

The Keys to Prosperity

❏ So what requirements has God established that lead to a pathway of prosperity? The Bible reveals several overarching keys.

1) Seek Him. Jesus said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matt. 6:33). All *what* things?

All the things He mentioned in the verses preceding verse 33—such as

treasures upon earth or what you will eat or drink or wear. We are not

to seek those things first. We are to seek the kingdom first.

What does it mean to seek the kingdom? It is seeking to do His will. His will is what He did on the earth, such as healing all (Acts 10:38), casting out devils (Mark 16:15-18) and preaching repentance (Matt. 4:17).

How to Know the Will of God

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. —**Philippians 4:6-7**

How to Pray in God's Will

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

—Romans 8:26

The High Price of Complaining

And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. —1 Corinthians 10:10

Do You Want Pure Joy?

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. —Galatians 6:9

Show Gratitude ... in Everything

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. —1 Thessalonians 5:18

How to Obtain Power

And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power. **–Luke 4:32, KJV**

Rejoice in the Lord!

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ... Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **–Philippians 4:4, 6**

True Forgiveness

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. **–Genesis 50:20**

Faith Catapults NBA Coach's Bounce Back

A **cardiologist** once gave Monty Williams a crushing diagnosis: an enlarged muscle was making it difficult for Williams' heart to pump blood. The doctor said the condition meant an end to Williams' college basketball career, the end of his NBA dream—and possibly the end of his life. 

Two years later, the condition known as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy vanished. Doctors called it inexplicable; Williams called it a healing from God. A 6-foot-8-inch forward, Williams played nine seasons in the NBA. Chronic knee injuries tested his faith and led to his retirement.

Today, Williams continues to proclaim his faith as the second-year head coach of the New Orleans Hornets, despite relentless hardship. Over the past year and a half, the NBA's youngest coach has seen his general manager fired, his top scorer blow out a knee (then opt out of his contract), another player arrested, a third player lose two relatives in a fatal car accident and the franchise sold to the NBA.

"Adversity," he says, "has a way of getting us to listen to God."

His second season began with more trouble. The Hornets dealt their best player, Chris Paul, to the Los Angeles Clippers in a controversial trade. Yet through numerous trials early in his coaching career, Williams has shared the source of his strength with media. "No question, it's my faith in Jesus Christ," he says. "I read my Bible in the morning and I study in the evening. When tough times do come, it's not easy. But I realize a guy like me is blessed to be in this position."

Previous challenges make NBA conflicts seem minor. Williams

says he suffered abuse and molestation as a child. He became suicidal when he learned of his fatal heart condition. With God's help, Williams has emerged with a strong faith and a powerful testimony.

The Lord is present in our most trying times, Williams says, working all things for our good.

"I'm blessed to be in this business," he adds. "I pray I can keep this attitude as long as I'm able to coach." —Ken

Rodriguez