles down the road as we passed restaurants on every side and the kids were hollering louder than ever, something caught my eye. A piece of green paper blew across the highway in front of the car and caught in the fence on the median.

"Money!" I said.

Gloria looked startled.

"What?" she asked

“I just saw money blow across the road!”

Turning the car around, I went back and found a \$20 bill. I peeled it off the fence, got back in the car and said to the kids, “Where do you want to eat?”

Things like that happened to us for weeks and weeks. We received one blessing after another, and not one month from then on did we ever miss sending our seed to Brother Roberts’ ministry or anywhere else God directed us to give.

Set Free From the Shortage Mentality

“Yeah, but Brother Copeland, you’re a preacher. That’s the reason those kinds of things happen to you.”

No, it’s not. The reason they happen to me is because God keeps His WORD, and it says: “[God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness.... Thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and...bring forth thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:10-11, The Amplified Bible).

“But I just can’t see how God could do that kind of thing for me,” you might say, “especially the way the economy is right now.”

That’s because you’re still looking at things according to this Babylonian world system. Everyone in that system, no matter how much money they have, thinks in terms of shortage and lack. Even the rich people in the world live in perpetual fear of losing their money because shortage is continually working on their minds.

As a believer, you don’t have to think like that. You’ve been set free from the shortage mentality. You can dig into The WORD and find out what it says about God’s plan to prosper you. You can stop being conformed to this world and “be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2).

The more you do that, the more you’ll quit thinking like an unbeliever who’s bound to this world’s economy and start seeing yourself the way God sees you.

One of the Biggest Mistakes You Can Make

Exactly how does God see you?

The same way Jesus saw His disciples when He was on earth. Remember what He said to them when He wanted to feed the hungry multitudes in the wilderness? He said, “You give them something to eat.

Jesus didn’t go looking for someone wealthy enough to buy food for thousands of people. He didn’t hunt up a rich farmer who’d just reaped a record-breaking harvest. He called on His disciples because they were His Prosperity Agents.

Like many Christians today, however, they thought they didn't qualify. "We have here only five loaves and two fish," they protested (Matthew 14:17, New King James Version).

Obviously that wasn't enough to even begin to meet the need. But Jesus didn't care. He knew His Father would take that little dab of food and multiply it, until the multitudes were too full to eat another bite and there was plenty left over. That's why He said, "Bring them to me."

One of the biggest mistakes you can make when God calls you to do something is to look at your own resources to see if you're qualified for the assignment. God qualified you the minute He called you!

When He says to you, Give this offering, or Meet this need, that means He is ready to supply you with more than enough to do it. Your responsibility is simply to bring what you have to Him. Then He will multiply it and do through you and for you exceeding abundantly above what you can ask or think.

I know one man who discovered this many years ago at a time in his life when he seemingly had no financial ability to BLESS anyone. He was a former employee of a major car manufacturer and he'd had to take early retirement because of physical problems. His disability check wasn't enough to get him to the end of the month and he wasn't well enough to work, so he not only needed healing, he needed a financial miracle.

He went to one of Oral Roberts' healing meetings and at offering time, he was sitting there with \$5 in his pocket. It was all he had to live on for the rest of the month (and it was a long while before the end of the month). But he heard Brother Roberts preach the importance of sowing seed into the kingdom of God, so he was listening in his heart to hear what The LORD wanted him to do.

When The LORD told him to give his \$5 he said, "OK, LORD Jesus. Here goes! This is all I have. But You told me to give it so that's what I'm doing." He received his healing, but that's not all.

Sometime later, he was working around his house and he kept sensing a prompting to go up into the attic and get out the plans he'd designed a few years earlier for a locking hub that would work on a four-wheel drive truck. I want you to take those plans and show them to your former bosses, The LORD said.

"But I've already done that and they literally laughed me out of the room," he argued.

They won't laugh at you this time because I'm going with you.

Sure enough, the engineers agreed to look at the man's plans again and this time they were astonished. "This is exactly what we've been looking for!" they said. The company bought the design and from then on, every time that company sold a four-wheel drive truck this man made money.

You know what he did with that money?

He became one of the top donors to ORU. That was God's plan all along. He never did see that man as a poor man because, as a born-again believer, he wasn't. Even when he only had \$5 in his pocket, he was a Prosperity Agent for the kingdom of God.

The same is true of you. You have been called and empowered by The LORD Jesus to be a financial BLESSING to mankind. No matter what shape your bank account is in right now, you're not poor. You're a joint heir with Christ and an heir to the throne.

Even if you're flat broke and don't have any seed to sow, you can look to Him and He'll provide it for you. Then He'll show you where to plant it, and He'll multiply it and make it grow.

So release your faith for the grace of giving and make yourself available to Him. Say, "Sir, I am Yours to command. I want You to make me a BLESSING to someone. Give me a need to meet and make it big, big, BIG! Let me feed the 20,000! Let me do what Brother Osborn said and find a preacher with a work that's too big for him to do, and let me get in there and help him do it."

Don't hide under the altar bench somewhere hoping God doesn't call on you because you've got too many bills to pay. Get your bills off your mind. Stop focusing on yourself and start focusing on others. Instead of saying, "I can't afford to give," be like I was when I joined the football team for the very first time back in grade school: I was determined to play!

During the first game of the season the coach tried to make me sit down on the bench, but I couldn't. Every few minutes I'd jump up and holler, "Put me in there, Coach! I can do this!" He'd tell me to sit down, but when I tried it was like my britches had springs in them. Every time I sat down I'd jump back up again.

The more you see in God's WORD who you really are and what you're called to be, the more you'll have that kind of eagerness to give and win souls for Jesus. You'll get up every morning and say to The LORD, "Show me someone I can BLESS. Let me in the game, Coach! I can do this!"

You'll live every day as a Prosperity Agent for the kingdom of God.