

# Spiritual Economics – A Summary

## Session 1 of 6

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## Prosperity

- The word "prosperity" comes from the Latin root which literally translates: "according to hope," or "to go forward hopefully." Thus, it is not so much a condition in life as it is an attitude toward life. The truly prosperous person is what Rollo May calls *the fully functioning person, one* who is experiencing what Jesus calls the life more abundant.

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## For further study

- [www.truthunity.net](http://www.truthunity.net) -- here you'll find a very compact review of each chapter of Spiritual Economics and a list of audio and video supplementary material by Eric Butterworth
- <http://www.unity.fm/program/Butterworth> Here you'll find archived broadcasts of the *Discovering Eric Butterworth* Unity Online Radio program. The program featured a four part series based on *Spiritual Economics* that began with the January 11, 2011 broadcast.

2

## Prosperity

- Prosperity is a way of living and thinking, and not just money or things.
- Poverty is a way of living and thinking, and not just a lack of money or things.
- Considered in the broadest sense, prosperity is "spiritual well-being." This involves the whole experience of healing life, satisfying love, abiding peace and harmony

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## Download the PowerPoint

- To download the PowerPoint, click on this link:
- <http://db.tt/43AbjXy>

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## Consciousness sets the limit

- It is consciousness that sets all the limits in life, if there are any limits. We have been erroneously conditioned to believe that our lives are completely shaped by what happens around us and to us. But life is lived from within-out. It is not what happens "out there," but what we do or think about what happens.

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## The starting point to prosperity

- The starting point in realizing prosperity is to accept responsibility for your own thoughts; thus, taking charge of your life. You are not responsible for what is said in the "Wall Street Journal," or what comes out of Washington in the form of economic indicators; but you are very much responsible for what you think about these things.

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## What Is Substance? -- 2

- The space between them is now considered more important than the particles themselves. In this space is to be found a field of force that holds the particles in their orbits. It is even being conjectured that the particle is not just acted upon by the force, but it *is* the force acting as a particle. Certainly this has application in our relation to God: We are not just acted upon by God, but we *are* the activity of God expressing Himself as us.

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### • One: The Truth About Substance

- The Truth is that the whole of God-substance is present in its entirety at every point in space and time. I am created in substance, formed in substance and ceaselessly supported by substance.
- There is an Allness in every illness, an All-Sufficiency within every appearance of lack, and the "joy of the Lord" within every moment of sorrow.
- **I am a richly endowed expression of an opulent Universe. There is always a sufficiency to do the things I want and need to do.**

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## Why Is Substance So Important?

- The exciting thing about omnipresent substance is that it is so abundant that no one need ever have less in order that you may have more. In the world of business there may be a mad scramble for the world's plums. There is a tendency to get caught up in the idea of competition in the struggle of trying to get ahead of the other person, and the fear that he will get ahead of you. But in the spiritual realm there can be no competition, nor the need for it. Every person has his own pipeline to the Universal good, and if he is true to himself and keeps centered in God-consciousness, his own will surely come to him without strain or struggle.

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## What Is Substance?

- The word "substance" comes from the Latin "substare," which means "stand under." There is a substance standing under everything. We are not referring just to the component parts that make up the thing, but to the non-material essence at the root of it. Today we know much about molecules and atoms and subatomic particles. But what is not commonly known is that the focus of research is now being centered, not on the minute particles of the material, but on what is called "the reality of the non-material."

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## Why Is Substance So Important? -2

- When you breathe all the air you need, you can never deprive anyone else of all the air he is able to breathe. There is always enough with plenty to spare because all the substance is present in its entirety at every point. Thus, if you sense that another person is straining to get ahead of you, be sure that you do not lower yourself to his fear vibration. Affirm for him: *I bless you with the awareness that you are one with your own personal flow of the Universe in which there is a legitimate royal abundance for every living creature.*

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## Substance Is Your Birthright!

- In the Truth about substance it is imperative that every person get the realization of *entitlement*. Jesus made a special point of this when He said emphatically: "*Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . .*" (Matt. 25:34) You are entitled to it, you have inherited it, it is yours. The foundation of the world is the fundamental realm of spiritual law of the Universe in which you live. The kingdom is that within you which is your very own "inlet that may become an outlet to all there is in God."

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## You Owe The World A Life

- You are a creative expression of the Universe, with the responsibility to let your light shine. Thus, you owe the world a life. But in all the many ways in which you apply yourself in the world, the Universe owes you complete support.

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## Substance is Your Birthright! -2

- Claim your inheritance of abundance. You are entitled to the support of God-substance in everything to which you give your mind or hands. Let go of the old belief in the "grace" of poverty and the subconscious sense of guilt in having things, along with feelings of unworthiness—attitudes that have such a detrimental influence upon human consciousness. Claim your entitlement. *I am a child of the Universe, richly endowed with the fullness of all-good. A child of the Universe! Can you get that into your consciousness?*

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## The Problem of Onliness

- How much money do you earn in your job? What is your net worth? In most cases you would respond, "I only earn ..." "I am only worth ..." Why the "only"? In other words, regardless of what you have, your thoughts are subtly centered in what you do not have, with the subconscious fear that you do not have enough.

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## The Universe Owes You A Living

- You see, the basis of entitlement is the startling assertion: The Universe owes you a living! Yes, we are saying *owes* you a living. Note, we are not saying that the *world* owes you a living. Actually, the world owes you nothing.

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## What God Cannot Do

- Paul says: . . . *my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches ....* (Phil. 4:19) God is a ceaseless flow of substance, and no matter what the extent of the need, Universal substance can easily supply it. But there is one thing God cannot do. God cannot supply lack. This is because lack is a state of mind, and the condition cannot be remedied until the state of mind is altered.

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## If God Already Knows, Why Ask?

- You ask for water from the faucet by turning the tap. You ask for light from the lamp by throwing the switch. You ask gravity to hold you in your seat by sitting erect and balanced. Jesus said: "... *It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*" (Luke 12:32) That certainly does not sound as if He expected us to engage in special appeals. He even said: "... *your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*" (Matt. 6:8) Then why need we ask at all?

19

## From Lao-Tzu

- *The human spirit has its source in the divine fountain which must be permitted to flow freely through man. Anyone who flows as life flows has solved the enigma of human existence and needs no other power. Anything is evil that blocks the flow of creative action, and everything is healthy (prosperous) that flows with the Universe.*

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## Asking Is Claiming Entitlement

- It is obvious that, to Him, asking was simply a claim of entitlement, a receptivity of consciousness. It is creating the condition in mind that makes the result inevitable

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## Practicing the Presence of God

- To practice the presence of God does not mean to titillate yourself with some mysterious spirit of God that comes and goes. The presence of God is that of God which is *present*, wholly present, ceaselessly present. It never changes. It doesn't come and go. It is! You may change, and like the Prodigal Son, you may come and go. But as Meister Eckhart says: *You are in the far country, the Father is at home.* So the practice of the presence means continually reminding yourself of the activity of God ever working in you, much as the student of mathematics must continually remind himself of the principles

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## The Flow of Substance

- ... we may "ask" God for supply, by creating the consciousness through which the limitlessness of Universal substance may flow. This calls to mind the wisdom of Lao-tzu, who, 2,500 years ago proved that there is nothing new in New Thought:

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## An Assignment for All of Us

- Make a deeply-rooted commitment that you will practice the presence of God-substance, ever-reminding yourself that you are in the presence of an infinite, eternal substance from which all things proceed. Resolve that you will live and think and work as if you really believed that the whole Universe of creativity and substance were present in every project of your work and every transaction of your investments, as your never-failing resource.

24

## And A Promise

- Practice the presence of God-substance with diligence and persistence, and you will begin to realize prosperity.

25

## A world of consciousness

- However, you live in a world of your consciousness, which is the sum total of the thoughts of your mind. And you can control what goes on in your mind. This is not to say that it is easy but to establish that it is possible.

28

- **Two: My Fortune Begins With Me**

- I am a most important person to God, for I am His living enterprise. God is not off somewhere in space where I must strain to reach Him to get Him to work a miracle for me "if I am lucky." God is on my side. He has a stake in me. He is not someone to reach for but a Presence to accept.

- **As Walt Whitman sings:**

- **Henceforth I ask not good fortune. I myself am good fortune.**

26

## Responsibility, not blame...

- if you are willing to accept full responsibility for your life, then even as your level of thought has put you where you are (or at least contributed to it), so by a change of consciousness, you can change the experiences of your life.

29

## What happens IN you is important

- it is an important moment in your life when you discover for yourself the great Truth that things may happen around you, and things may happen to you, but the only things that really count are the things that happen in you. You may have precious little control of the elements or the fluctuation of the stock market or the unpredictable behavior of people.

27

## Thoughts are powerful

- By your thinking you are either adding to your good or you are taking away from it. The law is inexorable. Failure or lack in your life are simply the result of continuously "minus-ing" yourself. Conversely, success and prosperity are the result of constantly "plus-ing" yourself. It is wise to take inventory occasionally. Are you dealing in minuses or pluses? It is that simple.

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## Do you agree?

- Your negative thoughts of fear and worry are depleting your good faster than inflation erodes the value of the dollar. And your positive, optimistic thoughts add to your good more dramatically than compound interest in-creases your bank savings.

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## The Second Servant

- [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

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## The Parable of the Talents

- [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents,\* to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

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## The Third Servant

- [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.'

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## The First Servant

- [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

33

## The Judgment

- [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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## About spiritual law

- You can't make law work. Law is an inexorable process. You are always in the working milieu of law, as, for example, you are always under the influence of gravity. One might be foolish to say, "I am going to make a demonstration of gravity." The fact is, gravity is a constant. You may stray from the awareness of the process and do some unwise thing that will revert to you as a problem. If so, the need is simply to stop doing it and once again become synchronized with gravity's supportive vibration.

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## Don't expect a miracle!

- "*Don't expect a miracle!*" If you center your consciousness in the expectation of miracles, you are playing with Universal law, hoping for some magic abrogation of its inexorable activity. You are putting the whole weight of your consciousness on the side of belief in a Universe of caprice. It is spiritual naivete' which dilutes all that you may have built up in the awareness of the changelessness of divine law.

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## The ALLNESS is WITHIN YOU

- The important Truth is: You are a spiritual being with the Allness of infinite Mind within you. Whatever your needs may be, the answer is not to get God to give you more through some divine sleight-of-hand process, but rather to uncover and release your own "imprisoned splendor."

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## The natural fulfillment of law

- Again we say, don't expect a miracle! Don't reduce the practice of Truth to the naive effort to coax a magic showing from a reticent God. If you really believe that you are "entitled" to the fullness of the kingdom, the resulting "outforming" may *appear* to be miraculous, for wonderful things can and will be done, but it is the natural fulfillment of divine law.

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## The demonstration will "make you."

- Avoid the temptation to try to "work the law" and thus to materialize the process. Get your mind off the idea of making a demonstration *in* life. Center your awareness on a deeper sense *of* life, and the demonstration will begin to make you.

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## Changing your luck

- Under divine law you receive as you have given, no more and no less. If you feel you have been "down on your luck," don't succumb to the temptation to try to "make it big" in some game of chance. Your fortune begins with you, not with the roll of the dice, or with the winning number, or with any kind of lucky break. There is only one way in which you can "change your luck," and that is by altering your thoughts

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## Changing Circumstances

- Your prosperity and success, and your good fortune, certainly may be influenced by changing conditions, but even then depending upon how you deal with them. However, your good is always deeply rooted in what Jesus called *"the kingdom of God within."* And when He said: *"... it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom,"* He was saying that your fortune is an unborn possibility of limitless life, and yours is the privilege of giving birth to it. As Walt Whitman sings: *Henceforth I ask not good fortune. I myself am good fortune.*

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## In the direction of your dreams

- Henry Thoreau seems to sum it up for us in this quotation from his classic work "Walden":
- *If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. He will put some things behind, will pass an invisible boundary; new, universal, and more liberal laws will begin to establish themselves around and within him; or old laws will be expanded and interpreted in his favor in a more liberal sense, and he will live with license of a higher order of beings.*

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