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# The Pleasure of Prosperity (The Process of Rising Up)

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God's Plan To Prosper You

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: God's Plan To Prosper You: The Pleasure of Prosperity (The Process of Rising Up)***

***Lesson Text***

Psalms 35:24–28 (AV)<sup>24</sup> Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me. <sup>25</sup> Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up. <sup>26</sup> Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify *themselves* against me. <sup>27</sup> Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. <sup>28</sup> And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness *and* of thy praise all the day long.

Micah 7:7–8 (AV)<sup>7</sup> Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. <sup>8</sup> Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD *shall be* a light unto me.

***Introduction***

Today we conclude our series, “God’s Plan To Prosper You”, with the final “P”:

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”**

The Final “P” of God’s Plan to Prosper us is “Pleasure”

Psalms 35:27 (AV) <sup>27</sup> ... Let the LORD be magnified which hath *pleasure in the prosperity* of his servant

Psalms 35:27 (NLT) <sup>27</sup> ... “Great is the Lord, who *delights* in blessing his servant with peace!”

Psalms 35:27 (GNB) <sup>27</sup> ... “How great is the Lord! He is *pleased* with the success of his servant.”

God has pleasure, delights in, and is pleased with our prosperity, blessings, and success.

Jeremiah 29:11 (BSB) <sup>11</sup> 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.

However, the pleasure is not just about the prosperity that He’s planned for us, but it’s also about the process that He’s taking us through to get to that prosperity.

Our lesson texts deal with men who are in devastating times of their lives. David is being persecuted by Saul, and Micah is living during a time of judgement.

They both point to the fact that better days are coming, and that God will not only take pleasure in their prosperity, but will also be delighted as they go through the process of failure, ridicule, and falling flat on their faces to get there.

***Series and Sermon: God's Plan To Prosper You: The Pleasure of Prosperity (The Process of Rising Up)***

“God gets Pleasure as we Rise Up, Shut Up, and Move Up”

***I. Rise Up (God's Pleasure in Our Failure)***

Micah 7: <sup>8</sup> Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, **I shall arise**; when I sit in darkness, the LORD *shall be* a light unto me.

God gets Pleasure when we fall or fail. Why? Because of the process that happens next.

One of the consistent and persistent principles in scripture is that man falls. From the very beginning we've been falling.

- Adam and Eve fell in the garden
- Abraham fell when God called him to be the father of his chosen people
- Moses, David, Apostle Paul, Peter, and the Prodigal Son are all people who failed.

The truth is that we all fall down and fail all the time (marriage, friendships, business, work, ministry, and yes sins against God)

1 John 1: <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

John 8: <sup>7</sup> ... **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**

But despite the persistent failure of man, there's greater principle at play concerning prosperity, and it is the fact that God raises man up from his failures.

Proverbs 24: <sup>16</sup> For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

God takes pleasure when we fall, not because we fell, but because we're going to rise up.

When Jesus was being crucified, God was pleased because he knew that Jesus would rise up.

Isaiah 53: <sup>10</sup> **Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him**; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, **and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand**.

1 Corinthians 15: <sup>55</sup> O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? <sup>56</sup> The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Micah 7: <sup>8</sup> Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, **I shall arise**;

***II. Shut Up (God's Pleasure with Our Praise)***

Psalms 35: <sup>27</sup> **Let them shout for joy**, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

God also gets Pleasure when we are ridiculed, humiliated, criticized, and scorned. Why? Because it gives us the opportunity to Shut Up the enemy with our Praise.

There is a phrase that says your attitude determines your altitude. During our failure, the level of our praise (attitude) is what determines the level of our rise when we get up (altitude).

Psalm 35: <sup>28</sup> And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness *and* of thy praise all the day long.

We have many afflictions, trouble on every side, more enemies than the hairs on our head; and for every failure, every betrayal, every humiliation, every hurt we need a corresponding praise that not only gives God pleasure but Shuts up the enemy:

- When life is stressing us out, Shut up worry and anxiety by giving God a *Yadah Praise* of Thanksgiving that gives you a “Peace that passes all understanding.”
- When people are rejoicing at our failures, Shut up our enemies by giving God a *Zamar Praise* of singing, “Rejoice not when I fall, for I shall arise.”
- When things are just not working out, Shut up doubters by giving God a *Barak Praise* of “I will Bless the Lord at all times, and his Praises shall continually be in our mouth.”
- When we are ridiculed and laughed at, Shut up the scorners by giving God a *Halal Praise* of “My soul shall make her boast in the Lord and the humble share hear thereof.”
- When the storms of life are raging, Shut up the Storms by giving God a Loud *Shabach Praise* that tells the seas, “Peace be still.”

Psalm 35: <sup>27</sup> *Let them shout for joy*, and be glad, ... Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

### ***III. Move Up (God's Pleasure with our Prosperity)***

Psalm 35: <sup>27</sup> Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath *pleasure in the prosperity* of his servant.

- God takes Pleasure when we Fall because we RISE UP
- God takes Pleasure when we Praise because we tell the enemy to SHUT UP
- God takes Pleasure when we Prosper because we MOVE UP

For most of us, when God called us, we were at the bottom rung of the ladder, in the dumps and dredges of life. Coming from a poor family and not having much. In last place with, the last hired, the first fired. On the wrong side of the tracks from the wrong family.

“Get me some boxes. Why? Because It's Moving Day!”

“Well we're movin' on up, To the east side. To a deluxe apartment in the sky. Movin' on up To the east side. We finally got a piece of the pie.”

We're going through the fire and water, but It's Moving Day:

## The Pleasure of Prosperity (The Process of Rising Up)

Page 4 of 6 (March 7, 2021)

- Psalm 66: <sup>12</sup>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've been in last place all our lives, but It's Moving Day:

- Matthew 19: <sup>30</sup>**But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last *shall be* first.**

We've lost and given up a lot for the sake of Jesus, but It's Moving Day:

- Matthew 19:29 (AV)<sup>29</sup> **And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.**

We've been denied promotion over and over again, but It's Moving day:

- Psalm 75:6–7 (AV)<sup>6</sup> For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. <sup>7</sup> But God *is* the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Psalm 35: <sup>27</sup>Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath ***pleasure in the prosperity*** of his servant.

# The Pleasure of Prosperity (The Process of Rising Up)

Page 5 of 6 (March 7, 2021)

## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Pleasure of Prosperity (The Process of Rising Up))

### Lesson Text

- Psalm 35:24–28, Micah 7:7–8

### Sermon Outline (Notes)

#### I. *Rise Up (God's Pleasure in Our Failure)*

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#### II. *Shut Up (God's Pleasure with Our Praise)*

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#### III. *Move Up (God's Pleasure with our Prosperity)*

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

#### I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. What do you have as wallpaper on your cell phone? What meaning does it have to you?
2. What was the last thing you laughed at really hard?

#### II. Into the Bible

1. Read John 9-10. In verse 10 Jesus gives a promise.
  - Who is the thief? What is his purpose against godly people?
  - Who is the hireling?
  - What is different about the life Jesus came to bring compared to life in general?
  - Abundantly is translated from the Greek word *perissos*, " which has a mathematical meaning and denotes a surplus. What is abundant life?
  - Describe someone who is living the abundant life.

#### III. Life Application

1. There's an old adage that says, if you fail to plan, you are planning to fail. What steps will you take to plan for your success for the remainder of 2021?
2. Visualize yourself in your future success, doing that thing that God has put in you. How will you memorialize your vision... vision board, journaling, business plan, etc.?