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PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS

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PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS



HERE are certain laws which govern all things and conditions. There are laws of music, mathematics, health, happiness, and so on, and there must, therefore, be some law governing prosperity. And if we are to demonstrate prosperity, we must learn to know the law, that we may work in accordance with it.

Jesus Christ was the greatest teacher and demonstrator of the law of prosperity. He told his followers that they were to seek first the kingdom of God, not some place in some other planet away off somewhere, but within themselves; that they had within them all resources, and that they must *unfold* their powers. The first step is to recognize and to seek the kingdom of God within as the source of all, upon which we may draw for whatever we may desire. Jesus illustrated and demonstrated the law of prosperity by multiplying the loaves and the fishes, by turning the water into wine—better wine than they had had before—by finding the gold in the fish's mouth, and by making it possible for his followers to catch the great draught of fishes when the nets were cast on the right side. We manifest in proportion as we become more and more spiritual and put this law into practice.

Jesus said: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume." But where is heaven? The teachings of Jesus convince us that it is within us. So we are to open up our own higher or spiritual consciousness, knowing that therein is our treasure or supply. Christ is our example in this. In II Corinthians 6:1-10, Paul speaks of "working together with him," and continues, "As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things;" and again, in II Corinthians 8:9, "That, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich."

You ask, then, why we who know this law, do not demonstrate for ourselves large fortunes. By way of illustration, I would call your attention to the electric light plant. There must be some one at the power house in touch with the machinery which produces the electricity, so that he may turn on the current in order that we may receive the light. So we, as healers, stand in touch with the power house and turn on the current, in order that you may receive the light, or benefit.

In every large law firm there is an attorney who appears in the foreground before the people, and also one who stands in the background, as adviser, to whom the attorney may go for counsel. Here we take the part of the attorney, and we go into consultation

with the great Counselor, in order that we may bring to you his message.

What we want is spiritual enlightenment and wisdom. All ability is based upon spiritual understanding.

Prentice Mulford said: "The man of success is the man possessed of the greatest spiritual understanding, and every great fortune comes of superior and truly spiritual power." Do you want the wealthy to divide with you? Jesus called those virgins "foolish" who wanted others to divide. He taught that we must have oil in our own lamps; we must know that we have an abundant supply within ourselves. Wanting the rich to divide is simply covetousness; it is the idea that will keep us poor.

In Edinburgh, several years ago, I went into a church where the clergyman was a Greek scholar. (Edinburgh is called the Modern Athens.) He gave as his text: "Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have" (Heb. 13:5). Do you think that he told these good Scotch people to be content with their little cottages? Oh, no; not a bit of it! He took his Greek Testament and translated direct from the Greek, and it read: "Be ye conscious that ye have contained within yourselves all capacity." Then he went on to explain that if by covetousness we could obtain the possessions of others, it would be to our detriment, as it would have the effect

which would be produced on a young, tender tree if we should load it down by hanging on a fruit which had not grown from the life within. We should thus, to say the least, interfere with the growth and fruitfulness of the tree. And thus we may deaden the ability and power within ourselves which would produce success and prosperity. This is what is meant when we say that we must be conscious that we can create from within ourselves the things which we need; that we do not need the things from the outside, but that our supply comes from within. Success and prosperity come not to us, but through us.

We want, then, like Solomon, to pray for wisdom. We must use our own minds. When we get into the fullness of spiritual consciousness, we cannot get away from prosperity. Read Deuteronomy 28:11-15. Prosperity is a manifestation of superior ability, and ability comes from God, Divine Mind. Covetousness does not bring forth prosperity.

When we are awakened to spiritual consciousness, we realize that we want to seek earnestly the best gifts. When the spiritual side of our being has begun to come forth, we must go from glory to glory, from prosperity to prosperity. We cannot ask too much. Ask more. "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be made full."

If we, as healers of the sick, must work to

get rid of the sin or shortcoming, the "missing of the mark" back of the illness, so in the study of the law of prosperity, we must work to get rid of the sin back of the poverty.

In demonstrating we first must recognize that there are both constructive and destructive thoughts, and that negative thoughts, as well as harmonious thoughts, have their influence. Under the heading of "destructive thoughts" comes criticism. We must not criticize the methods of the wealthy. Just leave them to God and bless them. Every time we say "graters," or criticize the rich, we set in motion the law which locks the door to our own prosperity. Neither can we demonstrate wealth by seeing poverty.

We must see only abundance everywhere. We can go with things or without them, but we must never go against them, if we would succeed and be prosperous. Hold thoughts of harmony and loving relationship with everything and everybody. Say: *There is no poverty, for all the earth is full of the glory and the riches of the Lord.*

In the law of vibration, we know that a word spoken in the silence, as well as one spoken aloud, produces an effect. Then know that God is the infallible Source. Speak the word and constantly affirm it. Never say: "If John Jones, or William Smith, or somebody else would pay me, I should have plenty." Say firmly, and believingly: *My expectation is from God, and all*

the ideas of God (that is, all people) *are channels of supply to me.* Whatever you may be doing, always say, *I am doing this for God or as unto the Lord,* whether it be ruling a kingdom, or working in a factory, or washing dishes. Remember that we are at one with whatever we declare ourselves in unison with. There is an abundance of supply to satisfy all our highest aspirations, and we are justified in having all that can bless us and be helpful to us in any way. The individual man is lord over all his circumstances.

The successful man puts his thoughts into his work. Circumstances and other men cannot hinder him. When we are in the right mind, all things work together. "The king's heart is in the hand of Jehovah as the water-courses: He turneth it whithersoever he will." All our circumstances begin to move in the right direction, as soon as we take the right attitude.

To succeed we first must have no destructive thoughts, no criticisms. Second, we must have our ideal. We must live with an object in view, and measure up to our ideal. We must use the imagination, visualize, see our ideals as already completed. Do not think that I mean that we can gain success by dreaming idly. We must work definitely and persistently. We must develop an "equilibrium of understanding." That which

makes the successful man is steadfast, invincible concentration and determination.

In Everybody's Magazine, some time ago, was published an interview of a reporter with Henry M. Flagler, the Standard Oil multimillionaire, in which the secret of the latter's success was brought out. This secret was his power to see a thing in its completeness. During the conversation the following dialogue took place in regard to the success of a railroad which Mr. Flagler had promoted:

"Did you actually vision to yourself the whole thing? I mean, did you, or could you, really close your eyes and see tracks, and the trains running, and hear the whistles blowing? Did you go as far as that?"

"Yes."

"How clearly?"

"Very clearly."

The difficulty and the danger do not lie in the external conditions of things and circumstances, but in the thought attitude which we hold toward them. There must be no waste of energy upon grumbings or resentment against any individuals. In fact, there must be an attitude of absolute satisfaction. Then say: *Everything that I do this day, I do with certain intention and expectation;* declare that everything is working to bring it about, and you will receive satisfaction, "satisfaction, full, complete."

What is satisfaction? I do not mean that we are to be satisfied with the limited con-

sciousness in which we are living. We are to make our picture of what we want to be, and then live up to it and make it real. Many of the men of success in this world have been men who started with but little or no means and who had the fewest advantages. For instance, Andrew Carnegie came to America a poor Scotch boy. His mother, after they arrived, used to bind shoes to help support the family.

Hartman was one of six children of a poor clergyman whose salary was but two hundred dollars a year.

Sir Thomas Lipton, when a young boy, came to America, and when he landed he had just twenty-five cents in his pocket. The morning the boat docked he was the first one on deck, the first to see the shore, the first one to land. He could see two hotels near by, he went direct to one of them, and asked the managers how much they would give him for each guest that he would bring to the place. They told him twenty-five cents. He rushed back to the boat, made himself useful by helping his fellow passengers, and took enough of them with him completely to fill the first hotel. He then went back and got enough to fill the other hotel. This was his financial start in life.

Turner, the great artist, whose father was a barber in the slums of London, had no early advantages, yet around his pictures in the gallery you will always find a crowd,

and some one has said that if you will come back five hundred years from now, you will still find a crowd there.

All of these were men with almost no education; they had no early advantages or favorable circumstances. They carved their own circumstances; they are men who have made their mark in the world.

If we are in need of anything, we can have it by starting the right thoughts, but we must start them on a high plane. Mind attracts or repels, by understanding the law, we can have whatever we rightly construct. We cannot have it by random thinking. There is a law of right thinking by which it is possible to bring right results. There is a power that will bring us our own, if we put ourselves in line with the one omnipresent Good. We must enter into the spiritual consciousness that sends out the right vibrations.

Get into the one Mind, rest in the absolute, and say: *All thine is mine.* Let us think abundance and trust God for our temporal things. Say: *The kingdom of God, the power and almightiness of God, are demonstrating success in all my affairs.* If we hold the thought that we have taken God into our affairs, we shall be successful, for there is a great, all-penetrating Spirit-substance waiting to be formed through our word.

A little incident in the life of Madame Tetravini illustrates how this law is set into motion, and her attainment shows the results.

A friend of mine once heard her in a small theater in Italy, when she was a poor, struggling beginner, with shoes run down at the heels and secondhand gowns that were too large for her. After the performance, this friend sought and obtained an interview with her. In answer to words of encouragement she clenched her little fists, stamped her little foot, with its worn-out shoe, and said: "I can and I will succeed." And it was because of holding this attitude constantly, not letting go of it for one instant, that she was able to attain her present success.

I tell you, if the kingdom of God is set up in a man's mind, it makes him a wonderful sovereign over all his circumstances; it makes him master of his surroundings. If we are at one with and acknowledge the power of God, all things will be possible to us: "Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, and *which* entered not into the heart of man, whatsoever things God prepared for them that love him." There are abilities in our own minds which will come forth if we rely implicitly on the one and only Mind. But we must get still; we must still the outer self. Outward appearances have nothing to do with the reality.

Concentrating on life, love, and wisdom, we shall have all abundance, and much more than we can ask or think, when we realize the conscious presence of the Infinite within.

The great struggle is to get still from the

outward and seeming. Therefore, "Be silent, all flesh, before Jehovah; for he is waked up out of his holy habitation."

"Jehovah is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

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