
The Path To Prosperity

God's Plan To Prosper You

Pastor Wil Nichols

February 14, 2021

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: God's Plan To Prosper You: The Path To Prosperity

Lesson Text

Proverbs 3:5–6 (AV)⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 23:1–4 (AV)¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 66:10–12 (AV)¹⁰ For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. ¹¹Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins. ¹²Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy *place*.

Introduction

This series, “God’s Plan To Prosper You”, consists of what we call “The Five P’s”:

1. God’s got a **Plan** – Jeremiah 29:11, “I know the Plans I have for you”
2. God gives us a **Promise** – Joshua 1:8, “You shall have Good Success”
3. **God shows us the Path– Proverbs 3:6, “He shall direct your Path”**
4. God has a **Purpose** – Romans 8:28, “Called according to His Purpose”
5. God wants us to **Prosper** – Psalms 35:27, “God takes Pleasure in Our Prosperity”

Over the next two weeks, we will deal with two things that many Christians struggle with: What is their Purpose? And What is their Path? Today, we will look at our Path.

Now last week we looked at the Promise, Fight, and Courage of Good Success and learned something that relates to today’s message from the 8th verse of our lesson text.

Joshua 1: ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: **for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous**, and then thou shalt have good success.

Prosperity and Success doesn’t just happen even when we have a promise, we must walk the path to get there. And therein lies our problem, what’s the right path?

“Should I go left or should I go right?” Maybe the answer is neither, but simply to stand still.

Proverbs 14: ¹²There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

So how does one discern and discover the path they are to take as it relates to prosperity?

If God has a plan for prosperity, then He has to have a path in order for us to get there, and today’s message will help us to discover, walk, and get through the path God has for us.

Series and Sermon: God's Plan To Prosper You: The Path To Prosperity

“Discovering the Path, Walking the Path, and Getting Through the Path”

I. Discovering The Path

Proverbs 3:⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Now, we know that God has a plan and path to prosperity. But as we stated earlier, prosperity doesn't just happen, one must take the path that leads to it. But what is the right path?

The answer to this question unfortunately leaves a lot of us frustrated, aggravated, depressed, and even devastated because that path that seems right to us leads to death.

- Proverbs 14: ¹² There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.
- Matthew 7: ¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

But clearly there is a path to prosperity

- Jeremiah 29:11 (BSB) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, ***plans to prosper you*** and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.
- Philippians 1: ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

The reason why we struggle with two paths is because of the battle of the two spirits within us; our human flesh and the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 7: ²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.
- Romans 8:⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

We struggle with these paths because our human spirit (flesh) sees the success of the world.

- Psalm 73: ¹ Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart. ² But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. ³ For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- Psalm 1: ¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

We see the ungodly succeeding, we see sinners getting ahead, we see those who don't even know or accept God prospering. But it's not real, because these ways lead to death.

Psalm 37: ¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. ² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

The answer to discovering the path is in the next verse and in our lesson text:

- Psalm 37:³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
- Proverbs 3:⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

To discover the true path to prosperity, we must study God's plan through His Word.

Psalm 1:² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD and in his law doth he meditate day and night

We must acknowledge (recognize and accept) that only God knows the path for our life, and we must mediate and study His Word to discover it!

II. Walking The Path

Psalm 23:⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

But once we discover the path, we must walk it! Having a map does you no good if you don't actually follow it.

Too many people are in a constant state of "Rerouting" because we keep getting off the path.

Joshua 1:⁷ Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: **turn not from it to the right hand or to the left**, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

We've got to stop making wrong turns!

There are two reasons we make wrong turns: distractions from our path, or obstacles in our path

- 1 John 2:¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
- Numbers 13:³³ And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

To deal with the distractions we must pray: Matthew 6:¹³ **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

To deal with the obstacles we must have faith: Matthew 17:²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

To walk the path of prosperity, we need a shepherd to lead us.

Psalm 23:¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths

of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

The shepherd gives us rest, the shepherd feeds us, the shepherd restores us, and the shepherd leads us as we walk the path.

Isaiah 40: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

III. Getting Through The Path

Psalm 66:¹² Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy *place*.

- We need God to help us discover the right path
- We need God to lead us so that we walk the path
- Finally, we need God to get us through the path

Once we know the path and we walk the path, we have to fight to get through the path.

In our previous point, the 23rd Psalm talks about the struggle to get through the path. Psalm 23:⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

The path has people who are trying to destroy us, but we must fight to get through it.

- Psalm 66: ¹² Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads
- Psalm 27: ¹ The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. ³ Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.

The path has fire that wants to burn us up, but we must fight to get through it.

- Psalm 66: ¹² ... we went through fire
- 1 Peter 1: ⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

The path has water that wants to drown us, but we must fight to get through it.

- Psalm 66: ¹² ... we went through water
- Mark 4: ³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

We fight to get through the people that want to destroy us, we fight to get through the fire that wants to burn us, and we fight to get through the water that wants to drown us. Why?

Psalm 66: ¹² ...**but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Path To Prosperity)

Lesson Text

- Prov 3:5-6; Ps 23:14; Ps 66:10-12

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Discovering the Path*

II. *Walking the Path*

III. *Getting Through the Path*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. When you're relaxing at home, do you choose bare feet, socks, slippers or shoes? Why?
2. You have to wear a T-shirt with one word on it for a year. Which word would you choose?

II. Into the Bible

1. The word **direct** in Proverbs 3:6 means, to make level, to be straight, and to be pleasant, smooth and agreeable. As we are walking our paths, if our paths are not level, straight, agreeable, smooth or pleasant, who's to blame... God, ourselves, the devil, or others? Please explain with scriptural support.
2. On our journeys to get through our paths, we must fight. Who are we fighting and where is this battle taking place? Will this battle ever be over?

III. Life Application

1. In the sermon we learned that our walk on the path may be hindered by distractions, obstacles or adversity. Which of these things do you think most often keeps people from continuing on their path? Provide scriptural support for your answer.
2. Your friend, who is a Christian believer, is discouraged because he has not made the progress in life that he expected. He is sure that he must be off the path that God chose for him. Using this week's sermon, what encouragement and advice will you offer him?