

## Living in the No-Lack Zone (Part 2)

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### Scripture References

Deuteronomy 2:7	James 4:10
Luke 9:3-5	John 6:5-13
Luke 22:35, 36	Psalm 33:18, 19, MSG
1Thessalonians 4:9-12, NLT	Romans 8:32
1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, MSG	Psalm 37:18, 19, NLT
Psalm 34:10, NLT	John 5:44, AMPC
Psalm 34:10, MSG	1 Timothy 6:10
Psalm 34:10	Proverbs 3:5, 9
Philippians 4:19	Proverbs 3:5, 9, 10, NKJV
James 1:2-4, ESV	Proverbs 3:5-12, MSG
James 1:2-4	

### Summary

*God is well aware that we all need money for daily living expenses. He wants abundance and prosperity for us; it is not His will for those who trust Him to live in lack or insufficiency. There is nothing wrong with following Christian principles in our finances; however, abundant blessings on every level come not from dry principles, but from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **He** is our supply. There may be times when we are in a tough financial situation; in these times, we must keep in mind that the finished works of Jesus have already made a way out. Provision is one of those finished works. It is okay to have material wealth, as long as we rely on God, not on money, as our supply source.*

#### **A. The finished works of Jesus have made prosperity available. We need to believe this.**

1. For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing (Deuteronomy 2:7).
  - a. When God is with us, we lack nothing. He will provide for us; this is His nature.
2. When Jesus sent the disciples out, He told them not to take any provisions. They lacked nothing, because He was their supply source.
  - a. And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them (Luke 9:3-5).
  - b. And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing. Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one (Luke 22:35, 36).

#### **B. There are five specific things we can do to keep ourselves in the “no-lack” zone.**

1. The first thing is to walk in love; we cannot go any further than our character.
  - a. But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another. Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more. Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, *NLT*).
  - b. Regarding life together and getting along with each other, you don't need me to tell you what to do. You're God-taught in these matters. Just love one another! You're already good at it; your friends all over the province of Macedonia are the evidence. Keep it up; get better and better at it. Stay calm; mind your own business; do your own job. You've heard all this from us before, but a reminder never hurts. We want you living in a way that will command the respect of outsiders, not lying around sponging off your friends (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, *MSG*).
  - c. The first thing the Holy Spirit does is pour God's love into our hearts; mistreating others grieves the Holy Spirit.
  - d. Following the law of love empowers us, so that we will not have to rely on others.
2. The second thing is to trust and seek God; when we trust Him, we will seek Him. We can put our trust in any number of things that can let us down; we must trust God. It matters who we give priority to in times of trouble.
  - a. Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing (Psalm 34:10, *NLT*).
  - b. Young lions on the prowl get hungry, but GOD-seekers are full of God (Psalm 34:10, *MSG*).
  - c. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing (Psalm 34:10).

**C. To stay out of lack, we also need humility, and patience in God's promise to us.**

1. The third thing to do to stand in the no-lack zone is to have patience by staying in faith concerning God's promises. To be patient means to be consistently, constantly the same, before, during, and after lack.
  - a. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).
  - b. When lack shows up, we employ patience, and remain the same about what we believe. Panicking and failing to remain the same take us out of the no-lack zone.
  - c. Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing (James 1:2-4, *ESV*).
  - d. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4).
  - e. No one is *happy* to encounter financial issues; however, joy and happiness are two different things. Joy is based on what we know; happiness is based on our comfort. We must absolutely know God's promise.

2. The fourth thing we must do is to walk in humility. This involves submitting ourselves to God, and being ready to comply and cooperate with His plan.
  - a. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up (James 4:10).
  - b. Pride wants to do things our way; humility wants to do things God's way.

**D. Jesus knew the role faith plays in positioning ourselves to receive abundantly from God.**

1. When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten (John 6:5-13).
  - a. Initially, all that the disciples saw in the situation was lack and insufficiency. However, Jesus knew the importance of planting a seed of faith.
  - b. When what we have is not enough, we need to remember that it is not our harvest, but our seed.
  - c. Another definition of sitting down is reclining and resting; resting is the highest form of faith.
  - d. When we encounter lack of any kind, we must turn it over to Jesus. He causes increase when we allow Him to take our insufficiency.
2. Watch this: God's eye is on those who respect him, the ones who are looking for his love. He's ready to come to their rescue in bad times; in lean times he keeps body and soul together (Psalm 33:18, 19, *MSG*).
  - a. Things happen when we know God loves us. Because of His love, He *will* supply us.
  - b. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32).
  - c. We must look for God's love in bad times, even when the enemy tells us God *doesn't* love us.
3. Day by day the LORD takes care of the innocent, and they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever. They will not be disgraced in hard times; even in famine they will have more than enough (Psalm 37:18, 19, *NLT*).
  - a. Having more than enough is God's will for us; we do not have to fear.

**E. When we put God above everything else and honor Him first, He can prosper us.**

1. The fifth thing to do to stay in the no-lack zone is to walk in the honor of God. There are certain things that no one else but God can do for us.
  - a. How is it possible for you to believe [how can you learn to believe], you who [are content to seek and] receive praise *and* honor *and* glory from one another, and yet do

- not seek the praise *and* honor *and* glory which come from Him Who alone is God? (John 5:44, *AMPC*).
- b. To honor is to weigh in heavier than anything or anyone else. We must honor and trust God above all else in our lives—even money.
  - c. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (1 Timothy 6:10).
2. We should not honor our substance over God. The spirit of mammon tells us that we do not need God, and should not trust Him.
- a. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding... Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase (Proverbs 3:5, 9).
  - b. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your understanding...Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine (Proverbs 3:5, 9, 10, *NKJV*).
  - c. Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor GOD with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent GOD's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction. It's the child he loves that GOD corrects; a father's delight is behind all this (Proverbs 3:5-12, *MSG*).

For more on positioning ourselves to receive the abundance and prosperity from heaven that overcomes any lack we are experiencing, click on the link below to find the DVD, *Living in the No-Lack Zone (Part 2)*, in our eStore.

<https://bit.ly/LivingintheNoLackZonePart2DVD>

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