

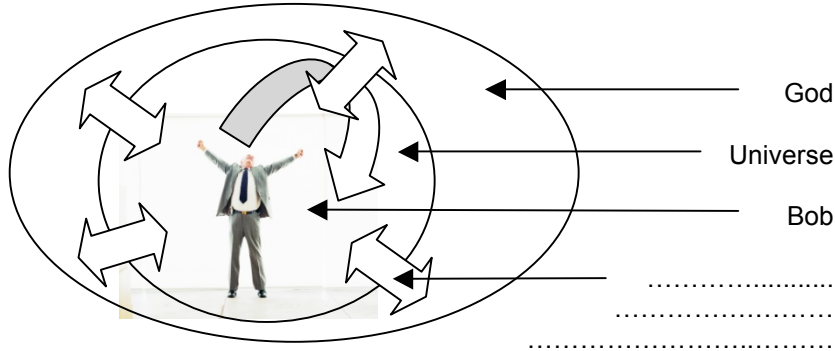


Week 3: Real Prosperity

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

~ The Apostle Paul (Philippians 4)

INTRODUCTION – Choose Your Worldview



- IF God exists, and
- IF God is love, as the Bible teaches and Jesus demonstrates,
- THEN God reserves the right to interfere in our lives for our own wellbeing, making the “law of attraction” at best a very general principle.

Jesus’ View Of Money, Possessions, & Prosperity

- Was Jesus rich?
Matthew 8:20; 17:27
- Did Jesus encourage wealth as a worthy goal for his followers?
Mark 10:21-27
- Did Jesus say financial generosity would lead to financial blessing?
Luke 6:37-38; Hebrews 13:5

LESSONS FROM JESUS ON WEALTH AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH...

Matthew 6:19-34

- 1) We must not value wealth and possessions enough to seek them.
- 2) What we do with our wealth will enhance or detract from our spiritual growth. Where we invest our wealth will pull our heart in that direction.
- 3) To be human is live in submission to greater authority and creative forces. We all “serve” a higher force (“Ya gotta serve somebody.” ~ Bob Dylan). God or prosperity, his will or our will, God’s way or ours, his “kingdom” or our kingdom. The choice is either/or, not both/and.
- 4) Christ-followers reject the cultural pursuit of security, satisfaction, and superiority through things. Worry over things is stupid in a divine-saturated universe.
- 5) Our job is to seek God and his way in order to find satisfaction.

CONCLUSION – The Secret To Receiving Real Wealth

Matthew 13:44-46

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.
2. How did you describe the process identified by the fourth arrow in the diagram?
3. Why might God interfere with something like the law of attraction more than, say, the law of gravity?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

4. Read the Apostle Paul’s words to a young church leader in **1 Timothy 6:6-21**. Read the passage multiple times in different translations if possible. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) When it comes to material security, what does **verse 8** say should be enough for a Christian? Are you content with this? c) Read **verse 9**. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you want to be financially successful? What are the dangers of this? d) Some people misquote **verse 10** to read “the love of money is the root of all evil.” What is the real truth of this verse? How much do you love money? e) What is Paul’s recommendation to those who are rich (which on a global scale includes most of us)? What would practicing this look like in your life? f) What should we i) flee, ii) pursue, iii) fight, iv) take hold of v) guard, and vi) avoid? What would this look like in your life? g) How does **verses 20-21** apply to this particular series on The Secret?

SO WHAT?...

5. Take a few minutes to quietly meditate on **Hebrews 13:5**. Invite God to help you envision how your life might look if you lived this principle out in full measure. What changes do you see in how you live, how you feel, how you relate to God and others? After meditating, talk about your vision and what steps you intend to put into action this week. Pray for each other, that God will remind you, encourage you, and convict you. Talk about ways you can hold each other accountable

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, June 10 / 17, 2007