THE POWER TO GAIN WEALTH 2

HOW YOU GAIN WEALTH

Proverbs 22:29 ESV

²⁹ Do you see a man skillful in his work?

He will stand before kings;

he will not stand before obscure men.

Another sacred cow I want to knock down for Christians is the idea of how wealth comes to a person. Many think they can just sit back and God will bring it in supernaturally. Others think they will get checks in the mail or people bringing them thousands of dollars. But that's not how it works. The main vehicle for wealth is the marketplace and that's usually through owning a business. Have I been given checks in the mail? Yep. Have I come home to find hundreds of dollars of cash taped to my front door? Yep. And it was a miracle that it wasn't stolen. Lol.

But those are rarities. And to think wealth comes that way is a poverty mindset and, quite frankly, a sign of laziness. It also reduces wealth to a monetary pursuit versus the influence wealth affords you to infiltrate the seven mountains and take cities. **The journey of launching, building, and growing a business is a transformational process in itself that can make you a better person.** It opens up opportunities to go before the influencers in your city and beyond that wouldn't otherwise be open.

What about those of you that don't feel led to have a business? Then ask God to show you 1) how to use your employment to gain influence and 2) intentionally get better and better at what you do so you're a perfect candidate for advancement in your field.

Proverbs 22:29 ESV

²⁹ Do you see a man skillful in his work?

He will stand before kings;

he will not stand before obscure men.

The word skillful "refers to extraordinary expertise in some area." This is a person who works on their skill even in off hours through online courses, mentoring, books, etc. It's someone that is determined to learn what isn't even their job so that when the opportunity arises, they are ready.

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TELL THE MAIL PERSON STORY AT THE PHARMA COMPANY.

Either way, you need to be asking God to show you how to stand (putting oneself in a place of honor) before kings so that you can influence them for the kingdom of God. It's the Daniel spirit of excellence where he jutted above all others and this led to him becoming an advisor to kings. The opposite is "obscure" and means "certain persons that are nobodies on the social scale or in political influence." This might seem mean and it doesn't in any way imply God doesn't love nor care for the obscure, but when it comes to taking cities, states, and nations for God, it won't be through the obscure. It's through the influencers at the top of the mountains.

THE PRIMARY WEALTH BUILDING VEHICLE

Many of Jesus' parables are entrepreneurial, especially those about money or wealth, and many of Jesus' disciples were entrepreneurs—Peter, James, John, Matthew. In fact, some of them were business partners. If you think about it, the kingdom of God is very entrepreneurial and primarily spreads by word-of-mouth marketing.

God is entrepreneurial. One of the best parables to show this is in <u>Luke 13:6-9</u> (not to mention the parable of the talents and minas). Let's read this one real quick.

Luke 13:6-9 ESV

⁶ And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸ And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Of course, we know this is speaking of spiritual truths, but the perspective of the vineyard owner (businessman) is very typical of most business owners—results. Good business owners expect results and hate waste, which is why I think it's crucial for elders to consist of some business owners. They are great at seeing things in ways that many who are insulated in "church" world don't. Let me give you an example.

Years ago, the pastor's wife at a church I used to attend, created a big bulletin at the entrance of the kid's area downstairs. It said, "The hands touching your children." It then had pictures of different people helping in kid's church, which was great. But for those of us that recognize marketing and how easy it is to negatively impact your target market with the wrong words, we immediately saw the problem. Many who come to church are broken seeking help. And if you consider that one out of three girls and I believe one out of four boys are molested, the phrase, "The hands touching your children," could be a problem. Two of the workers approached the pastor's wife to voice their concerns and were met with rebuke for thinking that way.

Business owners just see things differently because we are out there in "Babylon" and see how Babylon thinks and works while at the same time keeping our souls separate from Babylon's seduction.

This parable also reveals that a business owner is fine with cutting down something or removing something or someone that's not producing results, which is very much needed in the ekklesia. Un-sanctified compassion and mercy are a problem. Both are having compassion and mercy when God is not. This is from a lack of understanding His judgments and their role.

The main idea is that owning a business is one of the best ways to build wealth, which is, again, resources, influence, and power. All of these things are your vehicle to transform society. Wealth is rooted in wisdom, and wisdom is what is needed to take a city.

Does God only use business owners in roles of influence? Absolutely not. And I'll share some ideas for those who are called to be a valued employee. But, first, I want to give you a brief synopsis of the process of launching a business with Holy Spirit.

THE IDEA

Most of you who are listening will know you're supposed to start a business. You've probably known it for a long time. Maybe you've even had words that you are entrepreneurial or anointed for business. Others of you might not know for sure but you've always wanted a business. And some of you already have businesses. What I'm about to share with you will help all of you. If you already own a business, it will help you with development of new products or services. For the rest of you, it will show you how to start.

The first step is the idea. My first business idea came while I was sitting on my couch not thinking about a business nor spiritual matters at all! In fact, I was frustrated with learning my new computer and thought, "I wish I had someone to show me how to do this one thing!" Suddenly, I thought, "Why don't I do that for a business? I'll show people how to use their computers!" I've always been really good with computers, but I was stuck on this one thing. I eventually figured out how to do what I needed, but the thought of helping others stuck with me.

When I got the idea, I didn't share it with anyone. I've always been naturally skeptical and that includes of people. But I later learned that keeping your ideas close to the vest serve dual roles—it doesn't alert the enemy prematurely so he

can try to stop you and it keeps your idea safe from others that might steal it. Since that time, I have gained several trusted friends and advisors I trust to discuss my ideas with. Let me give you some scripture.

Matthew 13:44–46 NKJV

⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Notice that each man didn't immediately run tell everyone he knew about the pearl or treasure. It's common sense. If he had, everyone and their dogs would be out there digging for the treasure! It seems straightforward but I've seen many talk too much and encounter obstacles prematurely. You're going to encounter obstacles and resistance but don't create obstacles and resistance you don't need to overcome both from people and the demonic.

I firmly believe that Holy Spirit reveals ideas to us. Unfortunately, we either don't recognize when He does and dismiss them. Or we think that's the idea is silly or won't work out of fear. Not all ideas are from Him. I'm an idea factory; therefore, I keep all of my ideas in my planner and in my Notes app on my phone to regularly revisit and see which ones stand out to me. It's almost like some have an "attraction" on them and others are now dull kind of like fireworks. Which ones still spark and which ones are duds? I eliminate the duds and keep the sparks.

DEVELOP THE IDEA

Just because you get an idea from Holy Ghost doesn't mean it's ready to go to market. It's like a prophetic word. The initial word is the hook. It's your responsibility to then process it or flesh it out in a meaningful way to implement and execute in your life. Your idea is a hook meant to get you in research and development stage.

When I thought of my computer idea, I researched that field and discovered there was a HUGE need for what I wanted to do. Most computer techs worked on the hardware aspects not teaching people how to use them. On top of that, many hardware geeks hated working on the software side, which was my forte. At this point, I knew I'd heard from Holy Spirit and had a viable service.

I then went to work figuring out how I wanted to do it. I learned that most of my market would consist of 50-year-olds and up. I also knew that learning how to do something on a computer just once wasn't enough. I decided to first decide on a series of main teaching topics common to most users—Internet, email,

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using Word, etc. I then typed up step-by-step instructions on how to do each thing to give my clients. I took that principle to all my appointments and would either write the steps down myself or encourage my client to do so as we went. This saved me a lot of time from having to go back and show my clients how to do something several times, and it gave them something to refer back to.

Over time, I added services like installing printers and scanners, minor hardware repairs, software factory restoration, virus removal, and more. Some of my most profitable services came from interacting with my clients and seeing needs that I could fill. That always happens. Observe how your client uses your products or services and be on the lookout for valuable products or services you can add.

Luke 14:28-32 NKJV

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it—²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.

This passage reveals the power of planning. For some reason, charismatics, especially, just want to fly by the seat of their pants "winging it" and expecting to build something successful and long-lasting or they passively wait for God to do it. If it's His will, it will happen. It doesn't work that way. A dream comes to pass with much activity (Eccl 5:3) and hard work. Some translations use the word "business" instead of activity. In the Hebrew, it means "a task" and "refers to a job to be performed." You must be a person of action! Just learn to recognize the season you're in—dream stage, research and development stage, launch stage, growth stage, etc. And don't get stuck in any one stage. All have their season and innovation must be introduced periodically to ensure you don't enter the death stage.