



## Trusting God Through The Changing Seasons Of Our Life Trusting God In Times Of Prosperity

Normally when we hear the word prosper we think about being rich. But in the bible the word translated prosper has a broader usage than just becoming rich. It is used to describe someone who has received favor and his plans have been successful.

The bible says that...

- The Lord caused the servant of Abraham's plans to prosper in finding a wife for Isaac. (Genesis 24:40)
- The Lord caused Joseph's plans to prosper as a prisoner in Egypt. (Genesis 39:3)
- The Lord caused Joshua's plans to prosper in Canaan. (Joshua 1:7)

It is very rewarding when you prosper; when you find favor; when what you have planned to happen, happens. You win the game you planned on winning. You lift the weight that you planned on lifting. You finish the race you planned on finishing. You make the grade that you planned on making. You get the degree that you planned on getting. You get the job that you planned on getting. You get the house that you planned on acquiring. You get the guy or the girl that you planned on getting.

Anytime you accomplish what you planned to accomplish, you are experiencing prosperity.

When we prosper, it produces a very gratifying feeling called pride. Pride is...

*"A feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired."*

It is because of this feeling that we may celebrate the success of one of our loved ones by saying, "I am proud of you!"

This feeling of pride in achievement is not wrong.

What God is opposed to is a spiritual state called pride.

1 Peter 5:5-7

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble."

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.  
NKJV

Pride is living independently of God and others. It is the false idea that we can be successful in life without God or others. It is having an over inflated view of ourselves, our importance, or our ability...

To be a good person

To make good decisions

To love others

It is pride that keeps us from really seeing what we deserve from God.

Pride produces fruit in us that is distasteful to God and others. For example, if we are proud...

- We develop an arrogant attitude that we deserve to be recognized for our achievements.
- We become fault finders.
- We develop a harsh spirit.
- We live a superficial life.
- We are defensive.
- We are irreverent.
- We are desperate for attention.
- We neglect others.

The bible says in Proverbs 8:13 that God hates pride. (Proverbs 8:13)

God hates pride because God is just. He hates anything that is not just.

But God also hates pride because He loves us so much. Walking in pride is what keeps us from walking with God.

**It is impossible to walk in pride and walk with God. To walk with God, we must trust in His ability rather than trusting in our own!**

During times of prosperity we are most vulnerable to become proud.

This is what happened to a king named Nebuchadnezzar. He was the king of Babylon, an ancient kingdom that conquered the known world in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.

This was the Lord's doing. The Lord said...  
Jeremiah 27:1-9

1 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 2 "Thus says the Lord to me: 'Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck, 3 and send them to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon, by the hand of the messengers who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah. 4 And command them to say to their masters, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel — thus you shall say to your masters: 5 'I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me. 6 And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him. 7 So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them. 8 And it shall be, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish,' says the Lord, 'with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.  
NKJV

After his conquest, Nebuchadnezzar was in his palace one day thinking about all that he had accomplished....

Daniel 4:30

30 The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

NKJV

Immediately, he heard a voice from heaven that said...

Daniel 4:31-33

31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! 32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

33 That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

NKJV

God humbled him for seven years before He gave his understanding and the Kingdom back to him.

Daniel 4:34-37

34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
And His kingdom is from generation to generation.

35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing;

He does according to His will in the army of heaven  
And among the inhabitants of the earth.  
No one can restrain His hand  
Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.  
NKJV

What do you need to do if you are walking in pride?

1. Compare yourself with God
2. Confess
  - Confess your faults to God
  - Confess your faith in His Word
3. Consider every blessing in your life to be the result of God's grace and power and dedicate your life to serve Him.  
Give credit to God and others for your success and use your success for His glory.
4. Commit yourself to walk with God daily  
Humble yourself before God every day.  
Remind your soul who God is.  
Honor God in all that you do.

When we believe in who we are in Christ and who we are to Christ, the need to feel pride in who we are is met by Jesus Christ!