

Prosperity – practices with benefits

By Mariangela Crowley Walker

Would you like to find a way to stretch your holiday spending money? The secret to doing that may be to bless your money with Divine love.

"Divine love, through me, blesses and multiplies all that I choose to give, and all that I am open to receive" is heard each Sunday at Unity churches. The "secret" loving energy that multiplies what we have is gratitude.

Prosperity is the conscious awareness of our constant connection with Spirit. It is a practice that must be engaged in regularly, just as suggested

in Ephesians 4 "You must renew your mind and your attitude daily."

There are some common practices in prosperity teachings. Those practices are: the gratitude habit (opposite of complaining); tithing (opposite of fearfully holding on to every penny); meditation (which is where we give our spirit — or God — time to guide us from the space of our inner wisdom, and to restore us to our natural state of peace), and prayer (which is all that we say or do: "our thoughts are prayers").

Important Note: prayer is not ineffectual pleading. It is making affirmative statements of faith, which connect us with our higher power. We must watch our choice of words when speaking to others. Words have power to do many things — positive and negative. Words can be used to encourage, motivate, facilitate, or persuade, or they can destroy, hurt, or shut down hearts. They can uplift, heal, create peace, and open up great possibilities, or they can close minds, ruin relationships, destroy dreams, and discourage hopes. Words can be used to create great optimism that uplifts and invigorates a whole country. We must strive to speak with, and from

“ Turn the great energy of your thinking toward 'plenty' ideas, and you will have plenty regardless of what men about you are saying and doing. If we focus on lack, think lack, and speak of lack, we shall have more lack. If we perceive plenty, think plenty, and speak of plenty, we shall have plenty.”

— From *Prosperity* by Charles Fillmore

the awareness that our words are the one thing we actually control.

Order is very important — in our homes, our affairs, our minds, and our hearts. The outer mirrors the inner; one affects the other. Put things you own in order and care for them. That way you can see and value what you have, what you may no longer need, and what you can pass on or share with others ... in the metaphysical

sense as well! Consider your home a ship preparing to go to sea. What kind of shape is your ship in? What's on board and why?

Forgiveness is crucial to our prosperity. Forgive yourself for any and all mistakes you've made in the past. Forgive others who may have hurt you in any way, consciously or otherwise. We can't pick up and cherish our fair share of life's joy if we're already carrying a load of resentments.

Acknowledging divine flow is another aspect of prosperity — be willing to trust in the divine timing of all things — including those things that may appear as "screw ups" or "undesirable events" on the surface. Give thanks in all things ... not necessarily for all things, but in all things. Our attitude of gratitude is the only thing that will get us through those rough times — and allow us to see the opportunities spirit is presenting.

Engage in right work — follow your joy, honor your personal gifts, your worth and value. Use your imagination to create a plan and vision for your best life. Prepare for your good to arrive. And if you pray for sun, get your sunscreen!

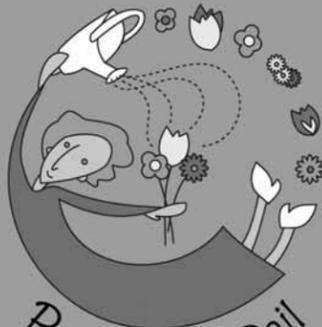
Prosperity resources are available through Unity:

■ Silent Unity is a "24-Hour-Spiritual Prayer Hotline." Whatever your healing need or prayer request, they always have the right words. Call just to express your gratitude for life, which boosts your positive energy flow exponentially. 800.NOW.PRAY (669.7729).

■ Unity Village also offers workshops, online classes, and spiritual retreats; and publishes "The Daily Word." Visit www.unity.org

Unity is founded on the teachings of Christ, with the goal to empower individuals to awaken to their spiritual gifts. It honors and incorporates the wisdoms of many great spiritual teachings. Unity Spiritual Center's Sunday service is at 10:30 a.m. at Triangle Training Center on Hamlet Chapel Road, Pittsboro. See www.unityofnc.org.

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