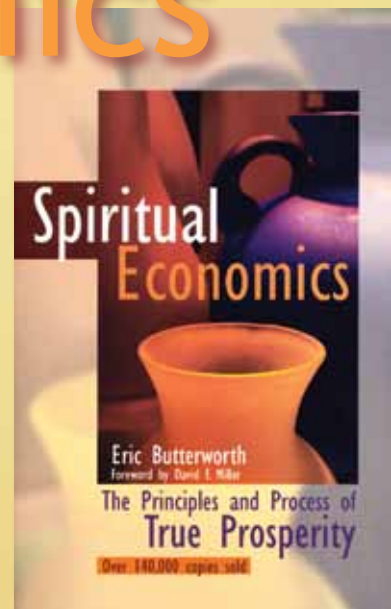


Practice of Thriving of *Thriving*

Opening to Divine Abundance Everywhere **2.0**

Spiritual **Economics**



*Based on the book
by Eric Butterworth*

Practice of Thriving

Opening to Divine Abundance Everywhere 2.0



www.Unity.org/Thrive

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Welcome to the Practice of Thriving 2.0

A program of Unity Worldwide Ministries

Aligned in harmony, we act with a singleness of purpose to transform ourselves, our ministries, and our world.

Unity Worldwide Ministries is more than 900 ministries worldwide and growing. We are also united as a whole—as one movement.

We have a vision worth working toward: Centered in God, we co-create a world that works for all. This is truly a transformational vision. Even in the face of seeming global chaos there is evidence the seeds of transformation are springing to life. Unity ministries are uniquely positioned to nurture these seeds beginning to take root and grow.

We believe that when we support our ministries in becoming thriving spiritual communities filled with thriving congregants, Unity will be on its way to fulfilling its powerful potential as a force for peace and healing. We have designed a series of programs to support you and your ministry in living into the fullness of Unity principles. Many may already be living into these principles, and we applaud you. We also know that continuous improvement is available to all who seek further growth.

By choosing to participate in the Practice of Thriving 2.0 program, you will experience:

- Deeper connection to the activity happening in the movement as a whole
- Increased energy and enthusiasm within your congregation
- Aligned commitment within your ministry's leadership
- Greater support for you as a transformational leader

Program Overview

This program has the potential to provide a transformative experience for you and your ministry. As with most things, the energy and effort you put into it will determine how much impact you receive from it. Below is an overview of the program and kit contents (this information is also available for download at www.unity.org/thrive).

Without giving the soul shrivels, but when giving is practiced as a part of Christian living, the soul expands and becomes Godlike in the grace of liberality and generosity.
—Charles Fillmore

Welcome

- Overview of Program
- Tracking Sheet for Ministries
- Tracking Sheet for Individuals
- Sample Timeline for Program

Practice of Thriving Course

Section 1: Getting Prepared

- The Art & Spirit of Prosperity
- Action Steps
- *Contact* article, “When Abundance Isn’t Enough”

Section 2: For Your Board

- Board Program Instruction
- Ministry Prosperity Assessment
- Course Workbook for Boards

Section 3: For Your Congregation

- Congregational Program Instructions
- Course Workbook for Congregations
- Power of Prosperity X 12

Section 4: Extras

Section 5 Board Workbook

Section 6: Congregation Workbook

How to complete the program for benchmark 3 of Thriving in Unity 2.0

This program may be completed as a stand-alone program or to satisfy benchmark 3 of Thriving in Unity 2.0 with some modifications. Because this benchmark is more involved, you will find an additional tracking sheet on the following page. In order to receive credit for this benchmark, please complete this sheet as well as the regular tracking sheet for benchmark 3 found in the Thriving in Unity 2.0 kit (available for download at www.unity.org/thrive)

How to Complete the Program

On the following pages you will find some sample timelines and a tracking sheet. The sample timelines will help you plan how to schedule the program activities throughout the duration of the program.

Please complete and return the tracking sheets to the Communications department at our association home office by April 30 so that we may honor your congregation in completing this powerful program at the next convention. Your efforts and recognition may provide just the inspiration needed for other ministries to make the choice to offer this program at their church.

A Word to Individual Participants

This program also has an individual Tracking Sheet for ministers and licensed teachers whose ministry is not participating, and for those who wish to do both the ministry and individual program. This tracking sheet has been modified to capture actions geared toward individuals. This tracking sheet is intended for your use alone—we will not require it for our records. We are glad to have you participate, but can only formally recognize ministries for this program.

Practice of Thriving Program Tracking Sheet for Ministries

Fill in this form as you complete each activity or task to track your progress. Once you have completed all tasks make a copy of this form and return it to Unity Worldwide Ministries' home office (Attn Communications) no later than April 30 to be recognized at the next Unity People's Convention.

Activity/Task	Date Completed	Notes
Review all materials for the Practice of Thriving program		
Introduce Practice of Thriving program to board members		
Hold class or retreat for board members—conduct Ministry Prosperity Assessment as part of class or retreat		
Set up triads for board members		
Introduce Practice of Thriving Program to congregation through a Sunday (or weeknight) Series based on the book <i>Spiritual Economics</i> (OPTIONAL: not needed for benchmark 3 credit for TiU 2.0 participants)		
Promote this series to your community, encourage congregants to invite guests		
Schedule and hold at least two 4-5 week classes for your congregation as a follow up to the above series		
Set up triads for class participants following the conclusion of the class		
Use the Power of Prosperity Messages 1 through 12 (one per month). Sign up at unity.org/enews .		
OPTIONAL: Revisit key themes from the book in Sunday lessons throughout the year.		

Practice of Thriving Program Tracking Sheet for Individuals

Fill in this form as you complete each activity or task to track your progress.

Activity/Task	Date Completed	Notes
Review all materials for the Practice of Thriving program		
Read the book <i>Spiritual Economics</i>		
Complete the course workbook for congregants		
Set up a prayer triad or find a prayer partner (continue holding consciousness together through April)		
Review one of the Power of Prosperity Messages at the start of each month and meditate on its message		
OPTIONAL		
Enroll in or facilitate the 4-5 week class with others		
Attend a prosperity workshop		

Sample Timeline for Practice of Thriving Program

Month 1	<p>Schedule class/retreat with board members</p> <p>Introduce Practice of Thriving Program and promote upcoming series on <i>Spiritual Economics</i></p> <p>Use Power of Prosperity Messages as a monthly email message, in newsletter, or as bulletin inserts.</p>	Month 2	<p>Begin class or hold retreat with Board Members</p> <p>As part of class or retreat conduct Ministry Prosperity Assessment with board members</p>	Month 3	<p>Begin Sunday (or weeknight) series based on book <i>Spiritual Economics</i></p> <p>(You may wish to offer the 4-5 week class now to complement your Sunday services.)</p>	Month 4		Month 5	<p>During holiday services promote upcoming class on <i>Spiritual Economics</i>.</p>
Month 6 (or January)	<p>Hold 4-5 week class for congregants</p> <p>Use Power of Prosperity Messages as a monthly email message, in newsletter, or as bulletin inserts.</p>	Month 7		Month 8	<p>Hold another 4-5 week class for congregants</p>	Month 9		Month 10 (or April)	<p>Complete paper work and send to Association home office (attention communications department).</p>

Blank Timeline

Create your own timeline for implementing the Practice of Thriving Program.

Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5
Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10 (or April)
				Complete paper work and send to Association home office (attention communications department).

The Practice of Thriving Course

Section 1: Getting Prepared

The Art & Spirit of Prosperity

Too often when we think of prosperity we think of it in terms of what we have or don't have or by what we can or cannot do. This causes us to measure our abundance by external circumstances. When we look at abundance as something that occurs outside of ourselves, we will forever find ourselves chasing an illusion of prosperity that simply does not exist.

Rather than focusing on what we have or what we wish to do, we can shift our focus on what we choose to be. Placing our focus on “being that which we have come here to be” allows us to connect deeply and powerfully with our divine purpose. When we are on purpose and in the flow, everything we need to accomplish that purpose is brought forth to us.

The Thriving Ministry Model™ is about linking our abundance to who we are and what we have come here to be. The first step in that process is remembering that God is our Source. Our prosperity comes only from Source—not from our paycheck, our congregation, our job, or anything but Source. Scripture tells us that by returning to God the first ten percent of our income, we will be forever blessed with the abundant flow of divine prosperity. Yet tithing continues to feel like a taboo subject rather than the gift that it is.

The Practice of Thriving 2.0 course is based on the book by Eric Butterworth, *Spiritual Economics*. This program aims to support your ministry in opening fully to divine abundance. With both board and congregational components, your ministry can step fully into demonstrating prosperity laws in action. Identify a champion for this program to keep it on track.

Action Steps

- **Prepare**
 - Step 1: Champion and minister read all course information provided
 - Step 2: Champion and minister read the book *Spiritual Economics*

- **For Your Board**
 - Step 3: Gain the commitment of the leadership first (board of trustees—including minister)
 - Step 4: Complete a prosperity assessment for your ministry
 - Step 5: Board trustees and minister read the book and complete the coursework (either a 6-7 week class or a weekend retreat):
 - Facilitator instructions provided
 - Workbook provided (may be printed and given to participants)
 - Step 6: Board trustees complete final prosperity assessment

- **For Your Congregation**
 - Step 7: Minister delivers a Sunday series based on the book by Eric Butterworth, *Spiritual Economics* (Optional for ministries enrolled in TiU 2.0—this step is not necessary to complete benchmark 3)
 - Lesson preparation materials provided
 - Accompanying music suggestions provided
 - Step 8: Minister or designee teaches 6-7 week class at least two times in the program period (Spiritual Education & Enrichment (SEE) credits available for the 6-7 week class—contact Unity Institute at 816.251.3535, ext. 2050 for more information)
 - Facilitator instructions provided
 - Workbook provided (may be printed and given to participants)
- **Extras for Everyone**
 - Step 9: Sign up for the Power of Prosperity X 12 at unity.org/enews and share these monthly prosperity messages with your congregants by email or newsletter
 - Ready for more? If you haven't completed the Practice of Thriving 1.0, check out this powerful program at www.unity.org/thrive

Section 2: For Your Board

Gaining Your Board's Commitment

It can be said that the most critical group of lay leaders in any ministry is its board of trustees. Whether they know it or not, board members serve as role models for other congregants. Together with the minister, the board serves as a resonant core, setting the vibration or consciousness at the foundation of the ministry which in turn affects the vibration or consciousness of the organization as a whole. Research shows that consciousness of the congregation as a whole, and of the ministry as an organization, will not rise above the level of consciousness demonstrated by its leaders. If the board operates from fear in how it makes decisions, it's likely that fear will spill out into the general congregation. If the board holds the high watch and demonstrates spiritual principles and models best practices, this, too, will spill out and influence the general congregation.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

Thriving ministries, by design or by chance, are congruent and in integrity from their most committed leaders to their newest members. In other words, thriving ministry leaders live the wise words of Mahatma Gandhi, “We must be the change we wish to see.” Rather than just talking about spiritual principles they live them. Rather than just teaching spiritual principles, they demonstrate them. They lead by example, asking only that which they are willing to do themselves. Any shift in consciousness within the congregation must first be present at the board level. It is for this reason that, as with any consciousness raising initiative, our focus on enhancing a ministry’s abundance must begin at the top.

Many people have had limited exposure to charitable giving, and fewer still may be familiar with the spiritual practice of tithing. Some may understand that giving is an important and good thing to do, yet they may have no sense of why or how to proceed, nor have a full grasp of the connection between personal finances and spiritual principles. As ministers and spiritual leaders, one of the greatest gifts we can ever offer to those we serve is prosperity education. If you yourself are practicing prosperity principles, you know how powerful this is. Yet, often in ministry we shy away from sharing this blessing with others for fear it will be interpreted as “just a push for more money.”

Research shows that when the subject of giving or tithing is taught from the platform as a way to find freedom from fear and experience universal abundance, giving in the church is strengthened and congregants’ lives are changed for the better. In order to help people understand more about this important spiritual practice, they must not only hear it spoken from the platform and take training classes, they must witness it in practice. They will take their cues from what they see and hear being authentically practiced by the leaders in the church.

The board sets the tone for the rest of the ministry. They lead in creating the field of consciousness, along with the ministerial staff. As the leadership moves through the material in this program and builds or strengthens its prosperity consciousness with a disciplined spiritual practice, the effects will be felt across the entire ministry.

Board Program Instructions

The material in this section asks your board members to approach the teachings from the perspective of an officer of the organization. While they will most certainly find applications for their own personal finances, and they will be challenged to personally demonstrate prosperity principles, the main focus is the financial health of the ministry rather than their own. For this reason, board members are encouraged to enroll in the congregational course as well. Spiritual Education and Enrichment credit is available for the 6-7 week congregational class, but not for the board session. Through the congregational class, not only will the board be served personally, congregants will benefit from seeing board trustees at classes and interacting with them on the subject of prosperity principles.

Please select one of the following options to present the material and begin developing the field as a leadership group.

- Meet weekly for 6-7 weeks
- Hold Friday evening and full-day Saturday board “abundance” retreat

Action Steps

1. Let the congregation know that the board is enrolled in the Practice of Thriving 2.0 program at the board level.
2. Schedule your meeting nights or your weekend retreat.
3. Invite the board trustees to read the book, *Spiritual Economics*, by Eric Butterworth before the retreat or according to the reading schedule for the class.
4. One to two weeks before you begin, make two copies of the assessment and give to board trustees to complete (one before and one after). Ask them to answer as honestly as possible. During your first meeting, or on Friday night, board members and minister share their answers from the Ministry Prosperity Assessment (see next page.). **If you completed this assessment in the Practice of Thriving 1.0**, compare your new results with your past results.
5. Take the board members through the questions in the board workbook. You may have other questions you wish to include, or the participants may come with questions to unpack together. Detailed facilitator instructions are on page 18.
6. At the end of the course or retreat, have each trustee complete the final prosperity assessment (found on page 22) and see if perspectives have changed. Discuss any changes and any action steps for the board at the first regular board meeting you have following the close of the course.

Ministry Prosperity Assessment

Take a few moments to center yourself. Breathe in deeply and bring into your heart the appreciation you feel for your church community. Ask for guidance in answering these questions as honestly as possible, knowing it will support the shift in consciousness of your ministry. When you are ready, write your answers in a journal or on separate paper.

1. What does it mean for your church to be prosperous?
2. Does this church have a prosperity consciousness?
3. Who holds that consciousness for the church?
4. What is your part as a board trustee in the prosperity of your church?
5. Does the church talk about prosperity?
6. What kind of prosperity education is being done in the church? What other ideas do you have?
 - a. Classes?
 - b. Talk from the pulpit?
 - c. Prayer groups?
 - d. Newsletters?
7. How does this board understand prosperity in the church? Is it just by the tithes and love offerings that we demonstrate prosperity as a ministry?
8. What are the feelings about prosperity on this board? Do you, as a board member, feel the prosperity of your church? If yes, why? If not, why not? Would people in your church agree?
9. What could this church be if money were no issue?
10. What, if anything, holds this ministry back from being prosperous? Would it take an uncomfortable change? What would that discomfort look and feel like?
11. How do you as a board address fear around lack in the church?
12. As a board trustee, what are you willing to do to raise the prosperity consciousness of this ministry?
 - a. Do you think that the leaders in the church need to model prosperity? Are you willing to be a model? What does it mean to be a model?
 - b. Do you tithe to this ministry? Are you willing to tithe?
 - c. Are you willing to talk about prosperity?

You are prosperous to the degree that you are experiencing peace, health, and plenty in your world.

—Catherine Ponder

Facilitator's Responsibilities and Guide for Board Course/Retreat

This can be done as a 6-7 week class or a Friday night-all day Saturday retreat. If done as a retreat, each session is about two hours. Participants will most benefit from this course as a retreat, if they have read the entire book before attending. If this is not possible, it is better to teach it as a class with time in between sessions to read the designated chapters. Before the class begins, ask participants to read chapters 1 and 2.

Keep in mind that this course is focused on the church's prosperity and deepening the expression of abundance it experiences. It is very important that all board members take the individual class to focus on their personal prosperity practices as well as model for the congregation the importance and the great gift of living in prosperity consciousness.

Session One—The Truth About Substance & Your Fortune Begins with You

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on what it means to think of God as substance. This is a key understanding for Butterworth. It is time to explore what old notions of God may still hold you back from abundant flow.

By understanding the concept that your fortune begins with you, the leadership team will understand how critical they are for setting a prosperity consciousness for the entire congregation. They will be asked to monitor their own thinking and notice how well they do in keeping positive and useful thoughts in mind. Fortunately, research shows that positive thoughts are far more powerful than negative ones. With practice and intention we can move toward eliminating our negative thinking.

Homework Assignment: Read chapters 3 & 4 and do the suggested exercise to become conscious of thought patterns.

Set up prayer triads this week:

To continue expanding your prosperity consciousness, each board member is invited to join with two to four others in a prayer triad. Triad refers to a group of three but for the purposes of Practice of Thriving a group of three to five is perfect. The members may determine for themselves what days/times they wish to meet (weekly, bi-weekly, in person, by phone, etc.). They may wish to meet 15 to 30 minutes before each class.

These beloved ones are the ones you will be most vulnerable with. You will share with them what you are not comfortable sharing with the world. They will hold in close confidentiality what you have shared and they will hold the "high light" for you when you are having trouble holding it for yourself. Remember that what is shared in the group stays in the group.

This is not a time for “stories,” but rather a time to come together to share prayer intentions and requests and to hold them in the highest light. You may have a format you wish to use, or you may wish to use this simple format:

1. Go around the circle and each person offers a brief (less than 2 minutes) check-in.
2. Go around again and each person offers a prayer intention/request.
3. One person then offers a heart-felt affirmative prayer for the group and offers thanksgiving for all that is blooming forth (you may rotate the responsibility for this).
4. Go around once more to allow each person to offer a word of thanks.

Session Two—The Law of Visualization & If You Can Believe

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on the law of visualization. You will contemplate how clear you are as a board in visualizing the same future for the church. Do you have a clear mission, vision, values statement, and goals? You will discuss the “I AM” that you are as a congregation and the role of the board in modeling and sustaining a clear spiritual path.

In New Thought we step away from the child hoping, waiting, and petitioning for the parent God to provide everything. Rather, we simply know that we are provided for and expect to see that manifest in our lives. You will take time to discuss as a group your personal views on faith and how that shapes the church’s experience. How are you as a church identifying yourself and what expectations do you have for prosperity?

Homework Assignment: Read chapters 5 & 6 and journal on the phrase, “I will see it when I believe it.”

Session Three—The Grateful Heart & Work and the Success Syndrome

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on what it means to have a grateful heart. As a board you will contemplate how the church expresses its gratitude for all the blessing it receives. Understanding how blessing a situation clears the path for increased flow, you will contemplate how to plan for and systematically bless the congregation, the leadership and the church as an organization.

With work and the success syndrome, Butterworth reminds us that our attitude toward our work and when we work is so very important in the establishment of flow. If work is done begrudgingly, flow is stifled. If work is seen as a way of lavishly giving your best into the world, this gift stimulates flow. How do staff and board members approach their work/service? Is there great joy and fulfillment in giving through work to the organization or is the energy stuck in ho-hum or difficult attitudes?

Homework Assignment: Read chapters 7 & 8 and journal about your relationship with your position on the board and how you look at this volunteer role (job).

Session Four—How to Reverse Financial Adversity & Security in a Changing World

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on how to reverse financial adversity. If you are experiencing issues as a church, delve deeply into what you as a leadership team can do about it. What does Butterworth suggest? Are you willing to follow those suggestions? If not, why not? How much “bad news” do you as a church broadcast? Is there a way to keep people informed without beating the drum of worry or despair?

Having security in a changing world means getting clear about how we can truly feel secure. What gives us the sense of security? If we are looking to temporal things, we will always be disappointed. You will discuss with your board what Butterworth suggests brings a sustainable feeling of security—our consciousness.

Homework Assignment: Take some time in quiet meditation with the Sermon on the Mount. Begin where Jesus is telling the crowd, “Do not be anxious...” Mat 6:25. Afterwards spend some time journaling about how you can build a consciousness of security. Read chapters 9 and 10.

Session Five—The Money Enigma & Discover the World of Giving

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on how our attitude toward money shapes our prosperity. Can we come to see money as simply a form of energy exchange? As with other ways we exchange energy, a money exchange can be done with love or dread. Which will create the best environment for prosperity? How does the church handle its money? What is the attitude of those handling the money?

As you move into the wonder of giving discussion, you will look at the ways your church gives. Are you making space enough to receive? What ways are you triggering the cycle of abundance, or not? Understanding the mechanics of giving as spiritual law is critical if your ministry is to be in alignment with this law.

Homework Assignment: Now is the time to give. Jesus told the widow to start where she was. Clean out closets and give it away—without thought of the cost or of a return. Give some volunteer hours at the church. Give a kind word when someone is down. Give love to the world. Take time to journal the experience. Read chapters 11 and 12.

Session Six—A New Look at Tithing & A New World Order

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these on cards or as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on the spiritual practice of tithing. As with regular time in the silence, this practice keeps us connected to Source, remembering our true nature and having the experience of being fully supported by the universe. The real point of tithing is to take action that assists us in sustaining a giving consciousness. When we cultivate a giving consciousness we feel wealthy. When we feel wealthy we are wealthy—and we are free from fear. A different world emerges for us. Your board will discuss your church's tithing policy, your board's tithing policy and the difference between charitable giving and tithing.

Discuss the difference between charitable giving and tithing: because tithing is about telling the universe what we want more of in our lives, what we are grateful for, a tithe only goes to where you have been spiritually fed, not as a help/support for a worthy cause. Charitable giving should be undertaken as well, but not as part of a tithe.

A new world order brings into focus the call for a future worth working toward. What is the future for your church? How can your church and each leadership team member be part of the solution to the current appearance of economic distress?

No homework.

Celebrate!

Either celebrate at the end of the last session, or schedule a celebration for the class. Invite members to continue their practice and follow up with any remaining action steps. They may also want to keep in touch with prayer partners.

Reassess: Take the board assessment again. How have your attitudes changed since studying this book? Share your thoughts when you meet next.

Ministry Prosperity Assessment #2

Complete after studying The Spiritual Economics Course.

Take a few moments to center yourself. Breathe in deeply and bring into your heart the appreciation you feel for your church community. Ask for guidance in answering these questions as honestly as possible, knowing it will support the shift in consciousness of your ministry. When you are ready, write your answers in a journal or on separate paper.

1. What does it mean for your church to be prosperous?
2. Does this church have a prosperity consciousness?
3. Who holds that consciousness for the church?
4. What is your part as a board trustee in the prosperity of your church?
5. How frequently does the church talk about prosperity?
6. What kind of prosperity education is being done in the church? What other ideas do you have?
 - Classes?
 - Talk from the pulpit?
 - Prayer groups?
 - Newsletters?
7. How does this board understand prosperity in the church? Is it just by the tithes and love offerings that we demonstrate prosperity as a ministry?
8. What are the feelings about prosperity on this board? Do you, as a board member, feel the prosperity of your church? If yes, why? If not, why not? Would people in your church agree?
9. What could this church be if money were no issue?
10. What, if anything, holds this ministry back from being prosperous? Would it take an uncomfortable change? What would that discomfort look and feel like?
11. How do you as a board address fear around lack in the church?
12. As a board trustee, what are you willing to do to raise the prosperity consciousness of this ministry?
 - Do you think that the leaders in the church need to model prosperity? Are you willing to be a model? What does it mean to be a model?
 - Do you tithe to this ministry? Are you willing to tithe?
 - Are you willing to talk about prosperity?
13. How have your responses changed from the first time you took this assessment?
14. What 2-3 action steps can the entire board take to help move the church forward in prosperity?
15. What 2-3 action steps can you, as an individual board trustee, take to experience prosperity?

Section 3: For Your Congregation

Now that you and your board have set the tone and field of consciousness for the ministry, it is time to move the program out into the congregation.

Congregational Program Instructions

Step 1: Announce that the ministry is starting on the Practice of Thriving 2.0 program. Share the components of the program:

- Board course/retreat to set and hold the consciousness for the ministry as a whole
- Classes for congregants
- Power of Prosperity X 12
- OPTIONAL: Sunday (or weekday) series based on the book, *Spiritual Economics*

Step 2: Begin sharing the Power of Prosperity X 12 messages in your newsletter, as bulletin inserts, emails, etc. (please go www.unity.org/enews for your free subscription).

Step 3 (optional): Plan and hold a Sunday or weekday series/service. Invite congregants to use this series/service as an opportunity to invite friends and family. You may even wish to advertise the series/service.

Step 4: Schedule and promote the 6-7 week class to the congregation and possibly to the broader community (this makes an excellent follow up to a Sunday service or series). Allow people to sign up that day if possible. Order books for class participants to purchase—also ideally available after Sunday service on the day(s) you promote the class. (*Spiritual Economics* is available at www.unity.org/shop.) Ask people to read chapters 1 and 2 as preparation if you are doing a six-week class.

Step 5: Hold the *Spiritual Economics* class at least two times before the close of the program period in April. (Facilitator's instructions are found on page 24.)

Step 6: Complete the Program Tracking Sheet and return it to our association home office to arrive (Attn: Communications) by April 30.

Optional Ways to Deepen Prosperity Consciousness

Revisit the themes of the series periodically throughout the year during Sunday talks, such as the power of thought, staying positive, God is within not in the sky, the principle of circulation, work as a gift, the true source of security, etc.

Share the results of your board course/retreat such as a new/updated organizational tithing policy and a new/updated board tithing policy. Go to www.unity.org/tithingpolicy for the association's tithing policy as a sample.

Facilitator's Responsibilities and Guide for Congregational Class

Optional Session A (for seven-week classes)

Give the class time to get to know each other by sharing a bit about themselves and their current understanding of prosperity principles. Break the class up into small groups to share. Possible questions to consider for the small group discussion include:

- What were you taught about money growing up?
- What kind of relationship do you have with money now and why?
- Is prosperity more than money? If so, describe it.
- What would you most like to get from this class?

Allow time for a full class discussion. Talk about prosperity. What does it mean to you? How open are you to receiving? Do you claim God as your Source for all?

Set the groundwork for the understanding that prosperity is not money or a particular thing or experience. Prosperity is really a consciousness or attitude toward life. It is the feeling of well-being and wealth in all circumstances. It is the deep knowing that an abundant flow of resources of all kinds is available in each minute of the day. The class will delve deeply into this based on the writings in *Spiritual Economics*. One becomes more conscious of this flow through specific practices and behaviors which will also be explored in the class.

Homework Assignment: Read chapters 1 & 2.

Session One—The Truth About Substance & Your Fortune Begins with You

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on what it means to think of God as Substance. This is a key understanding for Butterworth. It is time to explore what old notions of God may still hold you back from abundant flow.

By understanding the concept that your fortune begins with you, participants will understand how critical their attitude is in setting a prosperity consciousness for themselves and their family. They will be asked to monitor their own thinking and notice how well they do in keeping positive and useful thoughts in mind. Fortunately, research shows that positive thoughts are far more powerful than negative ones. With practice and intention we can move toward eliminating our negative thinking.

Homework Assignment: Read chapters 3 & 4 and do the suggested exercise to become conscious of thought patterns.

Set up prayer triads this week:

To continue expanding your prosperity consciousness, each participant is invited to join with 2-4 others in a prayer triad. Triad refers to a group of three but for the purposes of this class a group of three to five is perfect. The members may determine for themselves what days/times they wish to meet (weekly, bi-weekly, in person, by phone, etc.). They may wish to meet 15 to 30 minutes before each class.

These beloved ones are the ones you will be most vulnerable with. You will share with them what you are not comfortable sharing with the world. They will hold in close confidentiality what you have shared and they will hold the “high light” for you when you are having trouble holding it for yourself. Remember that what is shared in the group stays in the group.

This is not a time for “stories,” but rather a time to come together to share prayer intentions and requests and to hold them in the highest light. You may have a format you wish to use, or you may wish to use this simple format:

1. Go around the circle and each person offers a brief (less than 2 minutes) check-in.
2. Go around again and each person offers a prayer intention/request.
3. One person then offers a heart-felt affirmative prayer for the group and offers thanksgiving for all that is blooming forth (you may rotate the responsibility for this).
4. Go around once more to allow each person to offer a word of thanks.

Session Two—The Law of Visualization & If You Can Believe

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on the law of visualization. Participants will contemplate how clear they are in visualizing a positive future for themselves. Do you have a vision for your life? Do you know your personal values? Are they written anywhere? What about goals? Discuss the “I AM” that you are as individuals, as families and as a spiritual community.

In New Thought we step away from the child hoping, waiting, and petitioning for the parent God to provide everything. Rather we simply know that we are provided for and expect to see that manifest in our lives. Take time to discuss as a group your personal views on faith and how that shapes your experience of abundance or lack of abundance. How are you identifying yourself and what expectations do you have for prosperity?

Homework Assignment: Read chapters 5 & 6 and journal on the phrase, “I will see it when I believe it.”

Session Three—The Grateful Heart & Work and the Success Syndrome

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on what it means to have a grateful heart. Contemplate how you express gratitude for all the blessing you receive. Understanding how blessing a situation clears the path for increased flow, you will contemplate how to plan for and systematically bless the congregation, your family and all those around you.

With work and the success syndrome, Butterworth reminds us that our attitude toward our work and when we work is so very important in the establishment of flow. If work is done begrudgingly, flow is stifled. If work is seen as a way of lavishly giving your best into the world, this gift stimulates flow. How do participants approach their work and volunteer service? Is there great joy and fulfillment in giving through work to the organization or is the energy stuck in ho-hum or difficult attitudes?

Homework Assignment: Read chapters 7 & 8 and journal about your relationship with your job (or volunteer role).

Session Four—How to Reverse Financial Adversity & Security in a Changing World

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on how to reverse financial adversity. If you are experiencing issues individually, as a family and even as a church, delve deeply into what you can do about it. Butterworth says that even the prosperity of the nation can be affected by our attitude. What does Butterworth suggest? Are you willing to follow those suggestions? If not, why not? How much “bad news” do you watch and share with others? Do you beat the drum of worry or despair?

Having security in a changing world means getting clear about how we can truly feel secure. What gives us the sense of security? If we are looking to temporal things, we will always be disappointed. Discuss what Butterworth suggests brings a sustainable feeling of security—our consciousness.

Homework Assignment: Take some time in quiet meditation with the Sermon on the Mount. Begin where Jesus is telling the crowd, “Do not be anxious...” Mat 6:25. Afterwards spend some time journaling about how you can build a consciousness of security. Read chapters 9 and 10.

Session Five—The Money Enigma & Discover the World of Giving

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on how our attitude toward money shapes our prosperity. Can we come to see money as simply a form of energy exchange? As with other ways we exchange energy, a money exchange can be done with love or with dread. Which will create the best environment for prosperity? How do you handle your money? What attitude do you have when circulating money?

As you move into the wonder of giving discussion, participants will look at the ways they give. Are you making space enough to receive? What ways are you triggering the cycle of abundance, or not? Understanding the mechanics of giving as spiritual law is critical if your ministry and your life are to be in alignment with this law.

Homework Assignment: Now is the time to give. Jesus told the widow to start where she was. Clean out closets and give it away—without thought of the cost or of a return. Give some volunteer hours at the church. Give a kind word when someone is down. Give love to the world. Take time to journal the experience. Read chapters 11 and 12.

Session Six—A New Look at Tithing & A New World Order

Optional Triad Meeting Time: Prayer triads meet for 20-30 minutes before class.

Opening: Open with the centering prayer provided and share the scripture quote and affirmation. You may wish to have these as a handout for participants.

Overview of Themes: Together you will reflect on the spiritual practice of tithing. As with regular time in the silence, this practice keeps us connected to Source, remembering our true nature and having the experience of being fully supported by the universe. The real point of tithing is to take action that assists us in sustaining a giving consciousness. When we cultivate a giving consciousness we feel wealthy. When we feel wealthy we are wealthy—and we are free from fear. A different world emerges for us. Invite participants to discuss tithing (small groups is an option here). Have they tried it? If so, what was the result? If not, why not?

Discuss the difference between charitable giving and tithing: because tithing is about telling the universe what we want more of in our lives, what we are grateful for, a tithe only goes to where you have been spiritually fed, not as a help/support for a worthy cause. Charitable giving should be undertaken as well, but not as part of a tithe.

End the class with a discussion of Butterworth's idea on a new world order. He brings into focus the call for a future worth working toward. What will be the future for you, your family, your church, your community, your nation, the world? How can you be part of the solution to this economic distress?

No homework.

Celebrate!

Either celebrate at the end of the last session, or schedule a celebration for the class. Invite participants to continue their practice and follow up with any remaining action steps. They may also want to keep in touch with prayer partners.

Section 4: Extras

Power of Prosperity X 12

Support your efforts to raise prosperity conscious by using the Power of Prosperity X 12 messages available at www.unity.org/enews. This resource is provided free of charge and arrives by email directly in your inbox. You can use these powerful messages as emails to your congregation, as articles in your newsletters, or as inserts in your Sunday bulletin. Congregants will find these messages an inspiring addition to their personal spiritual practice around prosperity.

Sign up at www.unity.org/enews. You will receive 12 monthly messages that support the focus of the Practice of Thriving 2.0 program. Back issues are also available.

Promoting Your Class/Service(s)

Visit www.unity.org/thrive to find downloadable artwork to use for bulletins, ads, posters, newsletters, email, etc. in promoting your activities.

The Music of Prosperity

To help you strengthen prosperity consciousness and an abundance attitude within your congregation, consider doing a Sunday service or series on the book, *Spiritual Economics*, by Eric Butterworth. You can use the materials for the class as inspiration in preparing your talk(s) and add some of the powerful songs listed below.

Because music has such a profound impact on us, it is so important to have music that supports your lessons in consciousness. We have assembled this list of songs that will help you raise the prosperity consciousness of your congregation in association with your lessons.

“Give it Away,” by Richard Mekdeci

“If it's love you're after, give it away. Good news or laughter, give it away . . .”

CD “God Is!” Songbook *Peace In Our Lifetime*

Contact: Richard@empowerma.com

“Money is Coming to Me,” by Karen Drucker
“Money is coming to me easily and effortlessly, money is coming to me”
CD and Songbook *Songs of the Spirit II* **Contact:** www.karendrucker.com

“Center Me,” by Leddy Hammock and Sue K-Riley
“Center me, in the Presence of the Lord...still me ‘til I can decide, with love at my heart side....
center me”
CD and Songbook *Twelve Women of the Chalice* **Contact:** sue@empowerma.com

“Ready, Willing, and Worthy,” by Richard Mekdeci
“I’m ready, willing, and worthy to open my heart and receive all of the Heavenly blessings
there for me when I believe”
CD “God Is!” Songbook *Peace In Our Lifetime* **Contact:** Richard@empowerma.com

“So Much More,” by Jennifer Ferren
“I can see abundance flowing effortlessly in and through me, there's always higher good in
store when we let Spirit open the door showing us there's so much more”
Songbook, *Baby Steps* **Contact:** jferrensings@aol.com

“Ready to Use the Gifts I’ve Been Given,” by Jana Stanfield and Greg Tamblyn
“I’m ready to use the gifts I’ve been given to make this world a better place to live in.”
CD Greg Tamblyn “No Credentials Whatsoever” www.gregtamblyn.com
Jana Stanfield “Stop Look and Listen” business@janastanfield.com
Songbook, *Jana Stanfield Songbook*

“Prosperity Chant,” by Karen Drucker
“What do I want, what do I desire, what will bring me to my highest good...prosperity I claim it”
CD and Songbook *Songs of the Spirit II*

“Get a Bigger Pan,” by Karen Talyor Good & Lisa Aschmann
“Don’t throw those dreams back in the lake. It’s not that you can’t have it all,
you’ve just been dreaming way too small. Get a bigger pan, get a bigger pan”
CD “Song Guru” www.karentaylorgood.com

“Special Penny,” by David Roth
“So I took it from my pocket, and I placed it ‘neath a tree...that’s why a special penny is a
treasure to be found”
CD “Practice Makes Progress” Songbook—*Special Services and Chants Volume 1*
Contact: www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org or call our ordering department: 816-524-7414

“My Gift Goes Forth,” by Mel White
“My gift goes forth, on the wings of love, and it lands where it can heal and bless”
Songbook *One Voice*
Contact: www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org or call our ordering department: 816-524-7414

“The Goodness of God,” by Sue K-Riley
“Yours are the hands, yours is the voice to celebrate the goodness of God”
CD “Lofty Ideals” Songbook *Spirit Is Joy*
Contact: www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org or call our ordering department: 816-524-7414

“More Than Enough,” by Daniel Nahmod
“God’s infinite love will provide more than enough”
CD and Songbook, *Sacred Love*
See www.danielnahmod.com

For information on where to buy the music, song pairing books, more songbooks and music resources, see www.unity.org/music under “Music Products”. These items can be ordered at www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org or call our ordering department: 816-524-7414

Songlist above is excerpted from, *Let’s Plan the Service—Song Suggestions and Pairings for a Cohesive Service*, compiled by Sue K-Riley

An invaluable resource of over 400 New Thought songs and themes including contact and order information. **To order:** email sue@empowerma.com

How to sign up for music email

The Path e-newsletter now goes to 1700 music directors, ministers and musicians every month. It’s Music section is filled with relevant articles, featured artists, CD reviews and a free sheet music PDF each month. Opt in to begin receiving yours at www.unity.org/eneews. We encourage you to take advantage of this resource if you are not already doing so.

Board Workbook

The Practice of Thriving

Within each of us is an inner urge to live life to its fullest, and to share that fullness with others as well. Eric Butterworth has succinctly detailed the steps that are necessary to achieve this fullness. He appropriately warns that it is not the accumulation of “things” but the will to serve and share the abundant life which is available if we are willing to listen to our inner Source and to translate our inner voice into vision and action.

— David Miller

As a board member you have stepped up to a higher calling. You have stepped into leadership. It is a big responsibility to not only attend board meetings but to be present to a variety of things going on in the church. It also calls you to be the model for the rest of the congregation. The congregation needs to see you active in the church but they must also see you working on your own spiritual growth. As a board member you should be tithing to the church to set the model for the rest of the congregation. The board whether conscious of it or not sets the energy field for the congregation.

*A church consciousness can never rise
above the consciousness of its leadership.*
—Unknown

Introduction

An idea whose time has come

This is a book about true prosperity. The concepts it articulates are applicable to organizations and to people. You have been drawn to this book by divine appointment, so it just could be that *Spiritual Economics* is an idea whose time has come in your life.

This great idea whose time has come is that there is no such thing as a purely financial problem. It is time to become aware of our false attitudes and emotions which caused it or a healthy attitude or emotion which can cure it.

It has been commonly assumed that in times of economic reverses, we are all victims of a strange malaise about which there is little that can be done other than to wait and see. However, the study of the laws of spiritual economics reveals that there is much we can do, personally, for ourselves and in concert for our country and our world.

Eric Butterworth encourages all as they do the study of *Spiritual Economics* to:

- Take responsibility for your own thoughts, thus taking charge of your own life.
- Declare your personal independence from the belief that your personal welfare is completely tied to the economic fluctuations of the world “out there.”
- Establish yourself in the unassailable conviction that the free flow of substance can only be dammed up from within.
- Know that no one can keep your good from you but you.
- Refuse to indulge in casual conversation about the bad economy.

*Greater than the tread of mighty
armies is an idea whose time has come.*
—Victor Hugo

Week One

*The Truth About Substance &
Your Fortune Begins With You*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

I open the gates of my consciousness to receive the abundant blessings God has in store for me. I let go of limitation and embrace my amazing new life.

Scripture

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds...

—Ro 12:2 (NRSV)

The Truth About God And Substance

God is not a being with qualities or attributes, but He is the good itself coming into expression as life, love, power, wisdom.

—H. Emily Cady

There is only one presence in my life and in the universe, God the good, omnipotent. Many times we have heard or repeated this statement. Have you ever really thought about what it meant? What does it mean to your church? Write your thoughts here:

Webster’s Dictionary defines omnipotent as “having virtually unlimited authority or influence.” But God is not only omnipotent, God is omnipresent defined by Webster as “present in all places at all times.” And God is omniscient, defined by Webster as “having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight. Possessed with complete knowledge.”

Butterworth tells us: “God is the allness of ever-present substance in which we live, move, and have our being. And is the subtle, but vitally important key on which the entire structure of spiritual economics rests.” Substance comes from the Latin “substare,” which means “stand under.” So, what is standing under all that we see? The presence of God. The truth is that substance is everywhere present—it is present in us and all around us. We are the activity of God—God is expressing as us! Isn’t this amazing? We are actually expressions of God.

Charles Fillmore tells us in the *Revealing Word*: “Substance is everywhere equally present, pervades all things, and inspires to action. It underlies all manifestation and is the spiritual essence, the living energy out of which everything is made.”

Myrtle Fillmore, in *How to Let God Help You*, states, “The physical substance which we call the earth is the visible form of the spiritual substance that pervades all things.”

There is no place in all of the universe where substance is any more or any less present than right where you are. It is time to recognize that substance and call it forth in your life.

1. With your other board members discuss about God as Substance and how it shows up in the church.

Your Fortune Begins With You

God's rich supply is all around you universally, as well as innately within you, as talents, abilities, and ideas longing for expression.

—Catherine Ponder, *The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity*

In man's world there are many manmade laws. And breaking these laws have consequences in our life. Think of some manmade laws and list below.

There are laws of nature that when broken can cause us physical discomfort. List some below.

Then there are universal laws. These are the laws that we govern with our mind. To understand and use these laws you must first understand the "Law of Consciousness." Consciousness is defined by Webster as "the quality or state of being aware especially of something within oneself." Consciousness has to do with thoughts we are holding about any situation, when we can intentionally or unintentionally affect the world around us by our thoughts. We more often call it the "Law of Mind Action." Butterworth tells us that we are magnetic forces drawing to us that which we think, whether positively or negatively. Fillmore tells us that thoughts manifest not only into things in our outer world but also people and situations. How are you using the "Law of Consciousness" in your life? Share a time of discussion with the class.

An exercise to try on your own: Think a positive thought about a situation. Set a timer for 10 minutes. Check your conscious thinking. How far did you stray from that initial positive thought? Now is a good time to start a journal. Do this exercise several times in the next week and record what happened. Share with your group.

Homework assignment: Read chapters 3 and 4 and do the exercise above at least once a day. Journal your experience.

Week Two

*The Law Of Visualization
& If You Can Believe*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

I see every person, place, and thing in my world through the eyes of God and co-create a life of lavish beauty, wonder, and magnificence.

Scripture

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Ps 128:5

The Law of Visualization

Man can only receive what he sees himself receiving.
—Florence Scovel Shinn

The Law of Visualization is seeing with the inner eye of right judgment. It is not settling with the way things are, but visualizing them the way they can be. You see it from God consciousness. You project that consciousness. When you are centered in oneness with God substance you see substance everywhere. This is not being blind to the facts but rather contemplating them from the highest point of view. The way God sees every situation—in total abundance.

We must always remember that life is lived from the inside to the outside. If you don't like what you see out in your world, go into the silence and recreate that world. Own it within your mind and heart and then project it out into your world.

1. It is important for the church to have a clear vision, mission and goals. As a board answer the question: Why are we here as a church? What is our mission and are we working together to accomplish that mission?
2. Eric speaks of our own self “I-AMage.” A church has a self I-AMage too. How do your congregants speak of the church? Are they proud to say they are Unity or is your church the best kept secret in town?
3. Do you as a board member have a clear understanding of Unity's teachings and principles? If not, are you willing to take classes and learn?
4. As a leader in your church, are you also on your own spiritual path and are you growing? Are you sharing this with members of your church?

*Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream you shall become.
Your vision is the promise of what you shall one day be.
Your idea is the prophecy of what you shall at last unveil.*
—James Allen

If You Can Believe

All things are possible to him that believeth.
—Mark 9:33 (KJV)

Butterworth tells us, “There is no way that you can really begin to understand ‘spiritual economics’ or to make it work until you are free from the sense of God ‘up there’ and to be on fire with the awareness of the Presence of God within.”

This is where faith comes into play. Butterworth defines faith as consciousness centered in the universal source. Faith is not the magic wand that makes God work nor does it release some kind of miracle power. Faith is not a vague process of believing in something out there. It is a positive act of turning on something within each one of us. Charles Fillmore names it as the first of the 12 innate powers of God that everyone is born with.

Faith is expectancy. It is important to remember that the creative process is at work all the time and is directed by what you expect to happen. Wayne Dyer’s book title says it all... “You will see it when you believe it”

1. Where is God for your church?

3. Is it time to change the image and self identifiers of your church? List three old identifiers and then reframe them in a way that brings to the church what it desires.

Homework assignment: Read chapters 5 and 6 for next week. Take time in the silence to connect with God within. Journal on “ I will see it when I believe it.”

Week Three

*The Gratefull Heart &
Work and the Success Syndrome*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

I bring to each experience, a heart of appreciation and gratitude. I see the handiwork of God everywhere I turn.

Scripture

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Col 3:16

The Grateful Heart

*A grateful mind is a great mind which
eventually attracts great things.*
—Plato

What is your most important asset? Butterworth says, “If you carefully search within yourself, you may come to the awareness that your most important asset is the conscious control of your own life. Nothing else can satisfy or fulfill unless you enjoy the freedom that comes from the control of your inner world of mind and emotions.”

We give other people and things the power to control our lives, but even more importantly, our thoughts. We listen to TV news about decline in the economy and we panic or get angry. One important truth is that you cannot be angry or fearful and thankful at the same time. Having a grateful heart and staying in the consciousness of thankfulness can shield you from it all. Thanksgiving is not just a reactionary emotion; it is a causative energy.

Remember from a previous chapter to look at life from the highest perspective? If you look at every person and situation from your highest you can't help being grateful. When the appearance of lack shows up in your life, go to that high view point, be grateful, and then bless it. Once you have blessed it you can easily let it go and gain back the control of your own creative process, and thus the flow is opened.

Charles Fillmore tells us that: “Blessing the substance increases the flow. If your money supply is low or your purse seems empty, take it in your hands and bless it.”

1. As a church how do you show gratefulness?

2. Do you acknowledge gifts to the church? How?

3. Are the volunteers in the church appreciated? How is that done?

4. Is there meaning to the offertory blessing or is it just rote words you say each week?

Work and the Success Syndrome

The most important part of learning is to unlearn our errors.

—Zeno

Work is, and should be so considered by every worker, a giving process. You spend most of your life engaged in some kind of gainful employment; so if your attitude about work in general and your job in particular is not right, then you are working against yourself. The work in the job is the means by which you build a consciousness of giving, which gives rise to an outworking or receiving flow.

1. Why do you serve on the board?

2. What are you getting out of this work?

3. Is there any spiritual growth?

4. How long have you been on the board? Why?

5. Do you feel successful in your work on the board?

6. Are you grateful to serve your church in this way?

Homework assignment: Read chapters 7 and 8 for next week. Take time to reflect on your relationship with your position on the board. Journal how you can see it from a higher perspective and change how you look at this job.

Week Four

*How To Reverse Financial Adversity
& Security in A Changing World*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

Moment by moment and breath by breath, I choose and re-choose the highest and best. I rejoice as circumstances transform before me.

Scripture

Even though you intended to do me harm, God intended it for good. —Gen 50: 20

How to Reverse Financial Adversity

Positive thinking is the only way out of our economic malaise.
—Front page of the *Wall Street Journal*, 1908

It is increasingly acknowledged that economics is basically a psychological phenomenon. This is because it is a mystical process, dealing with the trends of the thoughts of “we the people.” The “economy,” as far as we are concerned, will always be to us about what we make it, how we decree it, what we expect it to be. The economy is little more than a barometer that registers the highs and lows of consciousness. Wherever two or three gather together, in an interaction of minds, a very real energy force is projected into the world. If the sharing is negativity, as is so often the case, that consciousness goes forth as a beacon of darkness, adding to the weaken of the economy.

You are the leader of your business affairs and as a Truth student you can become a leader in conversations to lead away from sending out the energy that we really don’t want.

1. How much news do you listen to? Are you paying attention to what is going into your conscious thoughts?

2. Are you letting news or idle conversation about the economy define your church finances?

3. How can you as a leader and model help others in the church?

4. Are you ready to change your financial adversity? Are you willing to grow spiritually? Are you willing to fail in order to succeed?

5. Make a list of your goals. List ten situations which you would like to lead positively. Choose one and begin to work through it.

Security in a Changing World

*Through our sense of oneness with the All-Good,
the greatest possible sense of security is realized.*

—Charles Fillmore

If we are thinking of security in terms of protective barriers and a continuous provision of food, clothing, shelter, heat, light, and medical care, then the most secure person is a life-term convict in a penitentiary. He has real security, but at such a great price.

Actually security is more psychological than financial. It is the things that we fear that make us seek security in outward ways. Insurance, nest eggs, and investments are just a few of the ways we seek to feel secure. These are not bad things to have, but have them out of the consciousness of security not insecurity.

1. How secure are your church's finances?

2. Why do you think the finances are showing up this way?

3. What is missing?

Homework assignment: Take some time in quiet meditation with the Sermon on the Mount. Begin where Jesus is telling the crowd, “Do not be anxious...” Mat 6:25. Afterwards spend time with your journal about how you can build a consciousness of security. Read chapters 9 and 10.

Week Five

*The Money Enigma &
Discover The Wonder of Giving*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

Money is spiritual energy in tangible form. I accept it gratefully, I use it abundantly and I give it cheerfully.

Scripture

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:7–8

The Money Enigma

Most people, whether they are wealthy, middle class, or debt-ridden, lack consciousness about the conversations, belief, patterns and habits about money.
—Mackey McNeill

Charles Fillmore tells us in *Keep a True Lent*, “Watch your thoughts when you are handling money, because money is attached to you through your mind to the one Source of all substance.”

Money is a means to an end, not the end itself. You cannot eat money, and it cannot keep you warm or cuddle you at night. Simply having money is not the goal. The goal is to use it to do whatever your heart leads you to do and to do that which fulfills your divine purpose.
—Edwene Gaines

There is little likelihood that your life can become fully functioning with prosperity unless you have a positive and creative attitude towards money. There are people who think talking about money in a spiritual way is sacrilegious. But Jesus spoke of it often. Sixteen of His thirty-eight parables are about money or possessions. More than 1,000 verses in the Bible deal with money and material goods.

1. Do you talk about money in your church?

2. When lack appears, how is it handled?

3. Are the finances published for all congregants to see?

Do this exercise as a board and then try it on a Sunday. Take a dollar bill in your hands. Look it over, read all the writing. Feel the energy that stirs in you. Now ask yourself, “Can I move from seeing it is only a dollar to “in God we trust?”

Discover The Wonder of Giving

Money is being hoarded and is lying idle in banks all over the land that ought to be used to educate and enlighten the human family. If you have a surplus over and above your needs, you are not fulfilling the law by letting it lay idle. Set it into circulation by giving it to a good cause—lending it to the Lord—and it will return to you again in due season multiplied.

—Charles Fillmore, *Unity* magazine, 1905

If we would recognize the value in the principle of giving in place of the constant thought of getting, we would not find ourselves in poverty.

—C. Newcomb

Such a simple thing as giving of yourself—giving thoughtfulness, time, help or understanding—will trigger the cycle of abundance.

1. What is your church giving?

If it is more blessed to give than to receive then most of us are content to let the other person have the greater blessing.

—Shailer Matthews

2. Do you have charitable programs that are supported above and beyond the tithe? Or does the church call it a tithe?

3. Is your church involved in giving to your community outside of the church?

Homework assignment: Now is the time to give. Jesus told the widow to start where she was. Clean out closets and give it away. No thought of the cost or of a return. Give some volunteer hours in your church. Give a kind word when someone is feeling down. Give love to the world. Take time to journal the experience. Read chapters 11 and 12.

Week Six

A New Look At Tithing & A New World Order

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

I have renewed my thoughts and beliefs. I am a positive influence on my world as I move forward with a consciousness of prosperity.

Scripture

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ro 12:2

A New Look at Tithing

Tithing is about saying “thank you,” which always begins with putting some gratitude in our attitude.

—Paula Langruth Ryan

Butterworth tells us, “Tithing is not an end but a helpful means towards the end of totally living in a giving consciousness.”

Tithing is the teaching tool used to graduate into a giving consciousness. If everyone was in a total giving consciousness, there would be no need for tithing. There would be an overflowing abundance in our world.

1. What is the difference between tithing and charity?

2. Where are you as a church tithing?

3. Where are you giving charitable gifts?

4. What does this indicate to you for the future?

A New World Order

There is now incontrovertible evidence that mankind has entered upon the greatest period of change the world has ever known. The ills from which we are suffering have had their seat in the very foundation of human thought. But today something is happening to the whole structure of human consciousness.

—Teilhard de Chardin

Butterworth tells us (in the quote below) that what Charles is describing is now. “The Kingdom of God is at hand.” Wherever you were born, you are an unborn possibility of limitless life, limitless intelligence, limitless substance, and yours is the privilege and responsibility to give birth to it.

1. Is your church ready and willing to be a part of the new world order?
2. What would that mean for your church?
3. Are you willing to be a part of the solution to the economic distress of today by living and teaching prosperity principles in your church?
4. Are you willing to stop giving it energy by idle conversation?
5. Are you ready to do the internal work to have it happen in your church?

In the new era now at its dawn, we shall have a spirit of prosperity. The principle of the Universal substance will be known and acted upon and there will no place for lack.

—Charles Fillmore

Congregation Workbook

The Practice of Thriving

Within each of us is an inner urge to live life to its fullest, and to share that fullness with others as well. Eric Butterworth has succinctly detailed the steps that are necessary to achieve this fullness. He appropriately warns that it is not the accumulation of “things” but the will to serve and share the abundant life which is available if we are willing to listen to our inner Source and to translate our inner voice into vision and action.

—David Miller

Introduction

An idea whose time has come

Greater than the tread of mighty armies
is an idea whose time has come.
—Victor Hugo

This is a book about true prosperity. The concepts it articulates are applicable to organizations and to people. You have been drawn to this book by divine appointment, so it just could be that *Spiritual Economics* is an idea whose time has come in your life.

This great idea whose time has come is that there is no such thing as a purely financial problem. It is time to become aware of our false attitudes and emotions which caused it or a healthy attitude or emotion which can cure it.

It has been commonly assumed that in times of economic reverses, we are all victims of a strange malaise about which there is little that can be done other than to wait and see. However, the study of the laws of spiritual economics reveals that there is much we can do, personally, for ourselves and in concert for our country and our world.

Eric Butterworth encourages all as they do the study of *Spiritual Economics* to:

- Take responsibility for your own thoughts, thus taking charge of your own life.
- Declare your personal independence from the belief that your personal welfare is completely tied to the economic fluctuations of the world “out there.”
- Establish yourself in the unassailable conviction that the free flow of substance can only be dammed up from within.
- Know that no one can keep your good from you but you.
- Refuse to indulge in casual conversation about the bad economy.

Week One

*The Truth About Substance &
Your Fortune Begins With You*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

I open the gates of my consciousness to receive the abundant blessings God has in store for me. I let go of limitation and embrace my amazing new life.

Scripture

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds... Ro 12:2 (NRSV)

The Truth About God And Substance

God is not a being with qualities or attributes, but He is the good itself coming into expression as life, love, power, wisdom.
—H. Emily Cady

There is only one presence in my life and in the universe, God the good, omnipotent. Many times we have heard or repeated this statement. Have you ever really thought about what it meant? What does it mean to you? Write your thoughts here:

Webster’s Dictionary defines omnipotent as “having virtually unlimited authority or influence.” But God is not only omnipotent, God is omnipresent, defined by Webster as “present in all places at all times.” And God is omniscient, defined by Webster as “having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight. Possessed with complete knowledge.”

Butterworth tells us: “God is the allness of ever-present substance in which we live, move, and have our being. And is the subtle, but vitally important key on which the entire structure of spiritual economics rests.” Substance comes from the Latin “substare,” which means “stand under.” So, what is standing under all that we see? The presence of God. The truth is that substance is everywhere present—it is present in us and all around us. We are the activity of God—God is expressing as us! Isn’t this amazing? We are actually expressions of God.

Charles Fillmore tells us in the *Revealing Word*: “Substance is everywhere equally present, pervades all things, and inspires to action. It underlies all manifestation and is the spiritual essence, the living energy out of which everything is made.”

Myrtle Fillmore, in *How to Let God Help You*, states, “The physical substance which we call the earth is the visible form of the spiritual substance that pervades all things.”

There is no place in all of the universe where substance is any more or any less present than right where you are. It is time to recognize that substance and call it forth in your life.

With your class have a discussion about God as Substance.

Your Fortune Begins With You

God's rich supply is all around you universally, as well as innately within you, as talents, abilities, and ideas longing for expression.

—Catherine Ponder, *The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity*

In man's world there are many manmade laws. And breaking these laws have consequences in our life. Think of some manmade laws and list below.

There are laws of nature that when broken can cause us physical discomfort. List some below.

Then there are universal laws. These are the laws that we govern with our mind. To understand and use these laws you must first understand the "Law of Consciousness." Consciousness is defined by Webster as "the quality or state of being aware especially of something within oneself." Consciousness has to do with thoughts we are holding about any situation, when we can intentionally or unintentionally affect the world around us by our thoughts. We more often call it the "Law of Mind Action." Butterworth tells us that we are magnetic forces drawing to us that which we think, whether positively or negatively. Fillmore tells us that thoughts manifest not only into things in our outer world but also people and situations. How are you using the "Law of Consciousness" in your life? Share a time of discussion with the class.

An exercise to try on your own: Think a positive thought about a situation. Set a timer for 10 minutes. Check your conscious thinking. How far did you stray from that initial positive thought? Now is a good time to start a journal. Do this exercise several times in the next week and record what happened. Share with your group.

Homework assignment: Read chapters 3 & 4 and do the exercise above at least once a day. Journal your experience.

Week Two

The Law Of Visualization & If You Can Believe

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

I see every person, place, and thing in my world through the eyes of God and co-create a life of lavish beauty, wonder, and magnificence.

Scripture

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Ps 128:5

The Law of Visualization

Man can only receive what he sees himself receiving.
—Florence Scovel Shinn

The Law of Visualization is seeing with the inner eye of right judgment. It is not settling with the way things are, but visualizing them as they can be. You see it from God consciousness. You project that consciousness. When you are centered in oneness with God substance you see substance everywhere. This is not being blind to the facts but rather contemplating them from the highest point of view. The way God sees every situation—in total abundance.

We must always remember that life is lived from the inside to the outside. If you don't like what you see out in your world, go into the silence and recreate that world. Own it within your mind and heart and then project it out into your world.

1. Think of a situation in your life that does not provide satisfaction. In a time of quiet contemplation step out of it and observe from above. How can you see it differently? Hold a vision of what you desire.
2. Eric speaks of our own self I-AMage. How do you see yourself? Can you see yourself as successful as you want to be?
3. Do your words and actions align with your thinking? Or are you a divided person?
4. Is it time to take control of your own destiny? What old thoughts and beliefs will you need to let go?

*Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream you shall become.
Your vision is the promise of what you shall one day be.
Your idea is the prophecy of what you shall at last unveil.*

—James Allen

If You Can Believe

All things are possible to him that believeth.

—Mark 9:33 (KJV)

Butterworth tells us, “There is no way that you can really begin to understand ‘spiritual economics’ or to make it work until you are free from the sense of God ‘up there’ and to be on fire with the awareness of the Presence of God within.”

This is where faith comes into play. Butterworth defines faith as consciousness centered in the universal source. Faith is not the magic wand that makes God work nor does it release some kind of miracle power. Faith is not a vague process of believing in something out there. It is a positive act of turning on something within each one of us. Charles Fillmore names it as the first of the 12 innate powers of God that everyone is born with.

Faith is expectancy. It is important to remember that the creative process is at work all the time and is directed by what you expect to happen. Wayne Dyer’s book title says it all... “You will see it when you believe it”

1. Where is God for you?

2. What does having faith mean to you?

3. What do you have deep faith in?

4. Do you expect to get what you want or are you just hoping you will get what you want?

We limit our prosperity by the way we identify ourselves. This self identification can be subtle such as “I am only....” Be aware of what you tie your “I AM” to. This is a powerful tool of calling the creative process into flow.

1. What are your self identifiers? Make a list.

2. Can you see how they can limit your prosperity? How?

3. Is it time to change your self image and self identifiers? List three old identifiers and then reframe them in a way that brings you what it is you desire.

Homework assignment: Read chapters 5 and 6 for next week. Take time in the silence to connect with God within. Journal on “I will see it when I believe it.”

Week Three

*The Gratefull Heart &
Work and the Success Syndrome*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

I bring to each experience, a heart of appreciation and gratitude. I see the handiwork of God everywhere I turn.

Scripture

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Col 3:16

The Grateful Heart

*A grateful mind is a great mind which
eventually attracts great things.*
—Plato

What is your most important asset? Butterworth says, “If you carefully search within yourself, you may come to the awareness that your most important asset is the conscious control of your own life. Nothing else can satisfy or fulfill unless you enjoy the freedom that comes from the control of your inner world of mind and emotions.”

We give other people and things the power to control our lives, but even more importantly, our thoughts. We listen to TV news about decline in the economy and we panic or get angry. One important truth is that you cannot be angry or fearful and thankful at the same time. Having a grateful heart and staying in the consciousness of thankfulness can shield you from it all. Thanksgiving is not just a reactionary emotion; it is a causative energy.

Remember from a previous chapter to look at life from the highest perspective? If you look at every person and situation from your highest you can't help being grateful. When the appearance of lack shows up in your life, go to that high view point, be grateful, and then bless it. Once you have blessed it you can easily let it go and gain back the control of your own creative process, and thus the flow is opened.

Charles Fillmore tells us that: “Blessing the substance increases the flow. If your money supply is low or your purse seems empty, take it in your hands and bless it.”

1. Do the exercise suggested in this chapter. Close this book and your eyes and just feel grateful. Don't go outward looking for something to be grateful for. Just feel gratitude.

2. Could you feel the energy stir within you? What did you feel?

3. What was your body's response to this exercise?

4. Now think of something that appears to be lacking in your life. It does not have to be a thing; it could be an idea or emotion. Now consciously bless it. Look for the energy you felt stirring before and feel it about this situation. Stay with it until you can feel grateful and can gladly bless it.

5. Can you feel the shift about this situation?

6. Continue this process often.

Work and the Success Syndrome

The most important part of learning is to unlearn our errors.

—Zeno

Work is, and should be so considered by every worker, a giving process. You spend most of your life engaged in some kind of gainful employment; so if your attitude about work in general and your job in particular is not right, then you are working against yourself. The work in the job is the means by which you build a consciousness of giving, which gives rise to an outworking or receiving flow.

1. Why do you work?

2. What are you getting out of work?

3. Do you see your job as a part of your spiritual growth?

4. Would you do it for free if you could afford to? Why or why not?

5. Do you feel successful in your work?

6. Do you define yourself by the work you do? Why?

7. Who would you be without this work?

8. Are you grateful for your work?

Homework assignment: Read chapters 7&8 for next week. Take time to reflect on your relationship with your current job. Journal how you can see it from a higher perspective and change how you look at your job.

Week Four

*How To Reverse Financial Adversity
& Security in A Changing World*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

Moment by moment and breath by breath, I choose and re-choose the highest and best. I rejoice as circumstances transform before me.

Scripture

Even though you intended to do me harm, God intended it for good. Gen 50: 20

How to Reverse Financial Adversity

Positive thinking is the only way out of our economic malaise.
—Front page of the *Wall Street Journal*, 1908

It is increasingly acknowledged that economics is basically a psychological phenomenon. This is because it is a mystical process, dealing with the trends of the thoughts of “we the people.” The “economy,” as far as we are concerned, will always be about what we make it, how we decree it, and what we expect it to be. The economy is little more than a barometer that registers the highs and lows of consciousness. Wherever two or three gather together, in an interaction of minds, a very real energy force is projected into the world. If the sharing is negativity, as is so often the case, that consciousness goes forth as a beacon of darkness, adding to the weakness of the economy.

You are the leader of your business affairs and as a Truth student you can become a leader in conversations to lead away from sending out the energy that we really don't want.

1. How much news do you listen to? Are you paying attention to what is going into your conscious thoughts?

2. Are you letting news or idle conversation about the economy define your finances?

3. Try going for 24 hours without listening to or reading about the economy. Then write in a journal how you feel. Is it different from the previous 24 hours? If so, how?
4. Are you ready to change your financial adversity? Are you willing to grow spiritually? Are you willing to fail in order to succeed?
5. Make your goal list. List ten situations, choose one and begin to work through it as Eric Butterworth instructs.

Security in a Changing World

*Through our sense of oneness with the All-Good,
the greatest possible sense of security is realized.*

—Charles Fillmore

If we are thinking of security in terms of protective barriers and a continuous provision of food, clothing, shelter, heat, light, and medical care, then the most secure person is a life-term convict in a penitentiary. He has real security, but at such a great price.

Actually security is more psychological than financial. It is the things that we fear that make us seek security in outward ways. Insurance, nest eggs, and investments are just a few of the ways we seek to feel secure. These are not bad things to have, but have them out of the consciousness of security not insecurity.

1. How does security feel?

2. When do you feel the most secure? Why?

3. When you don't feel secure, what is missing?

Homework assignment: Take some time in quiet meditation with the Sermon on the Mount. Begin where Jesus is telling the crowd, "Do not be anxious..." Mat 6:25. Afterwards spend time with your journal about how you can build a consciousness of security. Read chapters 9 and 10.

Week Five

*The Money Enigma &
Discover The Wonder of Giving*

Opening Prayer

We take a moment to re-center ourselves and feel the presence of God here in our midst. We open our hearts to appreciate the gift of each person in this class, knowing we are here by divine appointment. We are grateful for the spiritual growth that is unfolding and the relationships which are forming, and we commit to co-creating a space of unlimited possibility. We pray this after the nature of the Living Christ. Amen

Affirmation for the Week

Money is spiritual energy in tangible form. I accept it gratefully, I use it abundantly and I give it cheerfully.

Scripture

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Cor 9:7-8

The Money Enigma

Most people, whether they are wealthy, middle class, or debt-ridden, lack consciousness about the conversations, belief, patterns and habits about money.
—Mackey McNeill

Charles Fillmore tells us in *Keep a True Lent*, “Watch your thoughts when you are handling money, because money is attached to you through your mind to the one Source of all substance.”

Money is a means to an end, not the end itself. You cannot eat money, and it cannot keep you warm or cuddle you at night. Simply having money is not the goal. The goal is to use it to do whatever your heart leads you to do and to do that which fulfills your divine purpose.
—Edwene Gaines

There is little likelihood that your life can become fully functioning with prosperity unless you have a positive and creative attitude toward money. There are people who think talking about money in a spiritual way is sacrilegious . But Jesus spoke of it often. Sixteen of His thirty-eight parables are about money or possessions. More than 1,000 verses in the Bible deal with money and material goods.

1. What were you taught about money?

2. Do those old tapes still play in your head?

3. Do they rule your finances today?

4. What is your relationship with money now? Are you feeling lack?

Take a dollar bill in your hands. Look it over, read all the writing. Feel the energy that stirs in you. Now ask yourself, “Can I move from seeing it as only a dollar to “in God we trust?” Journal what your experience was.

Discover The Wonder of Giving

Money is being hoarded and is lying idle in banks all over the land that ought to be used to educate and enlighten the human family. If you have a surplus over and above your needs, you are not fulfilling the law by letting it lay idle. Set it into circulation by giving it to a good cause—lending it to the Lord—and it will return to you again in due season multiplied.

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Such a simple thing as giving of yourself—giving thoughtfulness, time, help, or understanding—will trigger the cycle of abundance.

1. What are you giving?

If it is more blessed to give than to receive then most of us are content to let the other person have the greater blessing.

—Shailer Matthews

2. How does giving make you feel?

3. Do you allow others to give to you?

Homework assignment : Now is the time to give. Jesus told the widow to start where she was. Clean out closets and give it away. No thought of the cost or of a return. Give some volunteer hours in your church. Give a kind word when someone is feeling down. Give love to the world. Take time to journal the experience. Read chapters 11 and 12.

Week Six

A New Look At Tithing & A New World Order

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Affirmation for the Week

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A New Look at Tithing

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Tithing is the teaching tool used to graduate into a giving consciousness. If everyone was in a total giving consciousness there would be no need for tithing. There would be an overflowing abundance in our world.

1. What is the difference between tithing and giving?

2. Do you know the difference between tithing and charitable giving?

3. Do you feel gratitude when you release your tithe?

4. What fears keep you from tithing?

A New World Order

There is now incontrovertible evidence that mankind has entered upon the greatest period of change the world has ever known. The ills from which we are suffering have had their seat in the very foundation of human thought. But today something is happening to the whole structure of human consciousness.

—Teilhard de Chardin

Butterworth tells us (in the quote below) that what Charles is describing is now. “The Kingdom of God is at hand.” Wherever you were born, you are an unborn possibility of limitless life, limitless intelligence, limitless substance, and yours is the privilege and responsibility to give birth to it.

1. Are you ready and willing to be a part of the new world order?

2. What would that mean to you?

3. Are you willing to be a part of the solution to the economic distress of today?

4. Are you willing to stop giving it energy by idle conversation?

5. Are you ready to do the internal work to have it happen in your life?

In the new era now at its dawn, we shall have a spirit of prosperity. The principle of the Universal substance will be known and acted upon and there will no place for lack.

—Charles Fillmore