

## **Abundant Life**

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I know a person who owed a debt of ninety lakh rupees. Even after disposing of all the family possessions he was not able to clear his debts. He sold off everything and then onward he would spend one hour every day praying in the church.

After some time he got a few good business offers. Within six months he paid off a debt of fifty lakhs. He was able to come back to a decent position.

“My son, do not be anxious because of poverty. You must be faithful to God and avoid falling into sin. If you do what is righteous in God’s sight, you will be blessed with much abundance” (Tobit 4:21)

The life of Job also teaches the same lesson. God had blessed him with many riches. But when His hand was withdrawn the devil came and destroyed everything. Since his faith and trust in God remained unshaken, God gave him back tenfold of everything he had in the beginning. The devil will not have access to the wealth or the person of the one who sincerely prays to God. God will build a wall to protect him and his property.

An alcoholic will meet with disaster. He will drink until the last penny. His own health and his family will be ruined and at the same time he will be drowned in debt. He will be overwhelmed with guilty feelings and self-incrimination and despair, culminating in tragic disaster. Similar is the case with pleasure-seekers, idlers, deceivers, as well as those who get deceived. They all end up in debt and are not able to prosper.

There are people who are not grateful to God for what He gives but instead squander away God’s gifts. To some, God gives in abundance, but sometimes He stops giving. When He gives plentifully we must save and secure for the future days. In the Old Testament, Joseph interpreting Pharaoh’s dream, stated that the seven fat cows indicated seven years of plenty and the seven lean cows meant seven years of famine.

Even in our own lives God keeps on pointing out days of famine and scarcity. We must look for these revelations, we must ask wise people. Thus when we seek to know God’s will, He will forewarn us about future wants.

But for this God has put some pre-conditions: we must obey Him. Because of disobedience Adam and Eve lost Paradise. (Gen. 3:14). When they went after forbidden pleasure they were cast out from prosperity into the world of pain and sweat and dust.

I know a family consisting of father, mother and six children who lived in poverty and struggle. But every day they would all kneel together and holding each other’s hand would recite the rosary. As a result, food and clothes came when they needed them. They were protected from ailments. All the children studied and reached good positions. A family that prays together will not come to face starvation or debts.

If we live in accordance with the teachings of the Bible we shall be prosperous. “He will send rain in season from his rich storehouse in the sky and bless all your work, so that you will lend to many nations, but you will not have to borrow from any. The Lord your God will make you the leader among the nations and not a follower; you will always prosper and never fail if you obey faithfully all his commands that I am giving you today.” (Deut. 28:12-13) Let us confidently kneel in His presence. He will certainly guard and protect us and make us prosper.