

THE
UNSTOPPABLE
PODCAST

COOPERATING
WITH THE LAWS
OF PROSPERITY

LIVE FROM THE WELL LOS OSOS



Cooperating with the Laws of Prosperity

The Well Los Osos | Justin Self

“Hope is not a strategy!”

Slam! My hand slapped the floor (we usually play chess on the floor).

“I was hoping you wouldn’t see that,” I exclaimed after my 7-year-old took my vulnerably positioned bishop with his queen. I had left my bishop open in an attempt to make a strategic move on the next turn, but I had foolishly assumed he wouldn’t notice.

To my utter surprise, he quickly responded, “Hope is not a strategy, Daddy!”

I was thinking about this throughout the week. Godly hope and worldly hope are different things entirely. Godly hope imagines, creates, and believes God’s Word over a situation yet to happen in the natural realm, and is totally Scriptural. But *worldly hope* is the same as “just wishing” something will happen, and it has no real teeth behind it.

Worldly hope is not a strategy.

But *faith* is!

We can operate on a higher level than the world. *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* (1 John 4:4)

Main idea: All of God’s creation follows the laws that He created, including natural physics, healing, prosperity, relationships, etc. Let’s see what God’s Word says about the laws of prosperity, wealth, giving, etc.

Notes

Taking the Bible *More and More and More* Seriously...

Encoded within Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 are the ubiquitous mathematical constants π (pi) and e (Euler's number).

Interestingly, these two numbers are defined as *irrational numbers*, which means they cannot be expressed as the ratio of two numbers.

Rational Numbers	Irrational Numbers
Any integer (1, 2, 3, ..., n)	$\sqrt{2} = 1.41421356237309 \dots$
$1000 = \frac{2000}{2} = \frac{3000}{3} = \frac{1}{1/1000}$ etc.	Pi: $\pi = 3.141592654 \dots$
$2.5 = \frac{5}{2}$	Euler's number: $e = 2.71828182845905 \dots$
$0.5 = \frac{1}{2}$	The Golden Ratio: $\phi = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} = 1.61803398874990 \dots$
... and so on	

Irrational numbers contain this idea of NEVER ENDING.

Interestingly, the concept of equating letters to specific numbers in Hebrew was not put into place, as far as we know, until around as late as 78 BC, but as early as 150 BC. *How does this compare to when God gave Moses the Torah?*

So, these numbers that have no end were encoded into the Biblical text *before* the numerical system was implemented... So they have an infinite past, then, too; being encoded outside of Moses' time domain. Mind blowing¹, right?

More importantly, what does this imply?

We ought to take every Word in the Bible more seriously than ever before!

John 1:1

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**Estimation of e is:**

2.7183

**Error is:**

3.0984e-05

Genesis 1:1

~~~~~

Estimation of pi is:

3.1416

Error is:

-3.8146e-05

Figure 1. Justin's MATLAB output for Euler's Number and pi in John 1:1 and Genesis 1:1, respectively.

¹ Study "equidistant letter sequences" in the Biblical text for a real treat.

Notes

The primary discovery of my study of the Word of God over the past decade is that:

- 1. God is scientific; He is a planner; He is organized and methodical; and He has engineered all of creation (both the physical and spiritual worlds) to follow certain laws (i.e., natural laws, airplanes, electricity, etc.).**
- 2. His laws work regardless of mankind's relationship with Him. But the design intent behind all of God's laws lie within the context of an ongoing, personal relationship with Him. (See Psalm 25:14 and Proverbs 25:2)**

New Testament Tithing Forever Settled

The words "tithe" or "tithes" are used in the following way:

Tithe = apodekatoō (uh-PAW-deh-ka-TAH-oh); 2x in the NT

= *to give, pay a tithe of anything; to receive a tenth from anyone*

Tithes = dekatē (day-KAH-tay); used 5x in the NT

= *a tenth part of anything, a tithe*

= *the tenth part of booty taken from an enemy*

= *the tithes of fruits of the earth and of flocks, which by the law of Moses were presented to the Levites in the congregation of Israel*

In total, *tithe* and *tithes* show up 31x (12 + 19) in the OT, but only 7x (2 + 5) in the NT!

The ratio of OT mention to NT is: $\frac{31}{7} \approx 4.4$

Why do you suppose there are more than 4x as many mentions of the *tithe* in the OT than in the NT? Think about it!

Notes

Did Jesus mention the practice of tithing in New Testament times?

Two records: Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42 (this passes the *two or three witnesses* test)

Matthew 23:23 (see the NIV and Tree of Life (TLV) versions)

Luke 11:42 (see: KJV, ESV, NASB1995, NLT, TPT versions)

First mention (note the *Law of First Mention*):

- Genesis 14:20: Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek, a type of Christ.
- The second mention of the tithe wasn't until *after* the Law was given! (About 430 years later; see Galatians 3:17)

Bottom line: The concept of the 10% (tithe) was around before the Law; God made His heart known about it during the Law, and it remains a powerful practice outside (after) the Law (to the Church). Jesus Himself said it is for today.

But faith must be mixed with obedience to obtain the blessings of the tithe!

Notes

Main text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

English Standard Version

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully² will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency³ in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;

his righteousness endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will

² Greek *with blessings*; twice in this verse

³ Or all contentment:

be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Amplified Translation, Classic Edition:

6 [Remember] this: he who sows⁴ sparingly⁵ and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings.

7 Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, “prompt to do it”) giver [whose heart is in his giving].

8 And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].

9 As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever!

10 And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity].

11 Thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and [your generosity as it is] administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God.

⁴ The word “sows” is the Greek word *speirō*, which literally means to scatter seed. The root word means *to draw a sword*.

⁵ The Greek word for “sparingly” is the word *pheidomenōs*, which comes from the word which means *to abstain* or *to spare*. One example: “He that *spared not* his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32

Purpose of Prosperity

1. Expressing love and thanksgiving to God

- a. Stinginess and thankfulness cannot be in your heart at the same time. (Verse 6-7)
- b. You can lead your heart: your heart *follows* your treasure
 - i. Matthew 6:21
 - ii. Luke 6:45
- c. See also: Psalm 112

2. Walking in obedience to the Word of God

- a. Jesus affirmed the practice of giving 10%
 - i. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
 - ii. *But we don't give under the Law, we give by faith!*
 1. Galatians 3:11-14
- b. Paul taught about financially supporting the local pastor
 - i. 1 Corinthians 9:11
 - ii. Philippians 4:10-20
 - iii. Galatians 6:6 (give where you are fed spiritually)
- c. We are to carefully consider and plan our giving
 - i. 2 Corinthians 9:5
- d. We are to *excel* in the art of giving
 - i. 2 Corinthians 8:7

3. Carrying out the Great Commission

- a. The message is free, but it costs \$\$\$ to take the message where it needs to go
- b. The Gospel is spread through people; we need to send them out
 - i. Romans 10:14-15
 - ii. Matthew 9:37-38

4. Engaging with the vision of the local church

- a. The local church is the physical Body of Christ strategically placed in each region with specific purposes set forth by Jesus.
- b. If Jesus is the Head of the church, then when you give to the local church, *you are paying tithes to Jesus!*

5. Give in faith with expectancy for personal blessing

- a. Luke 6:38 (Remember to take the Bible seriously!)
- b. 100-fold return (yeah, this is legitimate)
 - i. The NT promise: Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 19:29
 - ii. This happened to Isaac: Genesis 26:12
- c. Deuteronomy 28:1-15 is God's will for His people.
- d. Mark 11:22-24
 - i. This is the way of faith!
- e. Proverbs is chock-full of God's will concerning prosperity
- f. All throughout the OT and NT is God's will concerning prosperity and how to balance wealth with a Godly mindset (here are some "heavy-hitters")
 - i. Proverbs 3:9-10 (why should we obey verse 9? Verse 10 tells us)
 - ii. Psalm 37:4

- iii. Proverbs 10:4
- iv. Proverbs 10:22
 - v. Proverbs 12:24
- vi. Proverbs 13:2
- vii. Proverbs 13:22
- viii. Proverbs 19:17 (law of giving alms to the poor = 1:1 return ratio)
- ix. Deuteronomy 8:18
 - x. Isaiah 48:17
- xi. There are too many to list...

Notes



Personal Testimonies from the Self family (a small sample)

- *Early years (pre-2013 – 2017)*
 - Making tithing a habit as single people
 - Justin: \$9 → \$900 story
 - Justin: Jeep → Truck story
 - Baby money, first time
 - Being overpaid at work; walking in integrity in the small things
- *The big move (2017 – 2018)*
 - Justin's school laptop (the first one)
 - "Don't judge the next season's finances by this current season's finances."
 - Jobs, house, everything... settled with only one week to go.
 - Justin's laptop (second one)
 - Jenny's laptop
 - "You will eat the good of the land."
 - "The house checks all the boxes!"
- *Settling in (2018 – 2019)*
 - No income for 1.5 months; gave \$ to needy mom
 - 2018: Justin cuts back from full time to part time at work in response to walking in obedience to God's prophetic word over our season
 - 2019: Justin cuts back from part time to one day / week at work in obedience to the word... again.
 - 2019: Justin cuts back from work entirely, full-time student; next stage of obedience
 - 2019: Full scholarship, tuition, books, plus additional expenses for 5 years undergrad
- *Walking in obedience (2019 – present)*
 - Life decisions based on God's prophetic and written words
 - Justin called out a 4-month maternity leave in faith; Jenny had 4 months to the day off; supernatural provision
 - Started coming to The Well in response to a Word from God
 - Continuing to walk in faithfulness and obedience
 - 2022: Full master's degree expenses covered
 - Tremendous amount of baby things given to us (Joel)

Personal Reflection

- We are responsible for walking in the light of what the Holy Spirit has revealed to us.
- What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you today? Write a few things down here.

- What is one step you can take TODAY to take the Bible more seriously?

- Don't kid yourself—think about this seriously: are there any areas where you are NOT walking in obedience to God's Word? If so, what EXACTLY are they? Take a moment and write them down.

- Now that you've written something down, what are you going to do about that thing? WRITE DOWN one action step you can take to walk in obedience to the Word of God.

- Finally, what steps are you going to take to ENSURE that you walk in obedience to the Word in this area? Do you have people in your life to whom you can be accountable? Do

you need to pray with someone about this? If you are serious about making this change in your life, you will need a plan. Write it down!
