

Spiritual Economics

Session 4 of 6

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1

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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For further study

- 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

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."

5

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.

3

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!*

6

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.

7

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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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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A heart full of greatness

- Let's look again at that puzzling statement of Paul's. Note that he does not say, "For all things give thanks."
- What Paul does say is "in all things give thanks." In other words, despite the problems of lack, or even because of them, the need is to get yourself recentered in the awareness of the ever-presence of substance.
- And the most effective way to accomplish this is by thanksgiving. He is stressing the importance of the grateful heart, not simply an expression of gratitude for things, but a heart that is grateful (full of greatness).

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Right where you are...

- To pray for prosperity out of a sense of complaint or discouragement is to effectively compound the problem. You may pray for improved financial conditions, but if you are feeling poor, your feeling is the consciousness you will be projecting. The grateful heart draws to itself great things. The ungrateful heart, the discouraged, complaining, covetous level of thought, will draw to itself limited things.
- Theodore Roosevelt used to say: *Do what you can with what you have right where you are.*

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Bless!

- In your gratefulness of heart, you can *confer prosperity upon* all the many things, experiences, and persons, whose performances have such a profound influence on your life. Bless the car you drive or the bus or train you ride. Bless the weather and the traffic. Bless your place of business or employment. Bless your employer and your co-workers. Bless your investments and your cash flow. Bless your home and family. Bless your friends and neighbors.

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- Refreshing is the holism of Ralph Waldo Emerson:
- *No matter what your work, let it be your own. No matter what your occupation, let what you are doing be organic. Let it be in your bones. In this way you will open the door by which the affluence of heaven and earth shall stream into you.*

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- Now, blessing exerts no magic power over these people, conditions, or things. In fact it doesn't change them at all; it changes you, your thoughts and feelings, and the consciousness you project into your world.

14

Real success is ...

- Success is not getting there; it is earning the right in consciousness to be there.
- Two persons may arrive at successful positions at the top of their field. One has clawed his way up and continues to fearfully hold on for dear life because within himself he is not sure he belongs there.
- The other is there because he has earned his wings every day.
- By appearances you cannot really know the difference.

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Work is an experience of growth

- You may protest, "But I do all that I am paid for!" However, work should be an experience of growth. If you are not growing in the process of doing your work, then something must be wrong. Kahlil Gibran lays it right on the line: *If you cannot work with love but only with distaste, then you should quit your job and go sit at the Temple and beg alms from those who work with joy.* A hard lesson, but an important insight into consciousness.

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• Seven: Reversing Financial Adversity

- Missing the mark is one of the ways in which I learn to hit the target. Failure is a vital part of achieving success. Thus the tragedy can become a blessing, the disadvantage can become an advantage, the failure can become an opportunity, and the disappointment can become "His" appointment.
- **I accept the reality of this situation, but not its permanence. ... It has "come to pass." I accept it, but I accept it as a changing experience that is on its way out. Something better is on the way for me.**

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On your terms ...

- There is an innocuous phrase used often in the Bible: *It came to pass*. It has a subtle inference that can be extremely meaningful to you. The problem or financial reversal did not come into your life to stay; it came to pass. Whatever the challenge, refuse to be panic-stricken. Life hasn't ended for you. It flows on in a healing and prospering stream. In the face of any challenge, affirm: *I accept the reality of this situation, but not its permanence*. The experience is there to be met. There is no use hiding your head in the sand. However, determine to meet it on your terms.

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- There was an article on the front page of the "Wall Street Journal" a few years ago that said: *Positive thinking is the way out of our economic malaise*. It went on to decry the excessive pessimism that is now engulfing us. It quoted the president of a large corporation as urging business leaders to adopt a more positive attitude to help dispel fears of impending economic doom and to restore confidence in the American people. It is easy to let such advice go right over our heads, just agreeing, "Yes, that is something 'they' should do." However, you are the leader of your

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- Don't let the outer happening squeeze you into its box, but open your mind to the flow of wisdom and love and good judgment with which you can deal masterfully with it. It has come to pass. Accept it, but accept it as a changing experience that is on its way out. Something better is on the way for you

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Problem or project

- Sometimes the difficulty is in the repeated use of words that could be replaced with some that have a more positive suggestion. For instance, the word "problem." You may say, "I have this problem." Immediately the mind turns to dark meanings and impassable obstacles and impossible people. A much better word to employ when referring to some kind of challenge is "project." Note what happens when you say, "I have this project." It makes all the difference in the world. The word "project" suggests a positive endeavor of development.

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Let something good be said

- Thus, whenever the discussion turns to the high cost of things and the lagging business of your employer and the frightening cycles of inflation and recession, don't acquiesce in negative conclusions. Position yourself squarely on the side of the prosperity potential, and "let something good be said."

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Consciousness is the key

- The great discovery of the new insight in Truth is that consciousness is the key to all things that happen to us, certainly the key to personal prosperity. The starting point in changing your life from financial reverses to an experience of abundance is the realization that you can change your life by altering your thoughts. You begin by taking responsibility for your own life. As long as you are hung up on paranoid thoughts such as, "It is what they are doing"; "It is what is happening in Washington".

25

• Eight: Security in a Changing World

- Feeling is the key! Whatever financial measures I take, if I am motivated by fear or anxiety, then I mine my roadway into the future with booby traps.
- **But I am secure, for I know who I am: a richly endowed child of God. I am secure in all I do, for I know my oneness with the divine process. I am secure in all I have, for I know my treasure is in my mind, not in my things. I live my life from day to day as if God's supportive substance were as exhaustless and dependable as the air I breathe, which it most**

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There is always some gain

- In every attempt in life, there must be the possibility of success *and* failure. We must have the stability and the perspective to deal with both success and failure in spiritual poise. You see, to become too elated with success and too crushed by defeat is indicative of an imbalance. In every setback we should be buoyed up with the realization that nothing is ever a complete loss. There is always some gain, some growth. And, in every success we should be humbled with the realization that without the action of forces greater than ourselves, we could not have succeeded

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Safety and/or Growth

- In the early days of life on Earth, Homo sapiens were surrounded by great beasts with superb built-in defenses: tusks, hides, claws, wings, shells, and tremendous brute strength. The human creature, seemingly so inadequate, so helpless, survived because his defense was in his creative ability, in the intuitive flow of ideas, in his spiritual dimension—no matter how primitive was its showing.
- If man had always tried simply to be safe at all costs, there would have been no Moses leaving the comfort of Egypt to lead his people through a vast wilderness and into their Promised Land. There would have been no Columbus braving uncharted

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Earning means learning

- Life is fundamentally a matter of growing, a growth experience. Missing the mark is one of the ways in which we learn to hit the target. Failure is a vital part of achieving success. We have erroneously thought of success as "getting there," while actually success is "earning the right to be there." And, earning means learning. Setbacks, even failures, may be an important part of that learning.

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The Millionaire Consciousness

- What the writers and teachers who talk so glibly of the "millionaire consciousness" tend to conveniently overlook is that the millionaire models they use, to a person, achieved their great affluence, not because of a desire to find security, but because they were entrepreneurs, risk-takers and adventurers who launched out beyond the barriers of accepted limitations. Someone has said (and it could well have been one of these models) that the best way to be safe is never to be secure.

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What is my motivation?

- What are we saying? That we should not take out insurance or save or invest our money? Not at all! Actually, security is more psychological than financial. Feeling is the key! Whatever financial measures we take, if we are motivated by fear or anxiety, then we mine our roadway into the future with booby traps. But, if we plan and conserve, and keep our thoughts centered in God as our limitless resource of good, then our way will be filled with success and fulfillment.

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- [19] And He *answered them and *said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!"
- [20] They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth*.
- [21] And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.
- [22] "It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"
- [23] And Jesus said to him: "If You can? All things are possible."

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Help my unbelief

- Now, one may insist that he puts his trust in God and in no other agency, and that he does not need and will not accept insurance. And, other than automobile insurance which may be required in some states, we bless him in his stand. However, a word of caution. There is a great difference between *wanting* to believe and *really* believing. Recall the honesty of the man who asked Jesus for help: . . . "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24) All too often a person refuses to face up to his hidden unbelief and willfully follows a self-delusive course of independence

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- [25] When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again."
- [26] After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse that most of *them* said, "He is dead!"
- [27] But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.
- [28] When He came into *the house*, His disciples *began* questioning Him privately, "Why could we not drive it out?"
- [29] And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer."

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Mark 9

- [14] When they came *back* to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and *some* scribes arguing with them.
- [15] Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and *began* running up to greet Him.
- [16] And He asked them, "What are you discussing with them?"
- [17] And one of the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute;
- [18] and whenever it seizes him, it slams him *to the ground* and he foams *at the mouth*, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not *do it*."

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The consciousness of the flow

- Whatever you do in the way of investments, do it out of the consciousness of the divine flow. Keep yourself centered in God so that you do not flutter like a flag in the breeze when the Dow-Jones report is published every day. Keep your faith in the continuity of God's ever-present substance, no matter what the condition of the market in general, or your stock in particular. You might use this affirmation: *I give thanks to God as the source of my supply, and I bless (name your investment) as a channel through which it may manifest.*

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True security is in worthiness

True security is in worthiness, not in worth. If you are completely locked in to your money and possessions, your net worth, you may well be unconsciously trying to cover your unworthiness. And the more security you require, to cover your unworthiness, the more you feel insecure. Thus, despite properties, stock portfolio, and a good income, you live almost frantically attuned to the economic indicators, all because you have a secret sense of unworthiness. If you really feel worthy, you can let it all go and put the whole weight of your faith on the everlasting arms. If you find a deficiency through this test, you can do something about it and you should 37