How to Make Your Soul Prosper

Today we want to talk about the spiritual fullness we have received through our powerful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It's important to know a little bit about our spiritual wealth in Christ because a person cannot rise above that which he or she does not know. In other words, you cannot operate by, in, with, or through something that you cannot discern or comprehend. In order for you to operate in a manner that allows you to pull from this reservoir of vast spiritual resources—those that have been bestowed upon you through our Great Redeemer—you have got to know what they are and what to do with them.

In Colossians 2:1(NIV), The Apostle Paul writes “I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Even though it is believed that the Apostle never visited the city of Colosse (also known as Colossae), you can very clearly see that he was deeply concerned for the welfare of the Church located in this Roman Province. He wanted them to have a complete and thorough understanding of Christ, because he knew that if they truly applied themselves to the learning of Jesus Christ, the church would prosper.

The Apostle was chiefly concerned about the spiritual welfare of the Colossian church. The King James Version of Colossians 2:2 says that he desired “That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love...” Paul was expressing the heart of the Father here. Through the love of God in Christ, the Apostle expressed his wishes that their hearts would be knit together in love. This is a beautiful use of words isn't it...not just united, but knitted together—intertwined in unison through the commonality of Christ. This was his preeminent desire. He doesn't talk about their physical health or whether they were financially prosperous or popular. He wants them to know that the prosperity of the soul is the best prosperity available. He wanted them to get it into their heads and hearts that spiritual maturity in Christ is where it's at.

John talks about the prosperity of the soul in 3John 1:2 (NKJV) as well. He writes "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." So we can deduce that good health, as well as prosperity in all other things, is linked to the prosperity of the soul.
Your soul is the very essence of who you are. It is the seat of your being, the deepest part of yourself. It is the thing that makes you uniquely you. The most important thing that you should know is that God intended your soul to prosper, and He has given us His spirit to make sure that this happens. It is not His will for our souls to be in bad shape, but to flourish as we grow in His love.

You and I are three-part beings, body, soul, and spirit. 1Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV) says "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." The soul is not the same thing as the indwelling Holy Spirit that abides within us. No. Your soul is your creative center. It operates based on your will.

Your soul is under your direction. God does not control your soul. If He did He would violate your free-will choice. It is completely up to you to choose to do the things that cause your soul to prosper or to die. We all know that death can be a very unpleasant thing. A dead body is deprived of vitality and power, void of life and strength, and unable to move around. Death is the ultimate discerner, because if something isn't alive and thriving, it's becoming inactive and slowly dying. So the nature of death gives us the ability to know when any aspect of our lives is losing its luster. For instance, we know that when our relationships are falling apart and our finances are drying up, that losing something important to us is not that far around the corner. We receive little signs like a spouse who is emotionally shut down, or a shut-off notice in the mail. These are signs of an impending loss.

Some of us become immobilized by these signs. We don't know what to do to pump life into our marriages or to increase our finances to the point where we stop the lights from being shut off. We furiously look externally for an answer when the answer is related to a soul prospering problem. The minute that you sense that something is awry in your life, you oughta say "Hey, wait a minute. If my soul was prospering this wouldn't be happening, so I gotta let the love of Christ come into an area of my soul that isn't thriving and repair the problem."

Well how do you do that? Our souls are complicated and sometimes we don't even know why we do the things we do, but Christ knows. He knows just what you need and just what to do to repair and restore, but you've got to put out the welcome mat. You've got to let him into the deepest part of your soul. Well how do you do this? Colossians 2:1(NIV) has the answer. It says you are to be encouraged in heart and united in love. When you are on the brink of disaster it's kinda difficult to be encouraged isn't it? You want to be hopeful, but your soul is heavy with worry, grief, and doubt, and you don't know how to get rid of these feelings.
We don't focus on getting rid of the feelings, we focus on gaining faith in Christ. The way to increase your faith in Christ is to increase your demonstration of his love. This is the way to prosper your soul. Always remember that God is paying attention to what you do more so than what you say. We can say we love Him all day long, but the proof is in the pudding. You've got to put some action behind the words.

Colossians 2:1(NIV) says that the more we seek out ways to love, the more we will understand the mystery of God. What is the mystery of God? Colossians 1:27(NKJV) tells us:

_To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which* is Christ in you, the hope of glory._

The great mystery of God is the tremendous reality of Christ living on the inside of you. Every remedy, every solution, every success, every blessing is linked to this one central reality, and it is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Look at 1Corinthians 2:6-8 (NIV)

6 _We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing._ 7 _No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began._ 8 _None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory._

Do you see this!? God kept the mystery hidden because it was destined for our glory—yours and mine—the glory of the church of Christ. Had the devil and his henchmen known that you and I would have Christ within us—that there would be millions upon millions of Jesus replicas in the earth—1Corinthians 2:8 says that satan would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Do you see how incredible the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit is. The reality of Christ living on the inside of you guarantees your victory.

It's his enormous love that paved the way. You cannot lose with the stuff He used. Put on the love of Christ, my brothers and sisters. Let it overtake your being. Let it come into your soul and fill up every crack and crevice as you open your heart to love greater, forgive greater, BE greater. Renew your commitment to love the Lord and His people every day. Demonstrate it every chance you get. Operate by, in, with, and through His love; it will prosper your soul and continually lift you higher in every aspect of your life.