

**How to become prosperous and successful
From God's perspective
(Introduction)**

Meditation

Part 3

1. **Since we are made in God's likeness**, we will desire to be prosperous and successful in all that we do.
2. **Everyone desires** to be prosperous and successful in this life. (It is built inside of us)
3. **Question. What is God's perspective about how** to become prosperous and successful?
4. **God gives us His perspective** (or frame of reference) **of how to become prosperous and successful** in the following portion of His word.

Joshua 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate^{#1897} on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success. RSV

5. **Meditation on God's word is the key** to become **prosperous** and successful.
6. **Even though** the book of Joshua is in the **Old Testament** I believe meditation is for the **New Testament** believer.
(1 Timothy 4:15, Philippians 4:8 and Colossians 3:2)

Definition of the word "meditation": (From The New Unger's Bible Dictionary.)

"A private devotional act, consisting in deliberate reflection upon some spiritual truth or mystery, accompanied by mental prayer and by acts of the affection and of the will, especially formation of resolutions as to future conduct" (Cent. Dict., s.v.). Meditation is a duty that ought to be attended to by all who wish well to their spiritual interests. It should be deliberate, close, and continuous (Psalms 1:2; 119:97).

Check list to see if we are truly advancing or prospering

My goal here is to see things from God's perspective pertaining to being **prosperous** and **not** from a worldly perspective.

7. **Here is what I did.**
8. **I broke down the word “advance” through the dictionary** so we can understand or swallow it.
9. **Remember** also that the word “**advance #6743**” came from the Hebrew word **prosperous** found in Joshua 1:8.
10. **Before** I give the dictionary definitions for the word “**advance**” let us understand the source behind each definition. (**Consider the following verses**)

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

30 He (God) is the **source of your life** in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; 31 therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord." RSV

11. **Dictionary definition** for the word “**advance**”: (**An expansion of “advance”**)

- ❑ **Growth**
- ❑ **Move forward**
- ❑ **To lift up or raise**
- ❑ **Increase**
- ❑ **Progress in development**
- ❑ **Improvement**

12. **Realize** that **these** (I just mentioned) are the **benefits** of **meditating on God's word** day and night.
13. **Remember** God the **Father** is our **source** of life.
14. His **word** is our **source** of life.
15. His word **directs us** to meditation.
16. **Through our obedience** we receive the benefits of meditation, which is **advancing**.
17. **The reason** I am saying these things is because people in the world are experiencing these benefits without Jesus in their life **and they are boasting about it**.

A New Age Practice

Meditating: A process of blanking out the mind and releasing oneself from conscious thinking. This is often aided by repetitive chanting of a **mantra** or focusing on an object.

Dictionary definition for the word "**mantra**": a mystical formula of invocation or **incantation** (as in Hinduism)

Dictionary definition for the word "**incantation**": a use of spells or verbal charms spoken or sung as a part of a ritual of magic; also: a written or recited formula of words designed to produce a particular effect.

Astrology: (A method of foretelling the future)

Crystals: (Used as a source of healing or energizing power)

Tarot cards: (Used as a reliable base for life decisions)

18. **People say things like:**

- ❑ Higher power
- ❑ Inner strength
- ❑ Positive thinking
- ❑ Positive energy
- ❑ Because of my schooling
- ❑ Because of my doing
- ❑ Because of my beauty
- ❑ Because of my education
- ❑ Because I am the man
- ❑ But we do not hear Jesus about their:
Growing process
Moving forward
Being lifted up or rise up in time of need
Increase
Development
Improvement...

19. **If people can produce these benefits** without Jesus, **why** have Jesus in their life **and why meditate** on God's word? Living without Jesus is deceptive!

20. **It is not a true picture when we see people advancing without Jesus Christ and not meditating on His word or applying His word.**

Proverbs 14:12-13

12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. 13 Even in laughter the heart is sad, and the end of joy is grief. RSV

Proverbs 14:12-13

12 What you think is the right road may lead to death.

13 Laughter may hide sadness. When happiness is gone, sorrow is always there. TEV

21. **Statement: Unless Jesus** is the source **of our success** (*Our advancement*) it is in vain. (It is not true advancement in God's eyes or perspective)

John 15:5

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing.** RSV

Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all things **in him** who strengthens me. RSV

22. **Unless we advance based on His** word, pattern, His way of thinking it is not true advancement.

23. **God's way, His source to become prosperous and successful is based on Joshua 1:8 and Psalms 1:1-3 and other related scripture of God's word.**

Joshua 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success. RSV

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. **In all that he does, he prospers.** RSV

Check list
(Think of your life)

(Advance means) Growth: (Source is our Father)

24. Are we growing spiritually? **Meditation is one answer.**

25. **Is our meditation** on God's word growing?

(Advance means) Moving forward: (Source is our Father)

26. Can we move forward in difficult situations? **Meditation is one answer.**

27. Do we meditate **on the answer** God provides in His word so we can go forward in the difficult situation?

28. **Meditation helps us know how** to remove obstacles out of the way so we can move forward.

29. **The reason being is that** meditation produces understanding to know how to remove the obstacles.

30. Are we able to overcome? **Meditation is one answer.**

31. Can we bring about a desired end? **Meditation is one answer.**

(Advance means) To lift up or rise: (Source is our Father)

32. Are we able to lift ourselves up out of discouragement? **Meditation is one answer.**

(Advance means) Increase: (Source is our Father)

33. Is our faith increasing? **Meditation is one answer.**

34. Can we believe God in bigger things? (**Not necessarily possessions**) **Meditation is one answer.**

35. Can we believe God to help us in larger problems than our own? **Meditation is one answer.**

36. **Meditate on this statement.** Believing God in **small areas first** will help us believe God when bigger problems happen.

Example of trusting our youth:

Meditate on this example

Trusting God while we are young develops our faith muscle to be used when we are older.

(Advance means) **Progress in development:** (Source is our Father)

37. Are we developing spiritually, or have we become **stagnant, dull, or sluggish**?
Meditating on verses involving diligence yield results.

38. **If we are** stagnant, dull, or sluggish **are we doing anything about it?** Do we accept it? **Meditation on decisiveness provide results.**

(Advance means) **Improvement:** (Source is our Father)

39. **Are we improving?** (Spirit, soul, socially and financially)
Meditation is one answer.

Let us talk about “Socially”

40. **Socially involves people.**

41. **Improvement means godly friends.**

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (See also 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

33 Do not be deceived: "**Bad company** ruins good morals." 34 Come to your **right mind**, and **sin no more**. For **some have no knowledge of God**. I say this to **your shame**.
RSV

Let us talk about “Finances”

- 42. **Finances:** Does our handling of finances demonstrate improvement?
- 43. Do we Pay bills on time?
- 44. Are we making the necessary steps to get out of debt?
Meditation is required on this subject.
- 45. **Improvement does not mean more debt** but rather less debt.
- 46. **Object lesson:** Hold up a Bible and a credit card. (Who is our God?)
- 47. **Using credit** cards takes no faith. Almost **anyone** can do it. However, there are some advantages.
- 48. **Getting into debt is easy.**
- 49. **Staying out of debt is hard, it takes a firm decision** and **self-control**.
- 50. **Meditation on self-control and the following portion of God’s word will assist the believer in financial freedom.**

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the **way is easy**, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is **narrow** and the way is **hard**, that leads to life, and those who find it are few. RSV

- 51. **It is wise to pray, meditate on God’s word, wait, and see what God can do when purchasing something.** (There maybe a deal that we do not know about.)
- 52. **Remember** meditation causes us to be careful to do the word **especially when it involves our finances.**
- 53. **Statement.** The sign of advancement is not always making more money.
- 54. **Statement.** Wisely using the money, **we have**, is advancing.
- 55. **Meditation is one answer to financial freedom.**

(Advance means) **Holy Spirit's affect: (Source is our Father)**

- 56. **Are we being made powerful** because of the Holy Spirit's **affect** on our life?
(**From the Hebrew definition of "Advance"**)
- 57. **We must stay close** to the One who empowers us.
- 58. **Meditation keeps us close to the Holy Spirit.** (**Mindful**)
- 59. **Meditation and praying in tongues (*Heavenly language*) will most certainly affect** our walk of faith.
- 60. **Our advancement** will come through the **Holy Spirit** and the **meditation** of God's word. (**Must stay close to happen**)

Zechariah 4:6

Not by might, nor by power, **but by my Spirit**, says the LORD of hosts. RSV

(Advance means) **Successful turnouts:**

- 61. **Our we allowing God** to cause something to turn out successful in our life?
(**From the Hebrew definition of "Advance"**)
- 62. **Are we trying to push our "will"?**
- 63. **Waiting** upon the Lord and **meditation** on His word will result in a successful turn out.

Do material possessions <u>indicate a prosperous life</u>?

Luke 12:15

15 And he said to them, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; **for a man's life** does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." RSV

- 64. **Do we think** that advancing in material things is true prosperity?
- 65. **Example: Home, cars, computers and so on.**

66. Does the accumulation of material possession **define** our prosperity?

Are we advancing from **meditating on God's word with corresponding actions** or are we advancing because of our **natural abilities, finances** (Credit cards) **smartness** (**High degree of intelligence**) and **youth**? All these elements can be great and active; however, God's ways must be in the equation. In addition, credit cards can be used wisely.

Does physical health only indicate a prosperous life?

67. **Much attention is spent on the body.** (Balanced is needed)

68. **Is being prosperous in our body** all there is?

69. **Even though we might not** be doing well **physically** we do have other areas of being prosperous. (**Our born-again spirit, soul, and heaven**)

70. **We are getting older.**

Psalms 92:12-15

12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 They are planted in the house of the LORD, they flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They still bring forth fruit **in old age**, they are ever full of sap and green, 15 to show that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. RSV

Testimony

Purpose is to show that through meditation there are many **facets** of being prosperous.

71. A man at work **not born again** talking about another man who was sick **who was born** again.

72. **Even though he (the one I was talking to) was physically healthy** he was not healthy in his spirit. (**He was not prosperous in his spirit**)

73. **Even though** this person was battling sickness, his spirit was prosperous.

74. **Why? Because he** decided **to accept Jesus** and **meditate** on God's word.

75. **Even though he** was sick physically he was going to heaven. (**Going to heaven is prosperous**)

76. **I am sure** that the healthy person thought **that he was not prosperous**.
77. **He asked me** how **he** was doing?
78. **He was concerned** and that was okay but where was he (the one I was talking to) spiritually with the Lord?
79. **(Opportunity to share Jesus)** I explained to the person that if **he** died now, he would go straight to heaven **and what about you?**
80. God **loves** you, has a **plan** for your life.
81. He thought he **was not good enough** to go to heaven, so I told him about Jesus paying the price for him.
82. **I was leading this person to Jesus** and if obedient it would head him to becoming **prosperous** and **successful** from God's perspective.

Statement: When a person is not experiencing pain does not mean they are okay.

83. **Some things learned thus far:**
84. **Why** we meditate? (**Prosperous (Advance) and successful (Prudent)**)
85. **What** is meditation? (**Chewing**)
86. **Meditation leads us to understanding.**
87. **When** to meditate? (**Day and night**)

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