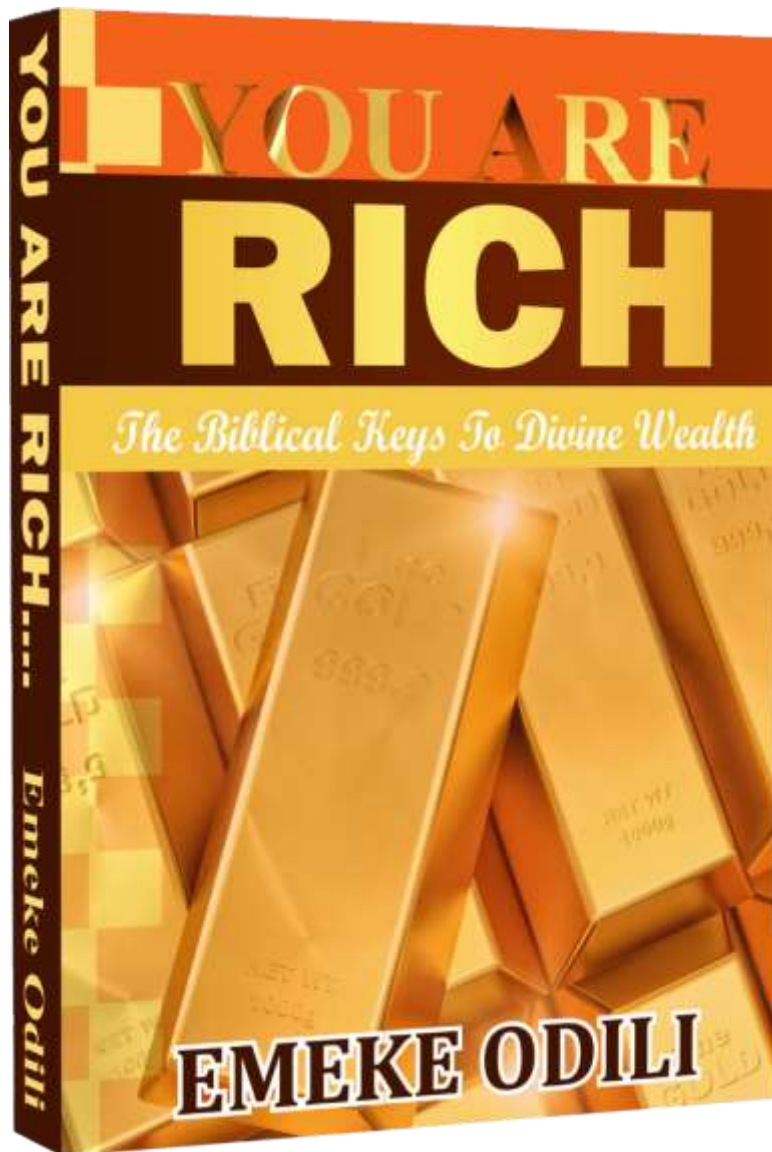




You Are Rich

*The Biblical Keys To Divine
Wealth*

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1 Introduction

The topic of divine riches or prosperity is one of the most controversial one in the body of Christ today. On one side are those who because of abuse by some perverse ministers, argue that the prosperity doctrine is false. And that as a matter of fact, poverty is the portion of the New Testament Church or believers.

They say prosperity of godly men went away with the Old Testament. Then on the other side are those who argue that God gives riches to some believers and does not give to others. Their reason being that God is not a one size fit all God. And of course they say all these basically out of physical observation rather than with scriptural proofs.

But contrary to these points of views there are numerous scriptures that show clearly that divine riches or prosperity is the portion of every believer in Christ Jesus. Yes, the prosperity doctrine (as well as other scriptural doctrine) has been greatly abused, and is still being abused till date. But that does not in anyway mean that the prosperity doctrine is false. The pervasion of scriptural truth about divine prosperity or riches by some charlatans does not automatically falsify the true prosperity doctrine.

In chapter one of this book, I scripturally prove that divine riches or prosperity is the heritage or portion of every believer in Christ Jesus—The New Testament believers. Then in Chapter two I explain the meaning of the “mammon of unrighteousness” as stated in the scriptures by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then after that in chapter three I explain what the true riches in Christ Jesus is really all about. After explaining the meaning of true riches in chapter three, in Chapters 5-9 I reveal 5 scriptural access keys to divine riches in Christ Jesus. Then in the final chapter, chapter 10 I reveal scripturally the purpose of divine riches or prosperity. That is what God expects us to do with the divine riches he endows us with in Christ Jesus.

As you read this book with an open heart to the Holy Spirit, I am certain that your riches in Christ Jesus will receive instant activation in the mighty name of Jesus Christ!

2 All Are Yours

"Whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas, or the World, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's"—1 Corinthians 3:22-23

Christians are on polar, erroneous extremes concerning the gifts of God to his children – the Church. Hence, the Lord through the Apostle Paul helps us straighten things up with the above scripture...

The opening text was written to the Corinthians Church to correct their erroneous attitudes and mind-sets concerning the ministers of God. Then eventually it was expounded to include every other God's providence.

And incidentally, these same erroneous attitude and mind-sets concerning God's gift to his children—the Church—lingers till date all over the world among believers. As a matter of fact, it has even grown worse among many contemporary Christians.

So in this chapter, we want to critically analyse the above opening text, in order to straighten up these erroneous mind-sets and attitudes towards God's gracious and benevolent providence for his heirs—The Church.

Understanding Divine Heritage

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ"—Galatians 4:7

The word 'heir' as used in the above text, is from the Greek word 'kleronomos' meaning—a shearer by lot. That is, 'an inheritor'. Hence, an heir of God is an inheritor of divine creations and providence.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the principal heir of God and all things the Father owns have been given unto him (see **John 13:3**). And they were given unto him for us as his joint heir by adoption...

Thus, all that Jesus possesses or owns are for us believers—for life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**). And yes, we have access to most of these providence here and now for life and godliness. And our opening text gives credence to this fact (**1 Corinthians 3:22-23**).

The word of God says, “all are yours”. That is, us as believers. Not some believers. So let us consider these our heritage in Christ in a little more detail for better understanding.

The Believers’ Divine Providence

From our opening text (1 Corinthians 3:22-23), the list below are the gracious gifts of God to everyone believer in Christ Jesus.

- **The Ministry Gifts:** The word of God in our opening text tells us that every Ministers of the gospel are the privileged heritage of every believer in Christ Jesus. That is: the Apostles, the Prophets, the Pastors, the Teachers, Evangelists, etc. And as such, they are not to be idolized by any believer. They do owe God an obligation to minister to every believer within their means and gifts.

Hence, they do not have any scriptural reason to refuse ministering to any believer or charge for their ministries. Then on the other hand, the believers also owe them care, honour and respect as authoritative servants and gifts of God to them. As they minister spiritual things to us, it is our obligation to also minister materially to them (1 Corinthians 9:11). Then we also need to pray for them.

- **The World:** Our opening text also tells us that the World (kosmos) is ours. That is, the universe and every of God’s creation in it—including the inhabitants—are the believers’ heritage in Christ Jesus. And the implication of this is that we are the caretakers and role-models or pace-setters of the World.

Thus, everything that affects the world, locally and globally should concern us. And of course, it’s our responsibility to influence the world positively for Christ... And we do that through our faith, prayer, love, godliness and gospel of Christ.

Yes, we are not of the world (The perverse and immoral world) but we own the world (The utopian, created world of God). We are not to love (or idolize) the world or the things in it (lust and pride). But we are to care for and influence it positively for God. Hence, the word of God says, we are the light and salt of the world (Matthew 5:13-14)

- **Life:** Another believers’ heritage, the opening verse reveals to us, is life (Zoe). That is, God’s kind of life—eternal life. So eternal life is a present and active possession of the believer. And the believer can as well minister this eternal life to others through the gospel, faith and prayers.
- **Death:** Death here talks about physical death. Not spiritual death. This talks about bodily death. So the opening verse tells us that death is a providence or gift to the believer. Whether it is martyrdom or any other kind of physical death,

it is a gracious providence of God to the believer.

Death is the passage way of the believer to the world of glory and bliss, in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Then at the same time, the believer has the authority to resist and rebuke death in his life and that of others until their appointed time. When their assignments here on earth are over, and Jesus still tarries his coming; they can ride on the wings of death to the land of glory.

- **Things Present:** The opening text also tells us that the present things of this world are also the gifts or possessions of believers. And they are for the believers' Life and godliness. Whether it is spiritual gifts or material gifts, including material riches. Seasonal suffering or adversity; or persecution in the present life here on earth... they are ours for life and godliness.
- **Things to Come:** Finally, on the list of the believers' providence or heritage, the word of God says, things to come are ours. Things to come, such as the New World—New Jerusalem. The crown and tree of life. The streets of gold. Glorious and shiny body, all are for us. And eventually, the text concludes by reminding us that we are Christ's and that Christ is God's.

So here you have it. The word of God says 'all are yours'. And you must accept all of them as blessed gifts from a loving God and Father. You are not to idolize any of them. Neither do you have to accept some and leave some on the table.

Either extreme is rebellion to God. They are yours—but they should not be idolized or abused. And at the same time, we should not call unclean the gifts of our benevolent Father because of abuse. Instead, we should receive them all with thanksgiving; and use them for their purposes. Which are life and godliness.

3 The Mammon of Unrighteousness

Many a Christian are against any preaching that makes mention of prosperity. As a matter of fact, I did write an article about divine prosperity; and someone in her unscriptural zeal attacked and said; "The give to receive garbage gospel, is just that—garbage".

I quickly made her understand that with such statement, she was inadvertently saying, Jesus preached garbage. Because the Lord did say, give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, press down and shaken together, shall men give unto your bosom.

For some of the commenters in that article, they daubed divine prosperity, which is one of the tenets of the New Covenant ([Ezekiel 36:29-30](#)), "The Gospel of Mammon".

Hence, this chapter sets out to scripturally clarify the meaning of "Mammon of Unrighteousness" as used by our Lord Jesus in the bible. And also, this chapter seeks to point out, who and who is involved and can indulge in "The mammon of unrighteousness".

What is the Mammon of Unrighteousness?

Before explaining the meaning of mammon of unrighteousness, let us see where it was mentioned in the bible in the book of [Luke 16:11](#) & 13:

"If therefore you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

The word mammon is from the Greek word "Mammonas" which means, confidence in wealth; or in one word, Avariciousness. In other words, it is the deification of wealth. It is the Love of money referred to by the Apostle Paul in [1Timothy 6:10](#).

Mammon is the idolatry of money. It is putting the desire for wealth, material or financial gain above God's commandments. And it is not the vice of only the super-rich. Even the poor and middle class also indulge in it.

Many a believer and preachers, who accuse and condemn rich believers and prosperity preachers of mammonism, are even guiltier of unfaithfulness in the mammon of unrighteousness than they are.

How Do We Indulge in the Mammon of Unrighteousness?

I know with my last statement in the above paragraph, the very next question that comes to mind will be, how do we indulge in the mammon of unrighteousness?

Firstly, mammon has been defined as confidence in wealth and idolatry of money and material gain. We have also seen that this idolatry can easily be committed by putting financial and material gain before or above God's instructions. So we indulge in the mammon of unrighteousness in the following ways:

1. Mismanagement of church funds—including borrowing from tithe and offering without paying back
2. Lying about our age to gain employment
3. Refusing to pay our tithes and offerings
4. Shutting up our bowels of love to a needy brother or sister—when we could be of help
5. Closing our eyes to the glaring need in God's house or for God's work when we could contribute our own quota
6. Lying in business in order to make sale or gain
7. Using people to work so much and giving them so little. And even sometimes delaying their payments for our selfish reasons.
8. Refusing to answer God's ministerial call for the sake of business
9. Use of unscriptural tactics to get money from members
10. Refusing to marry the person God reveals to you because of financial status. And also trying to choose a spouse mainly because of financial status.

All these amongst so many other practices, are the ways many Christians indulge in the mammon of unrighteousness. And we really need to judge ourselves along this line and repent of our sins as quickly as possible.

The Lord multiply on us the grace to be faithful to him concerning money and material possessions in Jesus' name.

4 The True Riches

“If therefore you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches”—Luke 16:11

From the above scripture, two things stand out for deep consideration. They are: unrighteous mammon and The True Riches. And we have already discussed the mammon of unrighteousness extensively in the last chapter.

What is The True Riches?

As we begin to consider the true riches, it is important that we consider a particular scripture that gives a great eye-opener on this topic:

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans, write; these things say the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I would that you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich, and white clothing, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.”—Revelation 3:14-19

From this scripture above, again the Lord opens our eyes to mammonism and the True Riches. This particular Angel of the Laodiceans church (which is obviously a church leader), became spiritually lackadaisical as a result of his wealth – And then puts his confidence in his possessions—for he said; “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing “. Which is mammonism or avariciousness; and that was what the Lord Jesus was seriously against.

And anybody in that state of avariciousness, the Lord says; is wretched and miserable, poor and naked. The Lord wasn’t necessarily angry with him because of his wealth– but rather, he was against his confidence in his possessions. And this kind of idolatry is not only the vice of the super-rich. Even the poor and middle class also indulge in it. The poor or average class man or woman with some possession can also be unfaithful in the unrighteous mammon.

They also put financial gain before God’s commandments.

For instance, we see people lie about their age in order to gain employment. Some traders use the wrong side of a measuring cup to measure rice and beans for customers. When someone asks them for financial or material help, they swear they don't have a dime or the thing requested, when they have some to sacrifice.

Many don't pay their tithe and offering in the Church. Just to mention but a few.

But then immediately after the Lord finished rebuking him (the Angel of the Laodiceans Church), He counsels him to buy of him genuine gold, that he might truly be rich.

Hence, the True Riches are the Riches that come from God by Faith and faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ. To be truly rich, you need to put all your confidence and trust in God for everything, including financial and material supply.

And you must be absolutely faithful and obedient to his instructions in your acquisition and spending of these riches. And while these riches are in your possession, you must be poor and lowly in spirit. Never ever put your trust in the riches but rather, let your trust only be and remain in God; and give him glory for the abundance of all things.

5 The Poor are Rich in Faith

“Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?”--James 2:5

In the above opening text, James by the Spirit tells us that God has chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith. And that he has also chosen them to be heirs of his kingdom. And it is on the bases of this scripture and other similar scripture that many believers assert that poverty is synonymous with godliness. And that material wealth or riches is a deviation from godliness. That every true believer should not seek material wealth.

But this is clearly a misunderstanding of the actual context of James statement. To interpret the opening text in that light, will imply that God has chosen every poor person in this world to be rich in faith; regardless of whether he is a believer or not.

Regardless of whether he lives according to scriptural precepts or not. Whether his or her poverty is as a result of foolishness and laziness or not. Clearly, such an interpretation can never be true. To interpret the opening text accurately, we must cross reference other scriptures with the same context for better understanding. Because a matter must be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses.

Cross Reference Scriptures

“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”—Matthew 5:3

“And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”—Mark 10:23-25

In Matthew 5:3 the Lord says, *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* In other words, similar to James’ statement in our opening text, the poor in spirit are the heirs of God’s kingdom. So this scripture expounds on the exact kind of poverty James refers to. Then in the second reference scripture—Mark 10: 23- 25 – The Lord Jesus says, it is hard for those who have riches to enter into the kingdom of God. When he made that statement, the scripture says his disciples were astonished at his

words. Because they didn't quite understand his statement. Then the Lord clarified his statement by saying "Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God".

Then he went on to say, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. So from the Lord's clarifying words, it is very clear that when the Lord talks about the hardness of those that have riches to enter the kingdom of God, he is referring to those that trust in their riches. In other words, those that have attachment to their material wealth.

That is, those that deify material riches or wealth – mammonism. Those who are not poor in the spirit. So when James talks about God choosing the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of his kingdom, he is referring to 'poor in spirit'. He is not referring to every poor person in this world.

Because material poverty is never a godly virtue. Yes, it is true that believers can suffer some temporary material poverty or hardship for several reasons. But that does not in any way mean that material poverty is a godly virtue. The actual godly virtue that leads to riches in faith and inheritance of God's kingdom is poverty in spirit. So what does it mean to be poor in spirit?

Poverty in Spirit

To understand poverty in spirit, we have to consider the biblical examples the Lord spoke against their attitudes with wealth. Firstly, let us consider the fellow that ran to Jesus to ask him how to inherit eternal life (Mark 10:17-20).

After his conversation with the Lord, the Lord asked him to go sell all he had and give them to the poor, and come, take up his cross and follow him (Mark 10:21).

When he received that instruction from the Lord, the word of God says he was sad at the saying. And went away grieved: for he had great possessions (Mark 10:22). Now the problem of this young man was not the fact that he had great possessions. No, that could not have been the case; if it was, the Lord would have as well been displeased with Abraham, Job, Isaac and Jacob...

The major challenge of this rich fellow, as it is with many today, is hearty attachment to his possessions. How did I know? I knew this by the Lord's clarifying statement in verse 24 of the same scripture (Mark 10: 24). Here are the exact words of the Lord Jesus; *"Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God".*

So the challenge the Lord had with this rich fellow, was not his wealth or great possessions. But rather, his trust or hearty attachment to his possessions that hindered him from selling them off. Giving them away to the poor; and following him as the Lord instructed him.

That said, let us consider another example. Because a matter must be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses.

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot... Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked"—Revelation 3:14 & 17.

The same issue comes up again in the above scripture as we saw in the first scriptural example. This fellow became lukewarm concerning God and the things of God; as a result of material possessions. And the Lord was displeased with him, not because of his possessions but with his material idolatry.

And the Lord was specific about that in his rebuke. He says; *"Because thou sayest I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing"*. The Lord did not say, *"because you are rich and increased with good and have need of nothing"*. So it was not about his possession, but about the statement of his heart.

It was about his material attachment or attitude in the heart.

So from the above two examples, we can rightly define poverty in spirit to mean, holistic trust in the Lord; and absolute detachment from possessions, positions or achievements. Poverty in spirit, means giving up on everything you possess to the Lord in your heart...

It means owning everything, yet submitting all to the Lord in your heart (your spirit). Poverty in spirit means; "Not letting your possessions or position get into your heart or your head".

Poverty of the spirit means not putting anything; or the possession of anything or position, above God and his instructions in your heart. Thus, poverty in spirit is a matter of the heart or spirit. It is not a function of material or financial possessions. Because like I wrote earlier, one can be financially or materially poor, yet not be poor in spirit.

Key to Poverty in Spirit

The major biblical key for maintaining poverty in the spirit (human spirit), no matter the level of your elevation in life... Is the realization that we are actually, only receivers, not achievers. We must realize that whatever we own, possess, know... the heights we have attained, the goals we have achieved etc...

All are given to us by the Lord. We can receive absolutely nothing, except it be given us from heaven (John 3:27). When this revelation dawn in our hearts or spirits, and we walk in it on daily basis, our ego will be humbled.

And as such, we would not have any need to glory in ourselves or be high-minded over anything. But rather, we will always give all the glory to God for all things at all times (see 1 Corinthians 4:7). And along the same line, we will also render our bodies and possessions as living sacrifice unto God.

This is exactly what poverty in spirit mean. And the Lord will have us make this attitude our lifestyle. For he says, the kingdom of heaven is the heritage or possession of the poor in spirit.

The Lord does not have any problem with making us great to any level in life. But he does have a problem with our being high-minded, and Idolizing the greatness or possessions.

I pray the Lord make this attitude of poverty in spirit a part of your new nature in Jesus Name!

6 The Key of Giving

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again"

-- Luke 6:38

From the above opening text, the Lord Jesus himself reveals giving as a major key to divine wealth or riches. He says we should give and it shall be given unto us. Then he goes further to explain the magnitude of what we receive in return for our giving. He says "Good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom" The Lord's statement here, can be better understood with the illustration of measurement of grains of rice with basket.

As you measure grains of rice in a basket, press it down with your hand, and continually shake it together until there is an overflow, that certainly depicts abundance. In other words, what you get from such measurement is over and above the usual measurement. So the Lord is saying that as we give out our substances to others, we receive in excess or in multiplied fold what we give. Going further with the Lord's statement in the opening text he says "Men shall give into your bosom".

Here, when he says men shall give into your bosom, he is not referring to those men who you give to. When he says men shall give into your bosom, he means as you give people for the sake of God, God will cause other men to give back to you, over and above what you give to people. And yes, God can still sometime use the same people you give to, to give back to you; but you don't give to people, expecting to receive back from them.

Giving with such motive or expectation is ungodly and unsanctified before God (). As you give to people for the sake of love and God, you should expect God to cause other men to give to you back in multiplied fold of your giving according to his word.

The expectation of your reward should solely be on God and God alone. When the expectation of your reward is solely on God, you would not be offended, if the people you give to do not give back to you or if they return ingratitude for your good. The Lord instructs us to do good to those who hate us (Luke 6:27).

So even if you give to someone who is unthankful you should still go on giving to the person for the sake of God. And God will personally reward you for your good. Then going further with the Lord's statement in our opening text, the Lord says; "For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" So we access

divine riches according to the measure of our giving. In another scripture, the word of God says, "he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully, while he who sows sparingly shall reap sparingly" (2 Corinthians 9:6)

The Giving Grace

"Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints."—2 Corinthians 8:1-4

In the scripture quoted above Paul recommends to the Corinthian believers the giving grace of God bestowed on the Churches of Macedonia. He says the Macedonian Churches were giving willingly in spite of their great trial of affliction and deep poverty. That within their power and even beyond their power they were willing to give.

While we have clearly seen from our opening text that the Lord says we should give, so we can receive back in abundant fold, it requires the giving grace to actually give effectively. Without the operation of the giving grace in a believer, he can hear and preach all the sermons there is about giving but yet still not able to give.

And even when he gives, he will only be able to give when it is convenient. He won't be able to give beyond his power or convenience. And often time it is giving beyond our power that attracts the most supernatural blessings from God. And this is why the Apostle Paul by the Spirit, instructs us to desire the same order of giving grace that was on the Macedonian believers (2 Corinthians 8:7).

The giving grace makes a believer give as a lifestyle. And of course, a giving lifestyle plugs a believer into a life of continual access to divine riches available in Christ Jesus. As I conclude this chapter, it is important we understand that giving is one of our greatest spiritual access key to our divine riches in Christ Jesus. The Lord says as we give, we shall receive back in multiplied fold. So it is totally an act of faith to expect God's supply as we give.

But however, it does not mean that if we give without getting instant material blessings from God, we should stop giving. Giving should ultimately be a lifestyle of every believer, whether there is instant reward or not. If we do not receive instant material reward for our giving, we are sure to be rewarded in eternity with Christ. Apart from physical or material rewards, we also receive other spiritual rewards for our giving. Such was the case of Solomon (2 Chronicles). As Solomon sacrificed greatly to God, God did not only reward him with material wealth but also with wisdom peace and long

life. So receive the giving grace right now in the mighty name of Jesus. And as you sow, the Lord will multiply your seed sown in the mighty name of Jesus Christ!

7 The Key of Tithing

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts."-- Malachi 3:10-11

There are many in the body of Christ today who contend against tithing. They say the ministers of the gospel who collect tithes in their churches are in error. They say the preachers who preach that tithing is a major spiritual access to divine wealth or riches are false teachers. But from our opening text, the Lord personally commands us to bring all the tithes into his storehouse, so that there may be meat in his house. Then he went on to say we should prove him with it if he will not pour out a blessing on us that there shall not be room enough to receive it. If the Lord himself covenants to pour out a blessing on us such that we shall not have enough room to receive it, this is clearly wealth or riches.

It is scripturally clear that as we pay our tithes, God releases abundant blessings on us. Now does this abundant blessing include material wealth? The second verse of our opening text answers the question. In the second verse of our opening text the Lord says he will rebuke the devourer for our sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of our ground. He says further that neither shall our wine cast her fruits before the time in the field.

The fruits of our ground talks about material possession or business. And in this context, refers to farming. But it also applies to every other physical work of life. As the Lord rebukes the devourer from destroying the fruits of our ground, neither let our wine cast fruit before the time in the field, we definitely gain more profit in whatever business adventure of life we undertake.

And of course more profit with no wastage, certainly leads to more material wealth and riches added to every other blessing that comes with tithing as the Lord has covenanted with us his children. So from the above scriptural explanation, it is clear that believers access material riches by tithing according to the word of God.

Is Tithing Still Necessary in The New Testament?

Many people who contend against tithing as commanded by God in our opening text (Malachi 3:10-11) say tithing went away with the old covenant – The Law. They say believers no longer need to tithe under the new covenant. So in this section of this chapter, we will be delving into the New Testament of the scriptures to see if tithing is still necessary under the new covenant or not. And we will be starting off with the Lord Jesus' statement concerning tithing while he was still here on earth.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint, anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith; these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone". – Mathew 23:23

In the above scripture, the Lord rebukes the scribes and Pharisees of their hypocritical practices. He says they pay tithe of mint, anise and cummin. But have omitted the weightier matters of the Law, Judgment, Mercy and Faith. Then in the last part of his statement, he says: These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

So the Lord is saying there are weightier matters of the Law such as Judgment (Justice), Mercy and Faith. That is, they ought to have done these weightier matters of the Law. But while they do those things, they are not to leave the other undone. The "other" the Lord says they should not leave undone in the context of his statement, is clearly tithing. In other words, he is saying they ought to place more emphasis on the weightier matters of the law. But while they are doing those weightier matters of the law, they should not leave the other (Tithing) undone. Even though it is of a lesser weight.

So from the above explanation, it is clear the Lord never instructed us to stop tithing, even as we do other weightier matters of God's commandments. So tithing is still very necessary under the New Testament.

"So Who Receives The Tithes We Pay?"

"For this Melchisedec, King of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To which also King of Salem, which is King of Peace, without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily, they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they came out of the loins of Abraham. But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction, the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth."--Hebrews 7:1-8

I only needed the last verse of the above quoted scripture to answer the question as to who receives the tithes we pay in church. But I had to quote from verse one for better understanding from the context. Before the law, the patriarch, Abraham paid tithe to Melchisedec, priest of the most high God. Under the law, the tithes that were brought to the house of God, were given to the Levites, the priests. Now according to the last verse of the above scriptural quotation, it says, here men that die receive tithes. But there he (Jesus Christ, Our High Priest) receiveth (receives) them.

So as we pay our tithes in the church, the priests or pastors receive them for the works of the church or ministry. But ultimately, Jesus Christ, our high priest receives them spiritually. And of course, as he receives them in heaven, God honours his covenant of abundant blessings in our lives as clearly stated in Malachi 3:10-11.

As I conclude this chapter, I want to let you know that so many believers in Christ Jesus (including me) have proven and keeps on proving God with tithing and have been receiving abundant blessing, till date. And as you also subscribe to the key of tithing, you will also enjoy super abounding divine blessings, including material wealth and riches in the mighty name of Jesus Christ!

8 The Key Of Diligence

"He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand, but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."
Proverbs 10:4

The word 'diligent' as used in the above opening text is from the Hebrew word 'Harus' properly meaning incised or actively, the incisive. Figuratively, it means: Determination and also Eagerness. Then 'diligent' as used in Proverbs 22:29, is from the Hebrew word 'Mahir' meaning quick, which is skillful. The opening text says, the person that deals with a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. The word slack as used here means remissness, which means lack of care or attention in his or her duty or work. The bible says the person with such attitude to his work becomes poor. But the diligent, incisive, determined, eager or skillful worker becomes rich.

So diligence as used in the opening text does not just talk about hard work, as many interpret it, instead it refers to careful, thoughtful and skillful work. It refers to purpose or vision driven work. It refers to eager or passionate carrying out of duty or work. A similar scripture to our opening text says; *"The soul of the sluggard desireth and hath nothing, but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat"* Proverbs 13:4

The sluggard as used in the above scripture talks about indolence, that is Laziness or The Lazy. It says the sluggard or lazy person desires and has nothing, but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. From these scriptures, it becomes undoubtedly clear that one of the major reasons for poverty or lack and want in the body of Christ today is slackness and laziness. The word of God says; God has given us – believers – all things that pertain to life and godliness including riches, but many believers still wallow in lack and want. Even though most of them live godly and also give, they still wallow in lack and want majorly because of lack of diligence.

The major channel through which God releases material or financial riches to his children is the works of our hand. But some believers don't work. And many that work do not put in all the required skill and passion to their works in order to get the maximum return. They work just to get by with life and existence. They pray very hard, but do not put so much effort to their works or businesses.

So many of them believe God for supernatural supply, but they only expect God to use others to give to them as a favour. And yes, God does provide for his children through favour from men. But he majorly supplies through the works of our hand. He covenants to bless the works of our hand (Deut 2:12). In the New Testament of the bible, the Apostle Paul by the spirit also stressed on the need for we believers to work. Here is what he says; *"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that ye may walk honestly towards them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing"* Thessalonians 4:11-12

In the above scripture, the Apostle Paul says we should study to be quiet, and do our own business, and to work with our hands so we may walk or live honestly toward them that are without (The unbelievers). And that we may have lack of nothing. So the Apostle Paul confirms doing our own business or working as a cure for lack and want. Concerning the believers who don't work here is what the Apostle Paul says; *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk disorderly, working not at all, but are busy bodies. Now they that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread"* Thessalonians 3:10-12

Like I said earlier, there are believers who pray and pray; fast and fast and never work at all. To such group of believers, the Apostle Paul says if any would not work, neither should he eat. Many complain there are no jobs. But if there are no jobs, you can create one for yourself. If you cannot find someone to hire you, you can start up something for yourself no matter how small. If you don't have money to start a business, you can at least learn a skill. So you can at least be selling your service.

Some people may complain they don't have money to learn a skill. If you don't have money to pay in order to learn a skill, you can still acquire a skill by serving someone as an apprentice or if you can afford internet connection you can learn some skills free of charge from the internet. So there is no room for excuses. If you must access your portion of financial blessings in Christ Jesus, just pick something honest and get busy working. Then to get the most profit from whatever your hand finds doing, you must do it with all diligence. For the word of God says; *"The hand of the diligent maketh rich"*

Then again the word of God says; *"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men"* Proverbs 22:29

As you do your business with all your heart and might, with due diligence, you will definitely stand before kings in the mighty name of Jesus Christ!

9 The Key Of Godliness

"Praise ye the Lord Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house and his righteousness endureth forever"
Psalms 112:1-3

The above opening text says the man that fears the Lord and delights greatly in his commandments is blessed. That his seed shall be mighty upon earth. It says the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Then concerning the subject of divine riches we are discussing in this book, it says wealth and riches shall be in his house. And his righteousness endureth forever.

In 1Timothy 4:8, the Apostle Paul by the spirit says; *"For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come"*.

So walking in the fear of God and delighting greatly in God's commandment, which is godliness gives us, believers access to durable, divine wealth and riches. The fear of God means "the dread for God" which makes a believer to depart from ungodliness. The bible says we perfect holiness in the fear of God (2Corinthians 7:1).

The fear of God makes us live uprightly. It makes us live godly. And the word of God says godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that is now and of that which is to come. Yes, many people gather so much riches in ungodliness. People kill and steal to get riches, people rob and defraud others and gather plenty material riches. In short people do all sorts of despicable and unimaginable things to get riches. But such riches are not durable; they go along with so much sorrow. But the wealth and riches we receive from God's providence through godliness endures forever and is absolutely sorrow free.

Proverbs 10:22 says; *"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich and he addeth no sorrow with it"*. Riches gotten in godliness is all encompassing. The man job is a biblical example of someone that got access to divine riches through godliness. Here is what the word of God says concerning Job;

"There was a man in the land of UZ, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east" Job 1:1-3

As we can see from the above quoted scripture, as Job walked in the fear of God and uprightness, he was blessed by God on all sides. He was blessed with children and great

material wealth. And eventually when God tested him, he lost all his possessions. But because he maintained his trust and integrity in God, God multiplied his possessions.

So if you must access the divine providence of God in Christ Jesus, you must of a necessity subscribe to the fear of God and walk uprightly and perfectly. You must exercise yourself unto godliness in every aspect and dealings of life. You must be upright in your personal life and in your business dealings.

There are many believers who believe Christianity must be separated from their business dealings; but that is totally wrong. As a believer, you must uphold the commandments of God in every of your dealings. And as you do, you keep growing and growing. And as you grow, you will not go under in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

10 The Purpose Of Divine Riches

"And God is able to make all grace abound towards you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all thing may abound to every good work: (As it is written, he hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor, his righteousness remaineth forever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

The above opening text says; God is able to make all grace abound toward us, that we always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work. Then in bracket it says; "As it is written, he hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor, his righteousness remaineth forever". So clearly the purpose of divine riches or sufficiency is good works of love. And these good works are of different categories.

In this chapter, we will be exploring these good works that we are to be using our divine riches for. Because if the purpose of a thing is not known abuse is inevitable.

Caring for Our Families

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" -- 1Timothy 5:8

From this scripture above, we can understand that one of the principal reasons God provides for us, his children, is for us to be able to provide for ourselves and our families. Including nuclear and extended families. The above scripture says if any (any believer) provides not for his own especially those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is even worse than an infidel. The believer, who does not provide for his family, is worse than an infidel, because he should know better than the infidel or unbeliever.

And as this is the scriptural fact, every believer should strive hard to provide for his family. And this includes both male and female believers. The scripture we read above, does not only apply to male believers, it also applies to female believers as well. In a family with husband and wife, the man and the woman should work together to provide for their families.

The responsibility of providing for the family should not just be pushed off on the man alone especially when the woman is capable of helping the man. Then for family where there is only a single parent, the parent should do his or her utmost best to provide for his or her family. But this notwithstanding, a believer should not break the commandments of God in the name of trying to provide for his or her family.

Because there are many folks who do all manner of ungodly things with the pretext of providing for their families. You are to do the best you can to honestly provide for your family. If after you have done your best and you're still yet unable to meet some needs, you don't have to go beyond the boundaries of God's commandments to meet your family needs. You are to do

the best you can with what God provides you per time and cast the rest of your family's cares on God. And in due cause he will help you meet those needs.

Giving To The Poor And Needy

Part of our opening text says; *"As it is written he hath dispersed abroad he hath given to the poor, his righteousness remaineth forever"* – 2 Corinthians 9:9

So another major purpose of divine riches is for distribution to the poor and needy. As believers, we are to give to the poor and needy people in the churches and in our neighbourhood or society. This is because God actually blesses us to be a blessing to others. God does not provide abundantly for his children for the sake of selfish accumulations. As God provides abundantly for you, you are to look out for the poor and needy people around you to reach out to.

You don't have to wait for people to beg you before reaching out to them. Each time God provides for you, ask God to direct you to people or someone you can reach out to. And if you are sincere, he will definitely guide you to people that needs your financial or material ministrations.

Give To Ministers Of The Gospel

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things" – Galatians 6:6

"If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" – 1Corinthians 1:11, 14

Another good work we use our divine provisions for, is ministering or giving to the ministers of the gospel. Especially those who God use to minister spiritually to you. Yes, it is unscriptural for any true minister of the gospel to demand money or any material thing for his ministration. But however, the scriptures instruct us to minister our carnal ((or material) things to them as they minister spiritually to us. Apart from ministering to their personal material needs, you should also minister to their ministerial needs such as church building and other ministerial needs.

Final Words

So in this book we have scripturally seen that divine riches is the heritage of every believer in Christ Jesus. Then we have also explored the major scriptural keys for accessing this divine riches we have in Christ Jesus. And finally, we have discussed also the major reasons why God bestows his children with riches.

Then as I conclude this book, I must not end without letting you know that divine riches is the heritage of only the children of God, who are born again in Christ Jesus. Before you can lay claim to the divine riches in Christ Jesus, you must be born again first. You must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, then every other thing, including riches, will be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

You must first deny yourself and carry your cross and follow Jesus. As you deny yourself and carry your cross to follow Jesus, you receive eternal life and in due time, if Jesus tarries his coming, you will receive hundred fold much more than you give up to follow the Lord (Mark 10:28-30). If you are not yet saved by receiving Jesus into your life as your Lord and personal Saviour, then say out the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, I agree that I am a sinner.

But I believe you came to this earth and died to save me from the power of sin and Satan.

Lord Jesus, I receive you into my heart today as my Lord and personal Saviour.

Wash me with your precious blood and write my name in the book of Life.

Thank you Father for saving me. I believe I am saved at last.

I am now a child of God. I am now born again. Old things have passed away

And all things have become new in my life. In Jesus Name. Amen!

About The Author

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OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

“Keys to The Kingdom Success: The Biblical Secrets for Unparalleled Success in Life: Here and In Eternity” (Paper Back Version Available at Amazon)

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