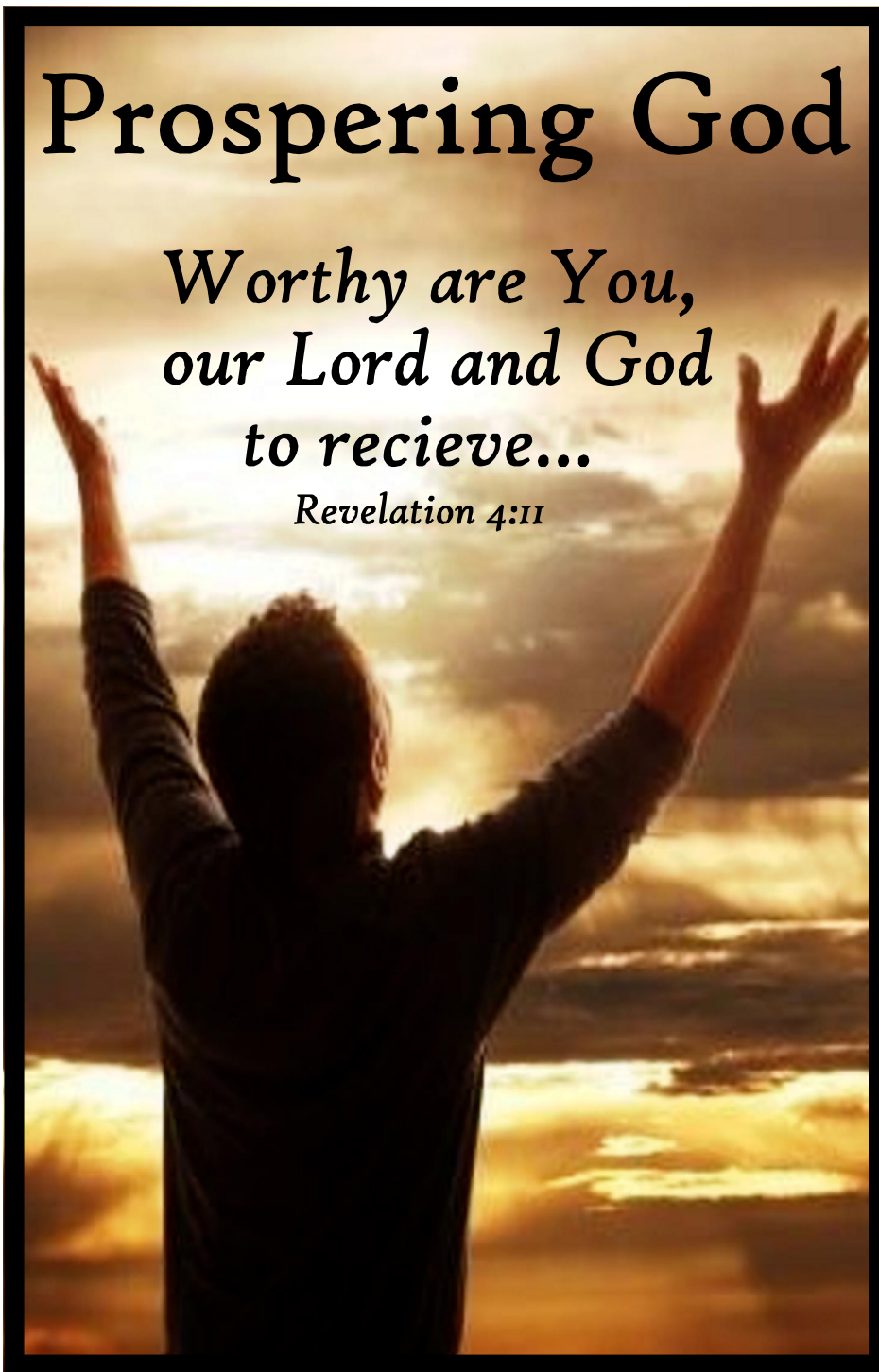


# Prospering God

*Worthy are You,  
our Lord and God  
to receive...*

*Revelation 4:11*



*This is a Fire Ministries article by Kelly Koshatka  
that is meant to draw your heart closer to the  
Person of our Lord and Life, Jesus Christ.*

*Dying Seed Publications*

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# Introduction

Over the past years there has been a teaching going around that some have termed “the prosperity gospel”. I am not writing this article to speak negatively towards anyone’s beliefs, or the Lord’s love and ability to care for our needs. I believe there is a very real part of knowing the Lord that deals with our faith in relation to God’s provision in our practical and daily earthly needs. Glory to God and thank you Jesus! In general this prosperity teaching has mostly related to God meeting our needs, but my point here is that the emphasis of this teaching can go both ways! It is so wonderful to believe and trust in God’s ability to take care of us, but how wonderful to think in terms of how we can prosper God and care for His needs! Just the realization that we can bless God in this way may be a radical awakening for some of us. Yet if we search the scriptures we will find that there are many places where it speaks of our part in responding to the Lord in a manner that blesses Him and is concerned for His desires. Throughout both the old and new testaments we see examples of men and women who pressed past their circumstances, personal issues and even pain until they found not just the will of God, but the deep desires of His heart. We look at more of these examples later on in this article.

What a joy to know that we can actually be those who help meet God’s needs! That we can care for Him and bless Him! Our hearts should rejoice at the thought of it! God chose to need us so that we could reciprocate His kind of love that seeks to fill, to serve and to cover. God had to limit Himself in order to do this by becoming flesh and bringing us into union with Himself through His cross. Not only is God so almighty and powerful that He can miraculously provide for our needs, but He also humbled Himself, opened His heart and made Himself to need us.



# Deep Cries Unto Deep

I believe there is a heart cry deep within every born again believer that knows we were created for the Lord Himself. The depths of our hearts respond to meeting the deep needs of the Lord's heart. He needs a body and we were made to meet that need. He needs a bride and we were raised up as His very flesh and bones to be unto Him one that loves Him and is after His same kind. There is only one problem with all of this... Jesus does not like to declare His needs or demand that they be met. He is self-giving, meek of heart, and a Lamb in nature. One must press past the veil of His outward power and glory to discover the deep longings of His heart.

## How Can I Prosper God?

We may ask, "What could I give God that would bless Him and care for His needs"? Here are just a few examples to consider: We can give Him our hearts to dwell in. We can allow the Holy Spirit to deal with us and not resist His work so that Christ might be formed in us. We can humble ourselves before the preaching of the Cross rather than becoming offended so that a deeper work can take place within us for the Lord's increase. We can allow ourselves to be broken so that His fragrant Life can flow forth from us to others. We can give the Father His Son as we allow Jesus to live in us unto God. We can give God a temple for His presence to dwell in as we choose to be filled with His glorious Life rather than our own. We can give the True Vine branches that bear His fruit. We can give Jesus, the Head of His risen body, members that submit to His desires and

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manifest His nature. We can give the Lamb a bride that chooses His name above her own by bearing His sacrificial nature and putting off her old selfish identity. We can choose to fellowship with Him in His suffering rather than seeking our own comfort first. We can feed the sheep He bought with His own blood by caring for others. Just consider how we would pray and pour out hearts before the Lord if we became as caught up in His needs and felt what He feels as much as we do for ourselves?



**GIVING TO GOD**

## That I Might Know You

I believe the list we just mentioned is much larger than most of us would ever imagine. Yet rather than writing down every aspect concerning blessing God, our hearts should be moved to see Him in this way for ourselves. Reading a list will not impact us as much as discovering how our God feels from His heart directly. It is our love for Him that will make us want to press deeper into His heart until we know even His hidden desires.

There are times throughout the scriptures where God would allow those who were close to Him to experience things that would help them understand Him. He allowed Adam to feel the deep loneliness of not having one after his own kind. Joseph knew rejection from those he loved the most. God allowed Hosea to know what it feels like to have

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an unfaithful wife. Jeremiah felt his own heart break over those who had forgotten and left God in their heart. Jeremiah cried God's tears. David yearned for God to have a house more than getting his own house. Beyond teaching, information or correct doctrine... these people knew their God from the inside out. They felt His pain. They were burdened with His desires. They lived to help make His dreams come true rather than their own. They existed to prosper the Lord.

## The "Mary's" Who Cared For The Lord

A beautiful demonstration of those who tend to the Lord's needs is given to us throughout the Gospels. It is remarkable that women who were most deeply poured forth in the Lord's care were all name "Mary". These "Mary's" ministered to the Lord in His death, burial and resurrection. What an incredible privilege and intimacy to be with the Lord in these times of great and eternal significance. What an honor to be able to share with Him and care for Him in these deep hours.

One Mary was with the Lord in preparation for His burial. This is Mary of Bethany (Martha's sister) found in John 12:3-7. This Mary anointed the Lord to prepare Him for His burial (verse 7). So much could be said about the incredible sensitivity and awareness this woman must have had to be able to understand the time of death that Jesus was about to enter into, and to be with Him in preparation for it. This woman was with Him, even when Jesus' own disciples were confused and afraid.

Another Mary is the Mother of Jesus. This frail vessel literally opened her heart for God to bring forth His Son

through her into this dark world. She heard God's Word and submitted her heart to His desire to bring forth Christ through her. She was not only cared for God's desire in the bringing forth of Christ, but was also with Him when He was being crucified on the Cross. Jesus saw her, and spoke to John from His Cross instructing him to care for her. Mary beheld and stood with the Lamb of God as He gave Himself for us. All of the disciples except John had scattered, but she stood there with Jesus being with Him in His darkest hours. She suffered with Him, for Simeon foresaw how His sufferings would be like a sword piercing her own heart (Luke 2:35).

Our final Mary is Mary Magdalene, the first human to behold Jesus in His new resurrected form (John 20:1-18). She had been out by His tomb looking for Him when it was yet dark. When she found his tomb empty, she then told the disciples who came and looked. The disciples went back home but she stayed there outside the tomb weeping. Jesus then appeared to her and told her to tell the disciples what had happened. She was the first human being to carry the message that Jesus was risen from the dead to mankind! This woman could not bear the thought of living without Jesus, and He appeared to her first!

These "Mary's" can show us we have an intimate place with the Lord in His death, burial and resurrection. Even beyond all God did for us in His Christ upon His Cross, there is still a place for us to be with Him, caring for Him. As disciples we can find ourselves more sensitive to teachings or ministry, yet even now we can cultivate our hearts to become more in tune with the Lord Himself and His needs. Jesus needs His "Mary's"... His bride!



## He Cares For Us... We Care For Him

Luke 12: 29-32 says, *“And seek not what you shall eat, or what you shall drink, neither be of doubtful mind. For all these things the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that you have need of these things. But rather seek you the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”*. As we care for God’s needs He will care for our needs so that all needs can be covered through love and not selfishness! We need not fear over our needs for our Father cares for us! Matthew 6: 8-10 tells us that the Father knows what things we have need of even before we ask Him. Therefore we can pray to our Father emphasizing His needs saying, *“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”*. We are free to think upon Him and give ourselves to care for Him even as He has given Himself to care for us!

## Thou Art Worthy Oh God!

Throughout eternity there will be one central theme echoing in the throne-room of God, pouring out from the mouths of those who worship the Lamb forever. The book of Revelation captures this prayer for us so that we might hear the heart of eternal relationship and join in its chorus during this life, even now. *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11)*. Blessed be the Lamb who was slain so that we could partake of all His fullness through endless



ages, even worlds without end. He has poured out His soul unto death, allowed His body to be crucified, and given us His Life without measure... holding back nothing from us. May we bless this blessed Lamb! He is worthy, yes... even to receive!

## The Spirit of Our Gatherings

When we gather together as the Lord's body we long to be with Him in a very tender and living way. We are not just desiring to go through a routine or have a social outing. We come to hear what is on the Lord's heart and what the Spirit is saying to the Church. We long for the Lord's heart to be opened to us as the Spirit's living touch quickens the scriptures and flows among us, ministering through us one to another. I truly believe that the attitude of heart we gather in can help to welcome the Lord in these ways. We can seek to cultivate an attitude in the gathering that will make the Lord feel cherished and honored. We can seek to be unto the Lord a place where He feels free to share His heart "safely" among those who will listen and receive Him with love and care.

Throughout this article we have discussed our "approach to the Lord" and how that relates to prospering Him. I believe this area is much more than an attitude of heart in meetings or prayers, but speaks into the very way all of us can relate to Jesus every moment of our lives.



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# A Prayer

*“Lord, our goal and ultimate desire is that our gatherings and very existence would be something for Your heart. We want to offer ourselves up for You to get Your bride and body in the ways that You need. We know if we give ourselves to You in that way our needs will be met. But we are not going to seek our needs first, but your needs, Jesus. Our deepest need is not You for us, but You for You. We have come hungry, needy and desiring more of You; but we want even more than those needs to be met. We want You to get what You need and desire. Our desire is towards Your needs above our own. And however seeking You first in this way affects us, we know that it will be more than enough just to see Your face, Your heart fulfilled and Your desires and needs met. We want to be people who know, love and seek You for You. That is more important to us than anything.*

*This is why we gather. We are not gathering to first add unto ourselves knowledge or healing or blessing or even things that come from You. We have come to add ourselves to You because we are Your body, Your bones and Your flesh. We add ourselves to You Jesus and do not ask You to add Yourself to us. We trust that You will fill us with whatever we truly and eternally need when we give ourselves as Yours. The whole tenor of our hearts and the way we think, act, move, pray, seek and live is that You would get the bride and body that You died for. All the prayers that we would pray for ourselves we are going to turn around and pray them for You. We pray that You would be blessed, nourished, strengthened and filled. That You would be healed, calmed and warmed. We seek that You*

*“We have come to add ourselves to You because we are Your body, Your bones and Your flesh.”*

*would be honored, loved, noticed, recognized and understood. Lord we do not want our souls to be understood. We want to understand You more than we want you to understand us. We are not seeking our own honor or recognition, but have come to declare Christ as our all. We want to die to the need to always make ourselves the center and importance of everything. We want to lift up Jesus as pre-eminent in the very attitude of our thoughts, prayers and way of living. Lord, if we honor You in this way we know that we will be able to minister to You and others properly. May we offer up sacrifices and prayers that are worthy to be received by Your heart. We make a decision to prepare ourselves in this way for You. When we speak forth, may it be on Your behalf and for Your needs, rather than to constantly declare our needs in this earth and temporal life. We believe that as we pour our heart out for Your care there will be a flow of Life that will be waters for Your feet, blessings to Your heart, and an overflow of Your Life for others. We commend our days to be for You. We know that this is truly what Your Bride would do. She would not focus on herself but on You. The bride is in love with her husband and she is not in love with herself. If we really claim to be relating to You as Your bride, then we should act like we love You more than we love ourselves. Our desire should be towards You and our care towards Your needs. We are determined to give You the honor and love you need from Your Church. May You be blessed because we came! Amen.”*

# Conclusion

And so now, without condemnation but in heartfelt desire, we must ask ourselves these questions: Do we feel what God feels because we have sought out His heart? Are we moved first by His heart or our own needs? Do we exist to prosper Him or ourselves in this life? Beloved ones, these questions come to us that we might know that the Lord loves us so deeply as to share His heart with us in these ways. It is easy to become lost in ourselves on this earth and to forget about the Person we are joined to and the things of His heart. The Holy Spirit is with us and in us to gently draw our eyes back to the One we love, the One Who is our very Life. It is not of ourselves that we can even consider God in this way, but through the new heart that we have received we can turn from self unto God. May we delight ourselves in the Lord Himself. May His joy be our strength and His pleasure be our reward!

