

# Spiritual Economics – A Summary

## Session 2 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.

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## 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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## The Economy

- Economic forecasters may also predict chaos in the marketplace. However, you have a choice. You can decide where you are going to throw the weight of your consciousness. And the welfare of the nation as a whole is determined by the attitude of "we the people." More and more economists are coming to agree that this word "economy" does not refer to a monolithic entity but rather to a financial climate chiefly influenced by the collective consciousness of the populace.

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### • Three: The Law of Visualization

- The Hebrew word from which we get the word "eye"... literally means "fountain." True seeing is a flow of consciousness, flowing like a fountain from within.
- I do not see things as they are but as I am.
- Having seen and felt the end, I have willed the means to the realization of the end. Having conceived and deeply felt some thing or experience, I have actually created the condition in mind that makes a particular result inevitable. It is fundamental law.

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## Right Judgment = Concentrical Seeing

- What Jesus calls "*right judgment*" is "concentrical seeing," seeing from within. It is not settling on things as "just the way they are," but visualizing them as they *can* be. Of course you read the papers and are aware of conditions as *they* are. But it is important to keep a clear perspective of who *you* are. You are not simply an unthinking reactor to conditions. You are a creative person, with your own unique relationship with the divine flow. You are always one with the source of boundless ideas, creativity, and success.

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## Worry

- One of the most effective ways in which we use this law of visualization and also by which we can understand it, is in worry. Worry is based on the belief that some undesirable condition already exists. The worrier vividly pictures in mind the undesirable condition he is worrying about. Thus, according to Troward, because he sees and feels the end, he wills the means to the realization of the end. This is why Job said: "*For the thing that I fear comes upon me.*" (Job 3:25) Of course! Because in the fear and anxiety he was visualizing the end, and creating the means in mind for its manifestation. This is the way mind unvaryingly works.

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## Seeing FROM God Consciousness

- We are not talking about seeing things (cars, houses, jobs, jewels, etc.), but rather seeing *from* a consciousness of ever-present substance, which will become the magnetic force that draws the things to you but without any of them ever becoming the object of your life.

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## Your I-AM-age

- You *are* already created in the image-likeness of God, not *can be* if you speak a lot of positive affirmations of Truth. Your true image is not something to get, it is a reality to discover. There is, that of you that is the likeness of God. It is your "I AM-age." This is what you really are, what you have always been. You can never be less.

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## EXPECT and ACCEPT

- As you diligently work to think the positive thought, speak the constructive word, and hold the creative success-images in mind, your whole life will begin to vibrate with the dynamic power of prosperity. The law is, you can have all you can expect and accept.

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## Imagineering

- It may seem beyond belief, but it is a fact that you can test for yourself. In sales work you can prepare yourself for a good day by imagining yourself giving an effective sales "pitch" and actually see the customer signing the order. As a secretary you can visualize error-free work being handed on time to an appreciative employer. As a golfer, an actor, or a violinist, you can spend leisure moments in imagineering, with tremendously beneficial results. Whatever your life work, wherever you have a need for improvement, try it. The law of visualization works.

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### • Four: If I Can Believe

- God substance is an ever-present creative resource which must flow forth when I create the conditions that make the result inevitable ... Faith is not a vague process of believing in something ... It is, rather, a positive act of turning on something.
- **My "faith" is consciousness centered in the universal Source ... My faith simply tunes into and turns on the divine flow that has always been present.**
- **I Am God's living enterprise. I am a unique individualization of the Universal creative process.**
- **I can, because I AM!**

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## Synchronizing with the flow ...

- Much so-called positive thinking is little more than wishful thinking, voicing a lot of Pollyanna words that you really don't believe. You say them because that is what you think a Truth student should do. But positive thinking does not make creative power, nor does it change either God or conditions. It is a matter of synchronizing yourself in mind with the flow of the Infinite. The ideal, of course, is to think the kind of thoughts that lead to the kind of conditions that you want to see manifest in your life.

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## God is not ...

- God is not a super-person "out there" to whom we pray and from whom we beg favors. God is a life process by which we live. Emerson suggests that when you break with the God of tradition and cease from the God of the intellect, that God will fire you with His presence. There is no way that you can really begin to understand "spiritual economics," or to make it work in your life until you are free from the sense of God "up there," and on fire with the awareness of the Presence.

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## God is...

- God is not the Grand Man of the heavens, a great pursuer of accounts and disburser of divine substance. God is the transcendent whole of things of which you are an individualized part.
- The whole Universe of infinite substance is centered in you. There is nothing you can do to add to that or take away from it. And this centering as far as God is concerned is the same in all persons. That leads to the inescapable though shocking conclusion that the Universe was no more centered in Jesus than it is in you.

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## Recentering

- As you recenter your thought in the awareness of abundance, you turn up the rheostat, as it were, and become more synchronized with the process of eternal substance, which then flows forth in your experience in perfectly natural ways: increases in salary, higher investment returns, and other improvements.

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## The flow that has always been present

- Jesus clearly said that you can do all that He did if you can believe, if you can center yourself in the creative flow, as He was always so centered. This suggests an excellent definition for the word "faith"; *consciousness centered in the universal Source*. Religious teachings and teachers have conditioned us to think of faith as a magic catalyst that makes God work for us. In no way does faith make God work, nor does it release some kind of miracle power. Faith simply tunes into and turns on the divine flow that has always been present.

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## I can't-itis

- The most widespread disease of our time may well be "I-can't-itis." It is contracted by many of us early in life from our elders. Society has made a song of it that has neither rhyme nor reason, but it may be heard everywhere:
- I can't because I am poor. I can't because I am sick.
- I can't because I do not have the ability. I can't because there is no opportunity. I can't because I am too old. I can't ... I can't ... I can't.

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## Faith has brought you to where you are

- When you pray for prosperity, your faith does not magically create bags of gold at your feet. This is not the way of divine law. Actually, your faith has already been involved in your condition, as with the turned-down rheostat. You may have been believing in lack, and thus you have experienced lack.

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## Faulty self-evaluation

- Few persons use more than a small part of the tremendous God-power within. You can alter the pattern of harping on the same old "I can't" tune. Actually, there can be no progress in the realization of prosperity until you do so. It calls for knowing, really knowing, that you are a spiritual being, living in a limitless spiritual Universe, endowed with the whole potential energy flow of the Universe. In most cases the problem is faulty self-evaluation.

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## Pressing needs...

- Of course, you do live in the world of change and you may well have occasional pressing needs. The insight of Truth should not cause you to refuse to admit having them. The important thing is that a need has no built-in limitations. There are only limiting thoughts about it.

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## You receive what you expect

- Faith is expectancy. You do not receive what you want; you do not receive what you pray for, not even what you say you have faith in. You will always receive what you actually expect.
- Sometimes, after someone has experienced a modest outworking as a result of his prayer effort, he may say, "Well, it is about what I expected!" He may only be trying to cover his wounded ego, but he is telling much about his faith.

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## If you can believe...

- Right where you are in your present level of development, there is a limitless resource of wisdom and guidance, of ability and creativity, and of substance and supply through which you can do, and do superlatively well, all that needs to be done ... if you can let go of limited self-identifications ... if you can believe.

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## Saying YES

- When you understand the "cosmic origin of desire," the role of faith takes on a whole new meaning. It is not a matter of, "Gee, I just wish I had enough faith to do this thing." If there is a need, there is an answer in infinite Mind; and the need reveals that the answer is already on its way to you. Thus, faith is not an attempt to demonstrate the magic of picking yourself up by the bootstraps. Faith is your consent. It is saying "Yes!" to the outforming of the creative process.

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## The need for practice

- Occasionally, a student of Truth will say, "I have worked so very long and hard to develop understanding. How long do I have to work at it until I arrive at the place where it just automatically works for me?" The thought is so understandable yet so naive. Ask the great athlete, or the concert pianist, or the successful actor if they have arrived at the place where they need no further practice. They will tell you that the higher you climb in proficiency and public acceptance, the greater the need for practice.

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## Materiality

- Unfortunately, some New Thought teachings of prosperity have been centered not in wholeness and spiritual well-being, but in the crassest kind of materiality. The "all things are possible" promise is met with the covetous gleam of dollar signs in the eyes. Techniques are offered by which to "work" for the high-powered job, the luxurious country home, the expensive foreign car. "Just treat for it, and you will get it."

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## Seek first ...

- This is not to say that you cannot have fine things, for you can, and you should. When you have a balanced consciousness centered in the ever-present substance of God, the things will come easily as they are needed. It is a matter of priorities: "... *seek first his kingdom* ..." (Matt. 6:33) In other words, the first step should be not to treat for things, but to get centered in the divine flow.

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## Consent to your uniqueness

- Faith is really your consent to let your own uniqueness unfold and to let that which is attracted by your uniqueness manifest in your life. Thus, when Jesus said, "All things are possible to them that believe," He did not say that a swan can become a duck, or that a non-musical person can become a concert pianist. You cannot become something that is not the outforming of your own inner potential. You can only *be* you. However, you can unfold more of the you that may have been long frustrated.

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## Your own pattern

- As with the problem in transplant surgery where "rejection syndrome" prevents the tissue from taking hold, so you are unable to hold or to fully experience that which has not come out of your own pattern.

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