

Three Dimensional Prosperity

“Beloved I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospereth.” 3 John 2 (KJV)

The words in the scripture encompass the condition of contentment that God desires for his children. It is His purpose that we possess spiritual strength, good physical health, and economic prosperity. In short His plan for us is a three dimensional prosperity plan (spiritual, physical, and economic). He wants us to thrive in every aspect of our lives and his intention is for our prosperity or our wellness to begin with our spiritual lives before spreading to our physical and economic conditions.

The phraseology of 3 John 2 supports God’s plan for wellness to begin with our spiritual condition. The text suggests that the prosperity of the soul (spiritual wellness) must precede the economic and physical prosperity. Even though the latter two are mentioned first, their being effectuated is secondary to or dependent on spiritual prosperity taking place. The text states that the hope is for us, the children of God, to be prosperous and healthy *even as* our soul thrives. The words ‘even as’ implies that spiritual health is a precursor to the physical and economic health.

Matthew 6:33 lends support to the idea that spiritual

health is of primary importance for the Christian, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness [spiritual wellness], and all these things [physical and economic wellness] shall be added to you.” Here we are told to pursue salvation and the righteousness of the redeemer first, then all the other things that we stand in need of including optimal health and economic prosperity will be ‘added’ unto us.

God’s plan of wholistic wellness for his children can be traced back to the Old Testament and it is particularly highlighted in Deuteronomy 28:1-14. At the beginning of the text, the Lord admonishes:

“...if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God...Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks...”

The lesson here is that obedience to the word of God (spiritual wellness) is the catalyst that delivers economic wellness—the blessings of children, high crop yields, etc. which were the earmarks of economic prosperity in Old Testament times.

Exodus 15:26 further demonstrates God’s intention that we be physically prosperous and reiterates that this aspect of wellness is once again dependent on our first achieving spiritual wellness. “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight...I will put none of the diseases on you which I brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.” Again when we first

follow God's instructions and adhere to the guidelines in his word (spiritual health), then we will enjoy good health (physical prosperity) which He will give to us as a result of our experiencing spiritual health for He, God, is the one who 'heals' us.

My brothers and sisters, too often we think that God's sole intention for our lives is for us to be spiritually strong, and we believe He has only scant interest in our economic and physical health. Perish this thought if you have ever entertained it or just flirted with it momentarily. God is concerned with our entire well being. Yes, he first desires that we seek him and be converted in our minds and hearts because once this happens and we are committed to Him, then he can richly bless us economically with material wealth and bestow on us optimal health. He knows that once we are dedicated to serving him (spiritual health) then the financial resources (economic health) he blesses us with will be used to build His kingdom. Our God also knows that we will be soldiers in His army winning souls for the kingdom when our bodies are strong and vibrant (physical health).