

## WHY DOES GOD WANT YOU TO BE WEALTHY?

Is the power to make wealth in Deuteronomy 8:18 given to Christians alone? A good friend asked me this question a few weeks ago, and below is my personal opinion.

As Israel journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land, God gave them laws to follow. Law in Hebrew is torah, meaning instructions—not necessarily rules. When they were about to enter the land, in Deuteronomy 28:1-2, Moses told them that if they will carefully obey all the instructions God gave, blessings will overtake them. In that Land, God wanted to fulfill the promise He gave to Abraham in Genesis 12—to bless them so that they may become a blessing to all nations. I believe the power to make wealth comes from knowing the Lord and following His instructions.

All the pagan nations back then have their own way of creating wealth. Through Israel, I believe God wanted to show these nations that there is a better way of doing things. Today, all the kingdoms of the world have their own way of creating wealth. But their ways are painful and often destructive. As God raised Israel to be a blessing, He also called us for the same reason. He wants us to show the world that there is a better way of doing things. This comes from acknowledging Jesus as Lord and following His instructions. I believe this is part of the responsibility Jesus gave us when He said, "Go and make disciples of all the nations... baptizing them... and teaching them to obey all the things I have commanded you." Since Jesus came to fulfill the law, these commandments include the ones God gave Israel in the desert.

This is the reason why we have been using the Bible as our main reference in managing our business. We want to show the world that there is a better way of doing things. By doing so, we hope to attract people to Jesus, so that they, too, can receive the power to make wealth and become fruitful for the Lord.