

David Ebaugh Bible School

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Monarch

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Rules on Finding Favor, Health, and Prosperity in the Lord

Wait on the Lord. Psalms 27:14

Be still. Psalms 46:10

Fast. Esther 4:16

Tithe 10%. Numbers 18:26

Sit. Micah 4:4

Dance. Psalms 150:4

Clap your hands. Psalms 47:1

Corporate prayer. (Neat word. Reference?)

Be humble. Matthew 18:4

Put on the armour. Ephesians 6:11

Speak godly words. Matthew 12:34

Get 2 to agree. Matthew 18:19

Ask and it shall be given you. Luke 11:9

Shout to the Lord. Psalms 47:1

Feast. Exodus 10:9

Give away everything. Matthew 19:21

Stand. Psalms 4:4

Lie down. Proverbs 3:24

Lift up my hands. Psalms 64:4

Pray in the closet. Matthew 6:6

Come boldly. Hebrews 14:16

Don't wrestle flesh & blood. Eph. 6:12

Be quiet. I Thessalonians 4:11

Get 3 to agree. Matthew 18:20

Whew! Finally got it! Here's a pretty good list of things we're supposed to do to find favor, health, and prosperity in the Lord. The prosperity teaching is so popular nowadays. 📖 I've heard sermons using each one of these concepts as the "formula" to get God's blessings and prosperity in my life. So I've been trying to find out which one of the above "formulas" will finally get the blessings rolling my way. After all, I sure can't bless anyone else if I'm living paycheck to paycheck, right?

So I've waited. I've asked. I've been still, and shouted. Done the fasting and the feasting. Tithed and given lots and lots of stuff away. (Ok, so I didn't give EVERYTHING away, what I did give away was done in the "right" spirit, so that counts doesn't it?) I'm sitting. I'm standing. I'm dancing. I'm laying down. I'm clapping. I'm lifting my hands. (Getting' dizzy, but just trying to follow the "Good Book.") 📖 Prayed in a group. Prayed in the closet. (Hot and dark, but at least nobody bothered me in there). I'm from Indiana, so I was born humble. I told God EXACTLY what I need! Got my helmet, sword, shield on, my feet are shod with the gospel of peace, and I ain't wrestlin' with NOBODY. Said nice things, 🗣️ and shut my mouth when I didn't have anything nice to say. Went straight to getting three together. If two's good, three's got to be better. 🙏 🙏 🙏

Good Lord! Something's wrong here! I can't stand and sit, sing and be silent, fight and not fight, all at the same time! Maybe I just need to figure out which of the above formulas work for the different events in my life. But what if I feast 🍷 when I should have fasted, sat when I should have danced, prayed in the closet when I should have prayed in a group? Which rule should I do when? Does the Holy Ghost tell me when I should follow each law? 🙏

I've been asking God these very questions for the past couple of years. "What's the matter with me?" I'd ask. "Everybody seems to love these laws that are being preached everywhere! Am I the only one who sees that following these rules and laws isn't working?" What about the fact that Jesus said "Ye have the poor with you always?" (Matthew 14:7). Does "always" really mean "always?" Or is that a translation error? Does that mean the poor are always going to be poor? Or can they be poor for a while, and when they figure out which rules to follow, get rich?

How does "With food and clothes I shall be content" fit the prosperity teaching? (I Timothy 6:8) Or "Be content with what you have?" (Hebrews 13:5).

Meanwhile, Art and I decided to research the difference between wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. We realized that lots of folks have already done this particular study, including Dad, and we could have found a book 📖 that would have spelled it out for us. But we wanted to do this study as a couple just to see what we'd come up with. Since Proverbs 4:7 says "Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom," we decided to start there. That led us to Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom."

Proverbs 8:13 says "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil." 🐞 Well that sounded pretty easy. We already hate evil . . . didn't need to be told to do that. Art decided to look up the Strong's definition of evil. Boy were we surprised! Here's a partial list of what Strong's says the Lord hates: "adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, distress, grief, harm, heavy, hurtful, ill favoured, mischief, misery, naughty, noisome, sad, sore, sorrow, trouble, vex, wicked, worse, wretchedness, wrong." We figured these things were just part of life. You know, if you were alive, you experienced these things, if you were dead, you didn't. Surprise! Murder, fornication, adultery, etc. wasn't there. We thought that if we had a heavy heart, it didn't please God, but we had no idea that He hated a heavy heart. We knew He permitted grief, but didn't know He hated grief. ☹️

While we were mulling these things over, and beginning to try to apply these things to our lives, Dad got sick. That put our study on hold, and we began to experience each and every one of these emotions intimately. We began to see why God hates them. These emotions absolutely, positively separate us from God. It's pretty tough to "love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37) when you can't get the pharmacy, or the medical supply company, or Medicare, or the many different Doctors, to work together to get the equipment you need, while simultaneously the case worker is in your living room telling you things you don't want to hear, and your dad, who always wants to be in the center of activity, is laying in a hospital bed in the dining room, sound asleep, oblivious to everything going on around him.

And never mind the lofty goal of trying to love God with all my heart, soul, and mind in the middle of all this "vexed, sorrow and trouble," I wasn't feeling too peachy keen about the second commandment at that time either. You know the one, "Love thy neighbour as thyself." (Matthew 22:39). Didn't have warm and fuzzy feelings for the doctor who displayed complete disregard for Dad's feelings when she delivered the diagnosis of cancer to him for the first time. Nope. Loving her wasn't my initial response.

But Matthew 22:40 says "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." You know what? Forget about it. I'm just not capable of all that love during all that "calamity." See how these emotions separate us from God?

A couple of seasons later, memory after memory still pops in my head, and I know these thoughts are full of “distress” and “misery,” so they are evil, and God hates evil. So I try to “put on the mind of Christ” (Romans 12:2) by doing everything on the list. I work at it folks, all the time, every day. I know you do too! We sure don’t want stuff in our minds that we now know God hates. I don’t want God to be mad at me, and I don’t think I’ll be able to enjoy prosperity if I can’t even conquer these two commandments.

I talked to my spiritual mentors about these things. They sent me some teaching tapes. 🎧 One of them mentioned the verse, Romans 5:9. “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” That verse just popped out at me, so I looked it up in other versions of the Bible. Now here’s where things really start to get interesting. The NIV, Amplified, and NASB Bibles all use the phrase, “saved from the wrath of God,” instead of just “saved from wrath.” Bells and whistles started going off in my head! 🎉

Here was part of the answer to my inability to fix my mind! God knew I couldn’t fix my thoughts no matter how hard I tried. He sent Jesus to protect me from God’s justice and His wrath! Through Jesus’ blood, I am saved from God’s wrath! It’s so simple, but so profound. The blood of Jesus protects us from evil, which God hates. And the blood of Jesus gets me out of the justice system of God, the court of Yahweh! ✝️

We put ourselves under the law of God when we try to follow a formula to motivate God. We absolutely are incapable of fulfilling all of the laws of God. “Our righteousness are as filthy rags,” (Isaiah 64:6). We can’t sing and be still, stand and sit, pray in a group, pray alone, simultaneously, and all at the correct time. “Much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:17). “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh (evil thoughts), and for sin (evil, which God hates), condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:3 & 4).

Do you think maybe these new teachings on “Biblical formulas” frustrate the grace of God? “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, (dancing, singing, sitting, standing, etc.) then Christ is dead in vain.” (Galatians 2:21). “Not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith,” (Philippians 3:9). “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.” (Titus 3:5). Mercy implies judgment. Judgment implies a law was broken. We are not capable of causing our own prosperity, or of removing evil (which God hates) from our lives. That’s why the “Great Judge,” Yahweh sent His Son, Jesus! 😊

Oh what relief this revelation has brought to me! Jesus is the only “formula” I need to be in His favor! I was standing at the kitchen sink thinking about some Old Testament scriptures, and meditating on the various prosperity messages I’ve heard in the past year. Specifically, I was wondering how the Old Testament promises could be relevant in light of the mercy Jesus gave us. I wandered back to the thoughts of putting on the armour, yet wrestling not, tithing or giving everything away, etc. In the middle of these thoughts, Jesus spoke to me. He said, “Whenever you see the word ‘law’ in the Old Testament, substitute My name. I came to fulfill the law! I AM the Law!” (Matthew 5:17, Galatians 3:13).

Look what happens when we replace “law” with “Jesus” in a few of the Psalms:

But his delight is in *Jesus*, and in *Jesus* doth he meditate day and night. Psalms 1:2

Jesus is perfect, converting the soul. Psalms 19:7

Jesus is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. Psalms 37:31

I delight to do thy will, Oh my God: yea, *Jesus* is within my heart. Psalms 40:8

Blessed are the undefiled in the way who walk in *Jesus*. Psalms 119:1


Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of *Jesus*. Psalms 119:18

Give me understanding, and I shall keep *Jesus*; yea, I shall observe *Jesus* with my whole heart. Psalms 119:34


So shall I keep *Jesus* for ever and ever. Psalms 119:44

I hate vain thoughts: but *Jesus* do I love. Psalms 119:113

So here we are, we’ve come full circle. Everything begins and ends with Jesus. We are not capable of fulfilling all the rules, laws, or “formulas” for finding favor, health, and prosperity in the Lord. Only Jesus can do that. “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. (James 2:10 17).

Praise God that “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength **Y** is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9). “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Colossians 1:28). “For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.” (Hebrews 7:19). Thank you, Jesus, that there is no spiritual ladder of success. Thank you that we don’t have to earn brownie points to get a better life. Thank you for not handing out As and Fs, or grading us on how spiritual we are in the middle of trying times. Thank you, Jesus, that I can learn to be content with my circumstances because I know that I am in the palm of your hand,  and therefore, in your perfect will.

The morale of this story is that Jesus knew how our minds worked even before we were born. He knew we could not keep the law, or follow ALL the rules and formulas, so He became the law through His death and resurrection. He is the judge and the jury on our behalf, and He pardons us even before we take our first breath. Jesus doesn’t keep a score board and notch off every time we entertain the same old bad thoughts. He doesn’t even remember the bad thoughts we had before. We need to relax and not try so hard to gain God’s favor. We already have it. He cannot love us more than He already does. Becoming Biblically smart or spiritually mature does not increase Jesus’ love and concern for us. We cannot earn, nor lose Jesus’ favor. He didn’t die to make us smarter or more spiritual. He died and rose again to set us free.

Thank you Jesus for giving me a better hope, for dying for me so I could get closer to you, for fulfilling all the rules and laws and formulas because I can’t do it by myself. It’s you, Jesus, that I want most of all in my life. It’s you, Jesus, that I love. 

Art & Marcellene (Ebaugh) Currens

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Meetings are at 1:00 and 7:00

Please join us.