

THE PROMISE OF PROVISION

LIVING AND GIVING
FROM GOD'S
ABUNDANT SUPPLY

DEREK PRINCE



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Introduction

Provision, abundance and *prosperity* are loaded terms in the world's vernacular today, and especially so in most Christian circles. If you were to ask any believer in Jesus Christ what comes to mind at the mention of these terms, the wide variety of responses you would receive might be amazing to you. In fact, those responses would probably include more than a few heated and reactionary remarks.

The truth is that the topics of prosperity and abundance have sparked a great deal of distorted and imbalanced teaching in the attention given to them. The spectrum ranges from the extremes of “the prosperity gospel” and “name-it-and-claim-it” proponents to the view held by many devout believers that poverty is a virtue and a sign of deep spirituality.

Which is correct? Is there validity somewhere between the boundaries of the two extremes? Is there a balanced approach to be found? Christians need solidity and balance in this area because, in many instances, tremendous confusion has been loosed upon the Christian community. Regrettably, from the world's viewpoint, great dishonor has also come to the Church because of our ambivalence and ignorance about the purpose of God's provision as well as our use (and frequent abuse) of financial resources.

Would you agree that we all need balanced teaching from the Word of God to help us find our moorings in this sensitive area?

Check yourself out on this matter. Have you struggled in your own experience to find equilibrium in regard to the use of God's resources? Have you asked questions like the ones that follow?

- Is wealth a worldly temptation or a useful tool?
- Is poverty a blessing or a curse?
- Have I been jaundiced by a distorted view of prosperity?
- Am I properly stewarding what God has given me?
- Is my attitude toward finances pleasing to Him?
- Have I installed material acquisition as a goal in my life?
- If so, what is my motivation for seeking abundant resources?
- What is the real purpose for the resources God has given me?

These are just a few of the questions that easily come to mind when we are addressing the matter of God's provision and abundance. Frankly, it is absolutely appropriate to ask ourselves the hard questions. Indeed, it is especially healthy to do so in the context of some down-to-earth, practical teaching from the Word of God.

Enter *The Promise of Provision* by Derek Prince. We believe you will find this book refreshing, enlightening and, we hope, life-altering. Let us say right up front, however, that this book is not intended to be the last word regarding abundance. As helpful as it will be for you, we don't regard it as "the ultimate or final word" on how you should regard and steward the resources God provides. Much helpful material in the way of manuals and instruction books has already been published on these topics. A great deal of that information is certainly worthy of your ongoing attention and consideration.

But if you are looking for one volume that will give you clear insight, a reasoned approach, renewed motivation to handle resources properly and a solid biblical foundation in this important area, you are holding the right book in your hands.

One signature trait of all of Derek Prince's teaching during his sixty years of ministry (he passed away in 2003) was his resolute focus on the Bible as the authoritative source of guiding principles for life and experience. We have drawn from the archives of Derek's teaching on the topic of finances and abundance to give you an encouraging and helpful resource. We believe it will allow you to clear away some of the fog you may have encountered in this area of your life.

For example, here are some unique categories Derek's teaching offers in the book you are about to read:

- Clear definitions of what abundance is and what it is not
- An enlightening perspective on "prosperity" in the ministry of Paul
- The reality of "the poverty curse" and how to be released from it
- The amazing exchange that Jesus accomplished on the cross
- The clear promises of the Bible regarding God's provision for us
- The conditions we must meet to walk faithfully in this arena
- A grasp of the real reasons God gives us resources
- How to put your finances to practical and fruitful use
- Our mandate to invest God's provision in people

You may not agree with everything Derek has stated in this book. In fact, what you read here may stimulate further thinking and spark some additional questions for you to consider. (That's actually a good result of reading any book.)

But here are a few results we can promise if you read this book through to the end. First, you will be enlightened by what you have learned. Second, you will have a much better grasp of what the Bible mandates for you in this important, yet sensitive area you have to handle. Third, you will be equipped with some clear guidelines and action steps for improving your use of the resources

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God gives you—not only in the present, but far into the future as well. Fourth, and possibly most importantly, you will be motivated by a renewed vision and commitment to the steps God expects you to take in the world around you with the abundance He provides.

In the final analysis, when we ultimately stand before the Lord to give an account of our stewardship here on earth, each of us wants to be in a position to hear the Lord say, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master” (Matthew 25:23, RSV).

Our prayer is that *The Promise of Provision* by Derek Prince will help to better prepare you for that eternal moment.

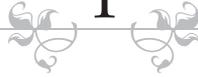
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PART 1

UNDERSTANDING ABUNDANCE



1



From Pardon to Provision

One distinctive aspect of God, as He is revealed in the Bible, is His *abundance*. God is not poor. He is not stingy. He is not limited. He is a God of *abundance*. His grace is abundant. His love is abundant. His provision is abundant. If we are to represent God accurately to the world around us—the way He really is—then we must learn to represent Him as a God of *abundance*.

Two portions of Scripture from the book of Jeremiah help us grasp what God wants us to understand regarding His abundance—and they also help us see why we are often far removed from receiving it. In the first Scripture, we learn that in order to comprehend God's abundance, we must first acknowledge the depth of our need. In Jeremiah 30, God shows Israel the abysmal depth of their own need. These words are addressed to the people of Israel, to their land and to the city of Jerusalem:

“For thus says the LORD: ‘Your affliction is incurable, your wound is severe. There is no one to plead your cause, that you may be bound up; you have no healing medicines. All your lovers have forgotten you; they do not seek you; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased.’”

Jeremiah 30:12–14

As always, God speaks very plainly to His people. He says, “Your condition is hopeless.” The King James Version of the Bible says, “Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous.” And God states very plainly the reason for this situation: “Because your sins have increased.”

In other words, the consequence of sin, ultimately, is misery, poverty and destitution. There is no abundance in a life of sin, and there is no source to which they can look for help because there is no one who can help them.

But God does not leave us there. He offers both pardon and provision. In Jeremiah 33, God promises the help that He alone can give, having first excluded all human sources of help. Speaking again to His people Israel, to their land and to the city of Jerusalem, God says:

“Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will rebuild those places as at the first. I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me.”

Jeremiah 33:6–8

That is God’s remedy for a situation that He has declared to be incurable. But, of course, when He says it is incurable, He is accepting Himself. God is able to cure that which man cannot cure.

As always, God’s diagnosis goes right to the root of the problem. He says, “Your sin has to be dealt with. When you are cleansed from your sin and your rebellion is pardoned, then I can help you.” And He says in this connection, “I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captives . . . to return, and will rebuild those places as at the first.”