

Divine Dynasphere: Prosperity Testing: Social Advance, Lk 14:7-11; Possessions, Mt 6:31-33; Spiritual Maturity: Strategic & Tactical Victories, 1 Jn 5:3-5

- (2) Social advance: it is a blessing to acquire fine friends and enjoy the events associated with having fellowship. However, some assume that recognition among peers is a thing to be sought and desired. This can lead to disorientation to grace as is taught by our Lord in:

Luke 14:7 - Then Jesus began speaking a parable, having noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, saying to them,

v. 8 - “When you may be invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor because a person more distinguished than you may have been invited by your host.

v. 9 - “So the host who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your place,’ then with shame you will proceed to occupy the least important place.

v. 10 - “But instead, when you may be invited, go and take the least important place, so that when your host comes he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up here to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who share the meal with you.

v. 11 - “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The principle here is: If God does not promote you, you are not promoted.

- (3) Possessions: prosperity provides the means to acquire material things which one may enjoy and with which he may share with others. However, emphasis cannot be placed on the accouterments of life for they like dust will fade away. The believer must remember that the necessities of life are guaranteed by the Lord to all that believe in Him:

Matthew 6:31 - “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’

v. 32 - “For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

v. 33 - “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Capacity comes through spiritual growth. No matter how prosperous an advanced believer becomes, he remains grace oriented. Logistical grace is the foundation for any aggrandizement of one’s position, be it wealth, social advance, or possessions. It is the Lord’s grace that keeps him alive while he grows in grace, and it is the Lord’s grace that blesses him in his advance. It’s all grace, all the time and never should the beneficiary ever take any credit.

The secret to passing prosperity testing is an attitude of gratitude toward God. True humility is the key to spiritual growth, which in turn is the key to blessings which include prosperity in its various expressions.

- 8) **Spiritual Maturity: The Winner's Gate:** The status of the believer who has (1) faithfully studied the Word of God to the point that (2) he sustains an intense love for God, is (3) occupied with Christ while (4) expressing unconditional love for all mankind, and (5) sharing the complete contentment that marked the unique spiritual life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while He was on the earth.

Spiritual maturity is the believer's tactical victory in the plan of God. All believers achieve strategic victory at salvation but only a few move on to win the tactical victory.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v.:

Strategic. That which is necessary in the initiation, conduct, or completion of a plan.

Tactical. Related to combat tactics: using weapons or forces employed at the battlefield. Small-scale actions serving a larger purpose. Adroit in planning or maneuvering to accomplish a purpose.

At salvation every believer is given divine operating assets associated with the divine power system but not all utilize these assets. They have the guarantee of eternal life and a resurrection body but without consistent advance in the spiritual life they enter into a lifestyle common to the Dark Side.

Positive believers do utilize their assets to move forward in the Invisible War whose battlefield is their souls. They make consistent daily decisions in compliance with the Word of God while the loser believer makes only one: to believe in Christ for salvation.

Therefore, each category of believers is a winner strategically but only the spiritually mature are double winners; they have both strategic and tactical victories.

It is the divine provision of logistical grace that sustains the strategic winner although he functions primarily in darkness. On the other hand, the tactical winner uses his logistical supply line to make the advance to spiritual maturity characterized by sharing the happiness of God and having occupation with Christ.

The tactical winner has such soul tranquility that he fears nothing, confronts momentum testing with confidence and courage, and in so doing acquires the tremendous blessings associated with applying doctrine under pressure.

Conversely, the strategic winner, who fails to exploit his assets and takes his logistical grace provisions for granted, cannot manage the testing that he accumulates under divine discipline. It is more than he can endure. Without rebound recovery he remains in the chains of darkness. With rebound he has the chance to recover but only if he uses his time in the Light to study Bible doctrine.

Prosperity is the time for the advance, not adversity. The strategic winner never gives doctrine a thought until the Lord brings the hammer of divine discipline down upon him. The strategic winner who does respond to discipline has double duty: he has to navigate the circumstances that the discipline brings while at the same time struggle to get up to speed with doctrine. Normal distractions are compounded by the intensified distractions accompanying the discipline both of which are impediments to the dedication and concentration required for spiritual recovery.

John gives us both encouragement and guidance about how to convert strategic victory into tactical victory:

1 John 5:3 - This is love for God [**motivational virtue**], that we may continue keeping His commandments [**steady advance to tactical victory of spiritual maturity**]; and His commandments are not difficult [**with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit**],

v. 4 - because those which have been born from God [**strategic winners**] overcome cosmos diabolicus [**the strategic victory becomes the basis for tactical victory**], and this is the initial victory which has overcome *cosmos diabolicus*—our faith.

v. 5- Who is the one who overcomes *cosmos diabolicus*? No one but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.