

PROSPERITY
IS IT POSSIBLE?

By

REV. DANIEL RAY LANDIS

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF METAPHYSICAL SCIENCE, M.Msc.

On behalf of
the Department of Graduate Studies of
the University of Metaphysics

This thesis has been accepted by

Thesis Supervisor

IMM PRESIDENT

June 28, 2017

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to Jacqueline Cochrane my beloved Life Partner, without whom this thesis would not have been possible.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Review of Literature.....	5
Discussion.....	15
Conclusion.....	19
Works Cited.....	23

Introduction

I grew up in a Mennonite family in Lancaster, PA. My father was the Bishop of the largest Mennonite conference. Most of my relatives were Mennonite dairy farmers. Mennonites at that time worked hard to be separate from society. I had begun to read about people that believed you could affect your destiny and increase your prosperity by the use of the mind. This Thesis will investigate these teachings that have been available for centuries that helped people create prosperity out of thin air. It will demonstrate what has worked coming from the Bible and was integrated into the teachings of New Thought authors that had proven to be effective for creating prosperity.

These teachings were radical to me as I came from a religion that required women to have their hair covered at all times and the men and women to sit on opposite sides of the church. The church was the central focus of the Mennonite culture and I was taught that blessings or curses happened because of an arbitrary God that decided whether I was good or bad. The idea of conscious prosperity was intriguing and exciting to my young inquisitive mind.

Around the age of thirteen, I began to question everything that was taught in the church. Most of it didn't make sense to me. Their belief in an anthropomorphic God just didn't seem right to me. I would ask, "How can a good God want to punish His greatest creation?" There were never acceptable answers for me. The church taught that we all came from Adam and Eve. When I found out they had only three sons, I asked, "How did that work?" My questioning and other reading led me to becoming more and more disillusioned and I began to reject all teachings of God and Jesus Christ.

As a Mennonite at that time, it was sin to own a TV as it was viewed as a "tool of the Devil." Growing up without a TV, I always felt weird when the other kids were talking about

the last night's episode of some show. The hidden benefit of not having a TV was I became an avid reader and would check out many books from the Lancaster library that came to my small town of Landisville every two weeks in the Lancaster County Book Mobile.

I was mesmerized when I began to read Napoleon Hill's *Think and Grow Rich*. So much so, that I read it three times during the summer I was fifteen. I took to heart his precept that if I became single-minded focused on a Definiteness of Purpose, I could truly create my future. This was complete heresy from my Mennonite upbringing belief that only God had the power to control my future. I was also taught that only good would come to me if I followed all the rules and behaved myself. I was told that if and only if I was good, would I be blessed by God in the future.

I sat down and wrote my goal – “To become a vice-president of a large corporation by the time I was 40.” I would write this goal every day and would visualize a dark oak door with a golden plaque that said, “Dan Landis, Vice-President.” At 39 ½ years old, I was promoted to Vice President, General Manager for Simon & Schuster in New York. That success and many others like it has been the reason I have utilized the Law of Attraction many times in my life.

Seven years ago, I became a Certified Life Coach, and my practice developed into working with severely abused women. I was successful working with many of them as we learned to reverse their attraction of continuing negative experiences. We practiced implementing the processes of prosperity to bring more good into their lives. I remember reading many years ago that supposedly Carl Jung said late in his life that in his career, he never saw anyone over 35 years old make a permanent positive change in their life without having some form of spiritual experience.

Four years ago, I began ministerial training with Unity Urban Ministerial School in Detroit, MI. I have always been attracted to Unity because of their beliefs around prosperity and abundance. I graduated and am now a Licensed Unity Minister and have been serving the last 3 years as Spiritual Leader of *Unity in the Pioneer Valley* in Greenfield, MA. I continue to utilize the Laws of Prosperity in my Sunday Talks. These processes continue to be an integral part of my Spiritual Coaching sessions.

I am intrigued why I have seen the Law of Attraction work many times in my life. But, then it seems to disappear and not be effective. I have also witnessed it appear not to work some times in my clients' or congregants' lives. To me a Law is absolute and will work every time. So, is it that the Law doesn't work correctly or is it mine or others human error?

In 1996 Rhonda Byrne released a DVD called *The Secret*. She followed the movie with a book also titled *The Secret*. Rhonda was featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* and according to *Wikipedia*, "the DVD and book exceeded \$300 million in world-wide sales and was translated into 46 languages." The combination was a smashing financial success for Rhonda Byrne and her publisher. The premise of *The Secret* was the existence of a natural law, like gravity, that works if one thinks the right thoughts.

While *The Secret* was a smashing financial success for Rhonda Byrne, she has come under much criticism from fundamental Christians to Quantum Physicists. According to *Wikipedia*, "the creative spark for Byrne was Wallace Wattles' 1910 book *The Science of Getting Rich*. Byrne had received Wattles' book in 2004 from her daughter while she was experiencing a low point in her life." This led her to studying other "New Thought" authors who enhanced her understanding, and eventually she developed her own process.

The Secret identified the Law of Attraction as the key to personal prosperity. Law of Attraction cites the basis of its authority from, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7). Psychologist later called the Law of Attraction by the name of Law of Cause and Effect in which personal thoughts are the cause and prosperity or lack being the result. In eastern religion, this process is referred to as Karma.

On the internet, there are many people adamant that the Law of Attraction doesn't work and can even be dangerous to some people's mental health. Fundamental Christian ministers seem to be very hostile and quick to call out all kinds of negative ideas saying that it is in complete opposition to their belief of what the Bible teaches. There are many attacks from Quantum Scientists and Psychologists, who say that it doesn't meet scientific or measurable criteria. Therefore it cannot be named the Law of Attraction.

I was left wondering why *The Secret* and other conversations about prosperity and the Law of Attraction elicit such venom from religious and scientific people. It's as if they must yell so loud in order to subdue their concerns and feelings that they have missed something important in their lives. I set my research to use the Bible and a wide selection of authors to answer this burning question I had, “If the Law of Attraction is a law, should it not be absolute and work every time, just like gravity?” This question was the energy behind my research for this thesis. I wanted to know what processes work, why they may not work, and is there a process to use that always produces prosperity.

Review of Literature

The authors that have written on spirituality and prosperity are many. I have read and researched the most popular as well as some not so well known. I have noticed many of the writers seem to repeat what an earlier writer had said about prosperity. I decided the best way to review the literature was by starting with the earliest work. I focused first on those writing from 1880's to 1940.

The earliest book was by Emma Curtis Hopkins' *Judgment Series in Spiritual Science*. This book was written in 1889. Emma Curtis Hopkins was considered the "Teacher of the Teachers". She taught Charles and Myrtle Fillmore the co-founders of the Unity movement, Belinda Cramer the founder of Divine Science, Dr. Emily Cady who wrote *The Lessons of Truth*, Florence Scovel Shinn who wrote *The Game of Life and How to Play it* and Ernest Holmes whose largest volume was *Science of the Mind*. Emma's central theme was that everything was God and God's name is Good. Emma said, "The Voice, when listened to, shows man that prosperity is not dependent upon money or no money, favor of rich men or poor men. Prosperity is of the Light – the informing Light" (94).

Emma continued to develop her belief that all prosperity comes from this Higher Source which she named God or Divine Ego. She said, "Prosperity that comes from sighting and touching the Divine Ego is that understanding which makes you able to touch the right springs and get satisfaction out of everything in every direction" (64). I really like her beliefs that tapping into the Divine is tapping into the unlimited.

In 1910 Wallace Wattles published his *The Science of Getting Rich*. Wattles was clearly writing to the business community and appears to have worked hard not to look and sound like a religious book. He said, "Everything you see on earth is made from one original substance, out

of which all things proceed” (15). His quote sounds very similar to Emma Curtis Hopkins. Wallace developed a much more detailed process while staying completely focused on developing a positive mindset that would begin to bring into one’s life whatever they desired. Wattles also continued to expand upon the belief that Emma Curtis Hopkins spoke of; that spirituality is a Science of Spirit and Wattles said there is a specific science to getting rich. This science had specific principles that one must follow to ensure getting what was desired. Wattles believed completely that it all starts with a thought and that consistent thought would manifest the desire.

Ernest Holmes in 1919 wrote a small but powerful book called *Creative Mind*. He continued to expand the importance of thoughts into the idea of consciousness and the importance of releasing any negativity. He said, “See, hear, talk about, and read only what you wish, and never again let a negative thought come into your mind” (23). Holmes’ definition of consciousness is the sum total of every thought, feeling, spoken word, belief and attitude. He developed an entire process to expand one’s consciousness.

Ernest Holmes also developed a prayer process which he called treatment. Treatments were used to enhance the positivity of one’s consciousness. He felt these treatments could be applied to oneself as well as others to help specifically with enhancing prosperity. He said, “Here are a few simple rules for prosperity that are as sure to work as that water is sure to be wet. First remember that nothing happens by chance. All is law and all is order. You create your own laws every time you think” (54).

Ernest Holmes’ further developed the process by adding the importance of feeling by teaching that a person would create the feeling that the thought has already happened. He also believed that it was important to develop our imagination and begin to see that the personal

desire as already occurring. Finally he added to his process the spoken word. He said, “The spoken word shall bring it to pass. We speak the word, it is brought to pass of the Power that we speak it into” (65). He continued with the idea that as we work with our consciousness we can enlarge the power and potency. He said, “As consciousness grows it will manifest in enlarged opportunities and a greater field of action” (66).

In 1928 Napoleon Hill create a course beyond his *Think and Grow Rich*. Originally it was an eight volume course that was made available to the public. All volumes are now published in *The Law of Success*. This huge book of six hundred pages is the summation of the best strategies and processes that were implemented during the roaring twenties in America. Hill interviewed many of the top businessmen of that period and further advanced the importance of correct thinking to be prosperous. He believed, “You can do it if you believe you can” (1).

In the late 1880’s Charles and Myrtle Fillmore where physically healed as students of Emma Curtis Hopkins in Chicago and founded the Unity movement in 1889. They began a silent prayer process that is now known as *Silent Unity*. *Silent Unity* has been conducting constant prayer twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for over 125 years. Early in their teachings the Fillmore’s focused on physical healing but began to witness the people they had helped were gaining in their prosperity. Finally, in 1936 Charles wrote the most comprehensive book called *Prosperity*.

Prosperity is my prosperity bible. In my opinion, *Prosperity* is the deepest and most spiritual of all the books that I have read on this subject. I have read it many times and still find there is much for me to learn. Fillmore wrote in twelve chapters ranging from Chapter One, *Spiritual Substance, and the Fundamental Basis of the Universe* to Chapter Twelve, *Overcoming the Thought of Lack*. The challenge I have is giving the essence of Charles’ depth without 100

quotes. In the forward he said, “The Father has provided a universal seed substance that responds with magical power to the active mind of man.” He believed that we can plant our seeds of thought and manifest our desires (i).

The Charles expressed his overarching belief as,

What we need to realize above all else is that God has provided for the most minute needs of our daily life and that if we lack anything it is because we have not used our mind in making the right contact with the supermind and the cosmic ray that automatically flows from it (8).

Radical thoughts today for most people in our society, I can only imagine what people must have thought and said about this quote in the early 1930’s.

In 1940 Florence Scovel Shinn was teaching and healing hundreds of people in New York. She wrote *The Game of Life*. Her approach was more practical and straight forward than some of the other prosperity and New Thought writers. She said, “God is man’s supply and that man can release, through his spoken word all that belongs to him by Divine right. He must however, have perfect faith in his spoken word” (11). She quotes, “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

Dr. Joseph Murphy was an Irish born minister in the Divine Science movement and had a large following in Los Angeles. In 1955 he wrote *How to Attract Money*. While only 73 pages long, this book holds some of the most clearly written processes to acquire prosperity through spiritual and mental means. He said, “It is your right to be rich. You are here to lead the abundant life, and be happy, radiant and free” (9). Dr. Murphy taught that we have a birthright to all the riches in the kingdom.

Dr. Murphy went on to say, “There is no virtue in poverty; the latter is a mental disease, and it should be abolished from the face of the earth” (9). He spoke often about healing these

mental diseases through a process of denial of the false and the practice of affirming the truth.

He used many positive affirmations, which he called daily prayer such as;

God is the source of my supply. That supply is my supply now. His riches flow freely, copiously, and abundantly. I am forever conscious of my true worth. I give of my talents freely, and I am wonderfully, divinely compensated. Thank you, Father (41).

Catherine Ponder was barely making “ends meet” in the late 1950’s as a Unity Minister in Alabama. She began to focus on Charles Fillmore’s *Prosperity* and the teachings of prosperity in the Bible. In 1962 she completed her first book, *The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity*. She founded three Unity churches and wrote eighteen books on prosperity. She became a multimillionaire by practicing these prosperity principles. Today, she is still a Unity Minister at Unity Palm Desert, CA at 90 years of age.

Catherine’s full and exciting life demonstrates her basic belief as she states, “You are prosperous to the degree that you are experiencing peace, health, and plenty in your world” (4). Ponder also teaches that everyone should be out of debt. Her daily affirmation is, “I give thanks for the immediate, complete payment of all financial obligations. I have faith that with God’s help all obligations are being immediately paid in full” (368).

Dr. Murphy followed up his small book and in 1966 he wrote *Your Infinite Power to be Rich*. In this book he expanded on the prosperity concept by including how our subconscious mind holds our beliefs. These beliefs in lack, limitation, or unworthiness can be keys to our lack of prosperity. He believed that using imagery of what is desired would enhance the quickness of changing to a new belief in the subconscious.

Dr. Murphy also introduced the concept of tithing back to God 10% of one’s income. He quoted,

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Malachi 3:10).

He points out this the only time in the Bible that God challenges us to prove Him right. He showed many examples of how tithing turns people's financial life around.

Catherine Ponder followed up in 1968 with book looking at specifically prayer and prosperity, *Pray and Grow Rich*. By using this title, she utilized Napoleon Hill's *Think and Grow Rich* success and set forth the need for deeper communications with God when working for one's own prosperity. She laid out 10 specific chapters, each with definite prayers to accomplish the stated desires. She said, "Prayer isn't just for people with problems. Prayer also makes happy people happier and healthy people happier. It even makes rich people richer" (226).

John Randolph Price came out of the corporate world and began to study Ancient Wisdom. In 1987 he wrote *The Abundance Book* and developed a 40-day Prosperity journey. He fashioned the journey after Jesus Christ's 40-day journey into the desert. Price wrote ten affirmations on prosperity. Each day you focus on one affirmation by reading it out loud and by the end of ten days you complete the series. The entire series is then repeated four times throughout the journey. The purpose of these affirmations was to establish in the subconscious mind the fact that God is our source of all things. Affirmation one says, "God is lavish, unfailing Abundance, the rich omnipresent substance of the Universe. This all-providing Source of Infinite prosperity is individualized as me – the Reality of me" (34).

In 1990 John Randolph Price wrote a small book called *Mastering Money*. In this book he went beyond building a prosperity consciousness into developing his five abundance principles. He believed these five principles provide the structure to a more abundant life. These

five principles are: The Principle of Conscious Worth, The Principle of Attraction, The Principle of Sharing, The Principle of Impulsive Energy, and The Principle of Creative Activity. Price said, “It is a 5-part Investment Plan with a guaranteed return” (30).

In 1994 the DVD and the book, *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne hit the market and created the largest financial success of any prosperity materials, somewhere in the neighborhood of three hundred million dollars in sales. I have always been amazed at the success of *The Secret* as the majority of the book is quotes from other authors. She says, The Creative Process used in *The Secret*, which was taken from the New Testament in the Bible, is an easy guideline for you to create what you want in three easy steps” (47).

“The first step is to ask. Make a command to the Universe. Let the Universe know what you want. The Universe responds to your thoughts.” The book’s first step is in alignment with most New Thought writers that everything begins in a thought within our minds” (48). *The Secret* goes on to define the second step.

Step two is to believe. Believe that is already yours. Have what I love to call unwavering faith. Believing in the unseen. You must believe that you have received. You must know that what you want is yours the moment you ask. You must have complete and utter faith (49).

This step follows exactly what the Master/Teacher Jesus taught in the book of Matthew.

“Step three, and the final step in the process, is to receive. Begin to feel wonderful about it. Feel the way you will feel once it arrives. Feel it now” (52). This step is also in alignment with most other prosperity teachers. As I gaze at this little book and wonder how it generated over \$300 million dollars. It’s amazing to me there is nothing new in it. The information is not even delivered in an interesting format. It is a small book of around 178 pages. The size is different and the cover has a three-dimensional seal on it making it look like ancient paper. The

paper inside is upgraded to also look ancient. *The Secret* was truly a marketing phenomena based solely on its looks and feel and not much importance on new or unique content.

In 1997 Dr. Wayne Dyer wrote *Manifest Your Destiny, The Nine Spiritual Principles for Getting Everything You Want*. Dr. Dyer utilized much of the material I have already discussed from previous authors. He did develop the concept that we are not an organism alone in the Universe but part of a hologram. His description of humans being a hologram is a unique way to describe the concept of Oneness. He felt that all of everything is part of us and we are part of everything. Dr. Dyer said this about being a hologram,

Have fun with the idea of yourself as a hologram. If you remember that you are a tiny piece of humanity, reflecting in your own little image and personality, then you have a green light to reflect the humanity that you would like in your world. You are one tiny bit of a six-billion-or-so-piece hologram . . . (53).

In 2005 Rev. Edwene Gaines, a Unity Minister wrote *The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity*. Edwene was very poor early in her career. She began to study Charles Fillmore and Catherine Ponder's books on prosperity. She put all of this knowledge into action and now owns the Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head, Alabama. Edwene developed her four key Spiritual Laws which are: The First Law – Tithing, The Second Law – Goal-Setting, The Third Law – Forgiveness, and the Fourth Law – Divine Purpose. Rev Gaines focuses more on forgiveness than the other writers. She says, “You must forgive everyone all the time, especially yourself. Forgiveness is a discipline and a powerful spiritual practice that will enable you to feel worthy enough to live prosperously” (4). Edwene also believes that finding one's Divine Purpose is important to be successful. She says, “When you are aligned with your divine purpose, you bring passion to all that you do” (4).

In 2006 Esther and Jerry Hicks wrote a very different book called *The Law of Attraction*. Esther was open to channeling an energy source which called itself, Abraham. This book is a collection of these channeled messages while being asked questions by Jerry. So the format of the book is Jerry asking Abraham specific questions. For instances on the subject of the law of Attraction, Abraham answered, “Not only is the law of Attraction the most powerful law in the Universe, but you must understand it before anything else that we offer will be of value” (29).

Jerry had asked specifically about prosperity and the Law working, Abraham said, “If you want prosperity and you believe that you deserve it, and you expect it to come to you just because you want it to, there is no contradiction in your thinking – and the prosperity will flow” (185). This book brings forward the importance of feelings. The more intense the feeling that you will receive what is important, the faster it shows up. He also uses a term of Deliberate Creation. This is the focus and ability to create whatever one wants in their lives and Abraham says, “it should manifest within 60 days” (191).

I’ve had the honor and privilege to attend Metaphysical University at the same time I completed my Unity Ministerial training. I wanted to continue to grow and expand my consciousness. I so appreciate Dr. Paul Leon Masters and the great work that he accomplished while he was here. His Minister/Bachelor and Master’s programs were so helpful in guiding me to higher consciousness. I treasure his book *Mystical Insights, Knowing the Unknown*. I could fill this thesis with all of his quotes because of their clarity and power. I was totally engaged when I opened the book to Dr. Master’s quote,

The same awesome Power of Mind and Spirit that created the Galaxies and gave wisdom to human thought so that it might create science, the arts, and all human achievement, is the Same Power in YOU, right this moment, waiting for you to acknowledge its Supreme presence (xix).

Dr. Masters deeply influenced this Thesis with his wisdom and teaching. His enlightened wisdom opened me to a higher consciousness. It opened me to a new understanding as this project progressed. My past practices of prosperity were focused on mental practices. My research of the prosperity spiritual practices continued was deeply involved with mental practices. Dr. Masters said,

Prayer, visualizations, and affirmations are effective when no longer practiced by one's false personal ego but under the control of God's Universal Consciousness within oneself. Real Magic is to found in the words, "not my will (false, personal ego sense of identity) – but Thy Will (Universal God's Will) be done (4).

These words I had read and heard many times. This time was different. They opened something new inside me. They were the catalyst that helped me to go deeper. I am very thankful for the wisdom of Dr. Masters that guided me to a higher consciousness.

Discussion

In all the reading and researching there were major themes that became evident. Going back six thousand years ago in the Old Testament there is evidence of mind/spirit connections with a stated God. This God would bring forward abundance, plenty and prosperity into the people's lives. A clear example, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:1). This central theme is again highlighted by Jesus Christ over two thousand years ago. Jesus stated, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Most prosperity authors have referred to these biblical truths as key to their beliefs that humans can have some control over the prosperity of their lives. It is understood that we can control prosperity by maintaining the correct thoughts about prosperity.

Most of the prosperity books from the 1880's to the present that have been written by New Thought authors have been clear in stating their belief that there is One God or One Supreme Power that has created this universe and all humans. Many times this "something greater than us" is described as Omnipresent, Omnipotent, and Omniscient. A constant belief is that everything is created from a One Source. This One Source is central to all living things and is often called in Christianity, the *Holy Spirit* or in Hinduism, *Atman*. It's a life force that is flowing through all living things.

The next level of belief in New Thought is since all humans have been created, sustained, and maintained by this Source or God that same Divine Essence is within human being. Christianity calls it *The Christ*, Judaism calls it *Emanuel*, Taoism calls it *The Tao*, and Buddhism calls it *The Buddha Nature*. It's obvious this energy and power within all living things has many

names which enhances the confusion. It's clear that all humans have access to the Divine within and that Biblical proof point is Jesus Christ's own statement,

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 7:21-22).

This passage has been used as the key truth of the belief that all power, intelligence and access to Divine Substance lies within each of us.

Jesus Christ went further with His acknowledgment of this Kingdom of God within us when he stated, "And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15). This destroys the notion that has been taught for centuries that everyone must wait until after they die to experience the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven. No, the Kingdom of God is here and now for all of us to experience. But, this belief is only true if we choose it as a fundamental belief.

For centuries, Christianity has placed people in fear that they must follow all the church's rules in order to experience the good of God. Jesus also released everyone from that bondage when in he said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). This was revolutionary, it freed all people from the dogma and bondage and fear of these religious institutions that maintained such power and control over the people. These new teachings and beliefs began to release the emotional bondage of guilt and shame that was so prevalent in the teachings.

Another consistent theme is the following of God's creation story as recorded, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The thoughts or ideas of what should be created came out of the Mind of God. Later it says that the Spirit or Power moved and

it became visible. These authors all go back to the power of the mind and the importance of controlling thoughts. Most of them talk about staying focused on thoughts of what we desire for our lives and releasing all the thoughts of what we don't want. There appears to be many approaches to implementing this idea of learning to master our minds and keeping them focused on what we want.

Many of the authors write in detail about the functioning of the human mind and how it relates to prosperity. The conscious mind is where we make choices and decisions and the subconscious mind is where we hold our beliefs. We read, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Many authors have implied that the heart expressed in this verse is describing the subconscious mind. Psychology has taught us that repeated thoughts coupled with emotions will deeply entrench the thought and feeling into the subconscious mind. We know these deep beliefs seem to have more power than the will-power of the conscious mind.

Most authors write about the need to engage our feelings or emotions when working with thoughts of what we want to bring into our lives. It seems the normal reaction of unaware people is to put more emotion into what they don't want in a negative way instead of putting the greater emotions into what they want to see manifested in their lives. Each author developed their personal processes to help create these positive and prosperous changes.

Another central mental/spiritual theme is the idea of learning to visualize or to mentally see what one wants to manifest in life. This biblical proof-point comes from, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18). Many authors state the importance of holding steady a vision of what is desired in life. It is just as important to not spend time on "seeing" what one doesn't want to manifest. There are many

stories written about how people experience negative feelings and imaginations of something they think could happen and then never does. So much wasted energy and time.

A few authors address the religious practice of tithing. Tithing means to give back 10% of one's income to where one is spiritually fed. Tithing has been central to Judaism. Often it has been highlighted how powerful many Jews have become in the financial industries around the world. Many of American's industrialists were and are very strict in their practice of tithing. The belief in tithing and the blessings promised come again from the last small book in the Old Testament. We read,

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Malachi 3:8-10).

Most people when taught this teaching of tithing do not want to be someone that is robbing their Creator. I have experienced financial miracles in my life which I know occurred because of my strict practice of tithing.

It was reassuring to me that I was able to find evidence for all these major themes of the prosperity authors in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. These key ideas have been around for thousands of years and have stood the test of human history. I experienced even more excitement about the idea of conscious prosperity and the opportunity for everyone to experience more freedom in their lives. It also increases my resolve to teach these principles to everyone who will listen.

Conclusion

My intention in this Prosperity Thesis was to find the best practices of the famous prosperity writers since the late 1800's. I was confident that I had obtained the best of the best. There was a question from Dr. Paul Leon Masters' exam. for Ministers/Bachelors. A question in the exam continued to reverberate in my mind. It was in the first Module, "What is the true source of prosperity?" (Ministers/Bachelors 1, 3). My answer was God is our true source of prosperity.

Again Dr. Masters raised more questions for me when he said, "Keep also in mind that the imitation of most spiritual practices is for the betterment of one's own condition in some way without thought of others" (*Mystical Insights* 84). It occurred to me that any practice for prosperity that didn't include the desire for exactly the same results for all people, would not be fulfilled. A request for fulfillment for just oneself is selfishness and not in alignment with an all-giving God.

Later Masters says, "Only Universal Presence, or God, knows what is best for any one person – or the Totality of the Universal Existence" (85). I believe this is true. So how do we go about knowing what to think, feel, affirm and visualize for ourselves and all others? All of these prosperity authors processes begin with knowing what to desire for to bring forth in prosperity. I could not find any explanation in these books other than go by your desires. That didn't feel right. Thinking about all the desire I've had in my life. Some turned out great while others I wish I had not brought into my life. I went back to these many books looking for something I had missed that would help me determine what is always best to bring into my life. I could not find any process that made sense to me.

In questioning was becoming the most important part of prosperity, the more confused I became. No one provided clarity on how to know what is best to ask for oneself. Clarity finally began to emerge when I read Dr. Masters explain,

In this way, it is Universal Consciousness or God entering into the awakened person's surface frontal consciousness that creates the prayer, visualization, affirmation, or other spiritual practice – and the personal ego is less and less involved.

- It is then God who creates the prayer that is prayed
- It is then God who visualizes the visualization
- It is then God who affirms the affirmations
- It is then God is directing any other spiritual practice (86).

So, if someone is doing their spiritual practices of prosperity and is doing it from their personal ego and not in alignment with Universal Consciousness or God; it will not work. I had found the secret into why sometimes prosperity work doesn't manifest what that person is working to bring into their life.

Dr. Masters summed up this explanation with this closing thought, "Always keep in awareness that Universal Presence is Eternally in Control for the Ultimate Good of every soul. And so, what will be, will be – because it *already* is" (87). My personal fog was beginning to lift. I realized all the reading of the research for this Thesis was counter to what I intuitively knew was the Truth. Dr. Masters expressed it so eloquently. I believe that God is eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere present, and only good. I had never considered that it all *already* is. All *already* is! I had to take this newly unfolding "AHA" moment into my meditation and journaling time. I asked for Divine Guidance and Wisdom. If this was true, I could throw-out all these prosperity books and the thousands of pages I had read. Wow!

To make sense of this I went back to the Bible. I found where It says, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee" (Jeremiah 32:17). It is clear that everything, the Allness of the

Universe was created by Universal Consciousness or God, and I believe that is true. The Bible also says, “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done” (Genesis 2:1-2). If God is finished, does that mean all already is today? In the New Testament I found, “For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Hebrews 4:3). So that means, the I-Pad was created in the Mind of God so many zillion of years ago and it was simply waiting on us humans to develop the consciousness to function in a wireless world and receive it. Certain of my concepts of how the world works are no longer valid in this world of *already* is. This caused me to contemplate what other limiting beliefs I have that need to be challenged.

I began wondering how to stay out of my ego when asking for what I want in life. I read “Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him” (Matthew 6:8). That means that I no longer need to wonder what to ask for and try to decide what would be best for me. This is the part that always had caused so much angst in trying to get it right. God already knows. Of course, if all *already* is and God is Omniscient, all-knowing; then of course he would already know what is best for me. As this truth began to sink into my consciousness, I felt such relief. Relief of not needing to know what is the best decision for my life and for others that I interact with. This begins to feel like I am entering the rest that God was talking about in Hebrews 4:3.

To further enhance this concept, I also found where Jesus Christ said, “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on” (Matthew 6:25). It is one thing to believe that God knows what is

best for us; but to shift to the understanding that we are to take no thought for any of the details of our life. This is amazing level of faith to move to this knowing that every detail of my life will be “handled” by God Almighty in a perfect way. Again, I feel more relief and a total relaxing of my mind and body in the knowing that Universal Consciousness is working out all the details of my life. This is bringing me another level of understanding of how to let go and let God run all of my life.

My meditations continue to enhance this feeling of knowing at a higher level. I feel like this new understanding is taking me to a higher consciousness that is guiding my life. But, I continued to ask, “What is mine to do?” in all this process. Being someone that has always been action oriented and many times I judged lazy people; I was feeling a little out of sorts. Finally, I received my answer, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). Now I know what is mine to do. My job is to seek the Kingdom of God first and foremost. I know the Kingdom of God is within me. It is also my responsibility to release any and all thoughts of worry, anxiety, doubt, fear, and any others concern about my daily life. I found the best way to seek God first, is to follow what King David said, “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

Meditation and practicing of being still and silent is the most important spiritual practice.

Dr. Masters said in *Mystical Insights*,

All who have studied deeper forms of meditation for the purpose of experiencing mystical union with God do all they can to enter into the *Silence of the Absolute*. Only when the mind can be totally quieted can Absolute Presence be known. As long as *thinking occupies the mind – God cannot* (62).

My research journey is coming to an end. I am putting away all the books. I know that God is *All* and that God is only *Good*. I know that God knows what is best for me and I rest calmly in

that assurance. I know that God has already created everything and my responsibility is to stay centered in His Love and be willing to receive all the Good that is mine to have in this lifetime.

I also know this true for everyone else in the world. Everyone has the right to prosperity and I have committed my life to teaching conscious prosperity to anyone that will listen. I believe it is every person's birth-right to live as Jesus Christ said we should – more abundantly and free. I have now found the only process I know that will deliver positive prosperity – every time.

Works Cited

- Byrne, Rhonda. *The Secret*. NY: Simon and Schuster/Atria Books, 2006. Print.
- Dyer, Wayne. *Manifest Your Destiny*. NY: HarperCollins Publishing, 1997. Print.
- Fillmore, Charles. *Prosperity*. Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, 1936. Print.
- Gaines, Edwene. *The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity*. NY: Rodale, 2005. Print.
- Hicks, Esther and Jerry. *The Law of Attraction*. Carlsbad, CA: Hay House Inc, 2006. Print.
- Hill, Napoleon. *The Law of Success*. NY: Penguin Group, 1928. Print.
- Holmes, Ernest. *Creative Mind*. NY: Cosimo Inc, 2007. Print.
- Holy Bible: King James Version*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1976. Print
- Hopkins, Emma Curtis. Judgment Series in Spiritual Science. Portland, OR: Wisewoman Press, 2008. Print
- Masters, Paul Leon. *Mystical Insights*. Sedona: University Sedona Publishing, 2016. Print.
- . *Master's Degree Curriculum*. 2 vols. Burbank, CA: Burbank Printing, 2012. Microsoft Word File.
- . *Ministers/Bachelor's Degree Curriculum*. 4 vols. Burbank, CA: Burbank Printing, 2012. Microsoft Word File.
- Murphy, Joseph. *Your Infinite Power to be Rich*. NY: Penguin Group, 1966. Print.
- . *How to Attract Money*. San Gabriel, CA: Willing Publishing Co, 1955. Print.
- Ponder, Catherine. *The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity*. NY: Prentice Hall, 1962. Print.
- . *Pray and Grow Rich*. NY: Parker Publishing, 1968. Print.
- Price, John Randolph. *The Abundance Book*. Carlsbad, CA: Hay House Inc, 2005. Print.
- . *Mastering Money*. Boerne, TX: A QUARTUS BOOK, 1990. Print.

Shinn, Florence Scovel. *The Wisdom of Florence Scovel Shinn*. NY: Simon and Schuster, 1989.
Print

“The Secret”. *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundations Inc. 22 July 2004.
Web. 10 Aug 2004.

danielray. Daniel Ray. View Badges! Watch Send a Note Give. Profile. Gallery. Prints. Favourites. Journal. About Deviant Daniel RayUnknown Recent Activity. Deviant for 16 Years. Needs Core Membership. Statistics 0 Deviations 0 Comments 418 Pageviews. 0 Deviations 0 Comments 418 Pageviews 0 Scraps 0 Watchers 0 Critiques 2 Forum Posts 2 Favourites. More Stats. This deviant's full pageview graph is unavailable. Daniel Ray. Unknown.