

“Create the Wealth”

Sometime ago I raised the question to a group of Christian businessmen and women and the answers, or lack thereof, I received astounded me. The question I raised was, “Why are there not more wealthy Christians?” My question was not one to introduce prosperity preaching but of a more sincere and objective nature. I raised the question because it seems to me that wealth in the hands of good hearted, well-intended, biblically minded, God centered, spirit filled Christians would do amazing things, not only for furthering the Gospel, but helping solve some of the major financial challenges that we face as a body. In fact, wealth in the right hands would, undoubtedly, create access into the political, corporate, educational, legal, entertainment, and social arena where Christian influence would be made and, quite frankly, is in dire need. Let’s face the truth here...influence is created by power and power is seeded by wealth. So, it would seem to me that with more wealthy or wealth-minded Christians in positions of power and influence a dramatic shift would occur in the current landscape.

The wealth I refer to is wealth not accumulated through an inheritance or lottery winning. It is wealth that is created through the hands of the diligent in business, self-employment, or smart investing (Proverbs 10:4). I speak of riches created through the pursuit of worthwhile dreams and noble goals by individuals who refuse to settle for the status quo and step out in faith. Well, the answers I received from most of them convinced me that there are countless Christians who just are not aware of what God says about creating wealth. The responses that I have received in other similar settings and conversations have repeatedly proven to me why there are not more wealthy Christians. Let me be crystal clear here: I recognize that there are many forms of wealth. You can be wealthy in your walk with God, your health, your family, your talents, etc. but I am referring to the same wealth that God speaks of often in His Word - the wealth of finances and riches. Additionally, wealth creation is not about what you can do for you but what you can do for others with the wealth you have created. With further inspection, we read in Deuteronomy 8:18 that God Himself is the one who “gives every man the ability to create wealth.” In other words, we have ALL been given the ability to create wealth. According to this Scripture, God created a level playing field by depositing in everyone the programming necessary to become more, to do more, and certainly to have more but He says that we have to get after it and create it. There is no such thing as a free lunch. He is not going to just hand it over. It is up to us to exercise this truth by faith, and then execute our plan or strategy knowing that He has already given us everything we need to create wealth. This message is as pertinent and relevant to us today as it was for the Israelites in the days of Moses.

In the days of Moses, God told the Israelites that he was giving them the Promised Land (Canaan) and that all they had to do was go possess it and it was theirs. The only challenge was that the land was inhabited by Canaanites who would not allow such hostile invasion without a fight. Nevertheless, God told them to go because He had already given them the victory. In other words, the wealth had their name on it, they just had to step out in faith, even in seemingly high odds, and execute the plan. All they had to do was pick up a weapon and go. The exhortation was simple, “just go...I’ve got your back”. Today, God says the same thing to us, “just go...I’ve got your back!” All we need to do is pick our weapons of enterprise, ideas, and talents and use them as God will bring forth the victory. Yet today, what is it that holds most Christians back from standing on God’s promises and declarations? Why the shortage of Christian millionaires when God repeatedly has shown in Scriptures that He desires to bless His children? (Jeremiah 29:11) I submit to you that God is waiting for His children to remember that He created us to have dominion over the Earth (Gen 2:7-19, Psalm 8:4-8). He is patiently waiting for modern day desert-wandering Christians to wake up and realize that we have the ability to make change by creating the financial resources necessary to accomplish it. Consider if every church had a few wealthy Christians in it. How many of their financial burdens would be eliminated. Now please understand that Jesus declares that among us there will always be the poor (John 12:8) so obviously not everyone will become wealthy or financially independent but does that mean you don’t make an effort? Jesus did say that “it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 19:23) but he did not say it was impossible! If God gives you the ability and declares that He will bless the works of your hands and says that He will take from the wicked and give to the righteous then

are we not without excuse in boldly attempting? I am convinced that God is looking for those who will make a decision that they are going to stand on His promises and go for it! Ultimately, the plan is for the poor among us to be cared for by the those with blessed financial resources to do so. Yet another reason why the pursuit of wealth is noble.

Sadly, this is a message that is rarely spoken of in church circles today. There are hardly any messages that implore Christians to pursue wealth in right mindedness. The silence is deafening. What is commonly found is a distorted message about wealth and poverty and, as a result, many Christians have developed a warped view about wealth. As a result many cannot identify or see themselves as ever achieving such great status and have resorted to a settling mentality much like the many Israelites did when they felt that they could never defeat the giant-like Canaanites. These Israelites eventually decided to settle in a lesser land. Today, as it pertains to money and wealth creation, far too many Christians have settled for less hiding under the misunderstood idea of being “content in all things” (Phil 4:12). While this statement is true, there is a difference between being content and settling. You can be content in your situation while pursuing something greater knowing that if the better does not arrive then you’ll be content with where you are. After all, life will give you what you are willing to fight for and it will also give you what you are willing to accept. Richard M. DeVos once said that “The only thing that stands between a person and what he wants from life is often the will to try it and the faith to believe that it is possible”.

It is our responsibility and, quite honestly, our duty to at least make an effort to become more because there is so much riding on it. There is so much at stake. It is not about becoming a wealthy Christian for the sake of material possessions, lifestyle, comfort and so on but for what the wealth can do for the Kingdom of God. Even though all security is found only in God, wealth brings the influence and power to make the changes that are so desperately needed. We have been given the ability, His promises, and His backing. I know that He is counting on us to go create the wealth!

“Only he who can see the invisible can do the impossible.” Richard Roberts

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