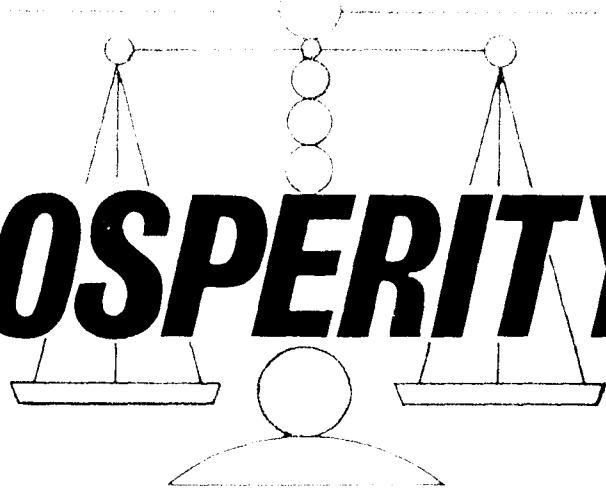


Balance ...on PROSPERITY

by Kenneth E. Hagin



In what areas can you exercise faith?

What can you believe for?

You can believe for everything the Word of God promises you or provides for you. You can't believe beyond that. That's where people get into trouble.

Why can't you?

Because, "faith cometh," Romans 10:17 says, "by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Faith is based on what God's Word says.

God has promised to supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. All of our needs! And really, if you'll read that in Philippians 4:19, you'll find that Paul has under discussion material things. He wrote of how these people had helped others who needed help.

"But my God shall supply all your need" That does not mean though, that you just sit down. You have to interpret Scripture with Scripture.

The pastor of a church where I was holding a meeting said to me, "Brother Hagin, I wish you would talk to So-and-so (and he mentioned a certain fellow). He has great confidence in you and your ministry and he's misunderstood some things you say. He got saved here and baptized with the Holy Spirit. Then he said that he was just going to believe God to supply all of his needs. But it's been nearly three years, now. And he's got several little children. The church has had to feed those children, and clothe them, and keep them in school. His wife is unskilled and she's had to do ironing and housework for some of the people in the church, while he's sitting at home believing God's going to supply all his needs."

The pastor told me how one of the men on the church board had a large business that hired many men. He said to this fellow, "I've got a job for you. I can put you to work."

"No. No. God's gonna meet my needs. He's promised to in His Word. I'm living by faith."

No! He's not living by faith. He's living in ignorance. The Bible also says, "... if any would not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). You have to interpret Scripture with Scripture.

You do have a right to ask God's blessing upon you financially. You have a right to look to Him to bless you like He promised to bless Israel. But He didn't promise to bless them if they didn't do anything. He said, "I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes. And he will not

devour your crops." Therefore, they had to plant something. He said that His blessing would be upon their storehouses. They had to put something into the storehouses.

You see, you don't just sit down and do nothing and say, "God's gonna meet my needs." If you do, you'll become a laughing stock to intelligent people—a reproach to Christ—and a disgrace to the message of faith.

We can believe God and exercise faith for anything that is promised us in the Book, the Bible. Let me say it again, Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Faith is based upon hearing what God's Word says.

When we get out into areas beyond the Word, we're into gray areas. As long as you're in the Word, you're in the light! You're on safe ground! You're on sure ground!



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