

Defining Your Terms

Who is responsible for your success?

Many are waiting on God to prosper them, heal them or to do something for them that He has already done. We have been told in the Word That God has placed life or death before us and has given us the responsibility to choose.

Prosperity

II Corinthians 9:6-7: But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his hear, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

In verse 9 Paul says that Jesus became poor so we could become rich.

In Philippians 4:19 Paul said that God has supplied all our needs according to His riches by Christ Jesus, not according to our needs.

It's important to note that Paul said that if "we" sow sparingly "we" will reap sparingly. He continued to say that if we chose to sow much we will reap much. This sounds like we make our own decisions as to whether we have little or much. God has already made His decision about our prosperity. His decision is for us to prosper so now it's up to us to make a decision about our prosperity. We define our terms as to how we prosper.

Other areas where we define our terms

Matthew 6:33 When we seek His kingdom and His righteousness, things chase us instead of us chasing things.

Matthew 7:1-2 We define our terms as to whether we are judged.

Mark 11:25-26 We define our terms as to whether we are forgiven.

John 2:24-25 We define our terms as to whether we take offense.

Co-laboring with God

God told Adam to name the animals that He made. God did the hard part and gave man the easy part.

Calling our day

When our feet hit the floor in the morning we can define our day; good or bad. It's all about knowing who you are. Don't let the circumstances of the day determine your day. You can either win or lose based on your decision.

Roman Centurion

Matthew 8:5-13

1. The centurion was over 110 plus men. He was a pagan that worshipped idols but was concerned about his servant.
2. Jesus was willing to leave everything and go heal his servant.
3. "I am not worthy" does not mean that he was poor and ashamed. This is referring to the time constraints he and Jesus were under.
4. Because he understood authority he knew that Jesus' words had authority and would do what they were intended to do.
5. The Centurion knew more about authority and the power of words than Jesus' disciples.
6. The servant was healed the same hour the words were spoken.
7. Jesus set the Centurion, a heathen, up as the standard even above his disciples.

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32 The word prodigal generally means a vagabond or someone with no worth or value. However, there is another meaning used here: one with a very lavish lifestyle. The son's father was very wealthy.

The Elder Son

Both were the sons of a very wealthy father. There was a difference between the two sons. The elder son was always working for his worth. His identity was about his performance. The prodigal son's worth wasn't because of his performance.

A positive work ethic is good but we work from a position of our worth, not to get our worth. When we work from a position of our worth we begin to serve others. When we are working from a position of performance, we are serving ourselves.

When the Gulf coast was destroyed by Katrina, the people that built back did so based on their terms and standards of livelihood.

Someone who lives in a mansion has defined their terms and won't purchase a mobile home to live in. The wealthy don't purchase their "Sunday go-to-meeting" clothes at Wal-Mart. Why? They have defined their terms and that isn't one of them.

Donald Trump has defined his terms and he won't be setting up an office in an 1100 Square foot store front.

Woman of the Night

Luke 7:36-50 Let me set the stage for this very interesting and different story.

Jesus was invited by the Jewish leaders to a get together at the Chief Priest's home. The Jewish leaders were upset that their people were leaving to follow Jesus. Their intent was to get Jesus on their side. When Jesus sat down to eat with the religious leaders, a woman of the night came in and began to wash His feet with perfume. She started to weep, her tears fell on Jesus' feet and then she dried His feet with her hair. She even kissed His feet.

The smell of the perfume drew attention to what was going on. The Chief Priest thought that Jesus should know who this woman was. Jesus knew his thoughts and spoke to him.

The result is very interesting. The religious leaders wanted to be the ones that were held up as the standard. However, Jesus set this woman of the night, this prostitute, up as the standard.

Our standards or terms are not set up or determined by our performance. The attitude of our heart defines the terms of our life.

We define our terms for life!