

Reasons for Poverty and Prosperity

March 22, 2015

I. Review:

A. Jesus took on our poverty

2Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

His poverty was His death, burial and resurrection.

The riches we receive are -

1. He took our sins and we take His righteousness!
2. He took our sicknesses and we take His healing!
3. He took our poverty and we take His prosperity!

B. There are five areas of poverty in the New Testament:

1. Financial poverty
(Mat 11:5; 26:6-13; Lk 4:18; 7:22; 14:3-9, 16-23; 15:11- 32; 16:19- 31; 19:-10; 1 21:1-4; 22:35; Mk 12:41-44; Jn 2:1-11; 12:1-8; 13:21-30; Rom 15:26- 27; 2Cor 8:1-4, 9; 9:9; 11:9; Gal 2:10; Phil 4:11-13; 1Thes 4:11-12; Heb 11:37; Jas 2:1-6; Rev 2:9-10)
2. Spiritual poverty
(Mat 19:20-21; Rom 3:23; 2Cor 8:8-9; 9:9; 12:24; Heb 4:1; 12:15)
3. Poverty of spiritual gifts (gifting)
(1Cor 1:4-8; 2Cor 11:5; 12:11)
4. Poverty of soul
(Mat 19:20-21; Mk 10:21; Lk 18:22)
5. Poverty of health (sickness)
(Mk 5:25-34)

II. What causes poverty? What causes prosperity?

A. Primary Causes:

1. The curse of sin and disobedience

Gen 2:17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (Gen 3:17-19 ground is cursed)

Dt. 28:15-68 Curse of disobedience

2. Ignorance

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Isa 5:13 My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge;

3. Faith and unbelief.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Mat 7:11; Ps 35:27)

4. Fear

Prov 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

5. Not tithing (giving 10%)

Mal 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. (Mt 23:23; Heb 7:6-10)

Note: Some don't believe in tithing for various reasons:

- 1) They don't see it as a New Testament principle.
Jesus confirmed tithing (Mat 23:23; Lk 11:42).
- 2) They believe tithing is part of the Law of Moses.
Tithing is an act of faith which began with Abraham (Heb 7:1-10; Gal 3:16-18).
- 3) They teach that "Spirit led" giving is the New Testament pattern.
Churches weekly took collections for the apostles to use at their discretion (1Cor 16:1-4; 2Cor 9:1-5).

B. Spiritual Causes:

1. The law of sowing and reaping.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (Prov 15:27; 21:5; 22:8)

2. Daily meditation on God's Word.

Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. (Ps 1:1-3)

3. Prayer

Jn 14:13-14 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."
(Jn 14:16; 15:7, 16; 16:23-26; Mat 7:7-11; 18:19; 21:22; Mk 11:22-24; Lk 11:9-13;
Jas 1:5-8; 4:1-3)

4. Our confession

Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
(Prov 6:2; Mt 12:36-37)

5. Having passion and vision for evangelism

Mk 1:17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
(Lu 5:10; 8:3; Mat 17:27; Pr 27:23, 26-27)

6. Ministry and giving to the poor, to those in need.

1) Giving to those in need

Prov 28:27 He who gives to the poor will never want, But he who shuts his eyes will have many curses. (Prov 11:25; 14:21; 21:13; 1Jn 3:17)

2) Oppressing the poor

Prov 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself ... will only come to poverty. (Prov 14:31; 21:13; 22:9, 17, 22-23)

3) Giving to the rich

Prov 22:16 He who oppresses the poor ... or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.
(Lk 6:33-35; 14:12-14)

C. Financial Causes:

1. Having debt (on depreciable items and credit cards)

Prov 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave.
(Lev 25:39-40; Ex 21:2; Deut 15:2; 1 Sam 22:2)

2. Lacking wisdom in financial affairs

Prov 21:20 There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it up. (Prov 23:4-5)

1) Making pledges

Prov 22:26 Do not be among those who give pledges, among those who become guarantors for debts. (Mt 5:34-37; Jas 5:12)

2) Co-signing (surety) loans

Prov 22:26-27 Do not be among those who give pledges, among those who become guarantors for debts. 27 If you have nothing with which to pay, why should he take your bed from under you? (Prov 6:1-3; 11:15; 17:18; 27:13)

3) Making hasty, rash decisions

Prov 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, But everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty. (Prov 19:2, 29; 22:26)

5) Pursuing empty (vain) things

Prov 28:19 ... But he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty.

3. Withholding what is due or owed.

Prov 11:24 There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want.
(Prov 3:27-28; Rom 13:7; Jas 5:4-5)

4. Personal habits and ways of living

1) Intoxication, gluttony, etc

Prov 23:21 For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty,
(Prov 5:8-10; 6:26; 21:17; 29:3; Isa 28:1-3; Phil 3:19)

2) Laziness

Prov 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.
(Prov 10:4-5; 12:11, 24; 19:15, 24; 20:4; 24:30-34; 28:19; Eccl 10:18; Heb 6:11-12)

3) Sleep

Prov 20:13 Do not love sleep, or you will become poor;
(Prov 6:9-11; 19:15; 24:30-34; Rom 12:11; 2Thes 3:10-13)

4) Negligence, not being diligent

Prov 10:4 Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. (Prov 6:6-11; 12:24; 19:15)

5) Idle chatter

Prov 14:23 In all labor there is profit, But mere talk leads only to poverty (1Tim 5:13).

D. Attitude causes

1. Resisting correction and discipline

Prov 13:18 Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline ...
(Prov 12:1, 15; 13:1, 8; 15:10)

2. Loving pleasure

Prov 21:17 He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; (Prov 5:10-11; 23:21)

3. Covetousness

Ex 20:17 Do not covet ...

(Ex 20:17; 34:24; Deut 5:21; 7:25; Rom 7:7; 13:9; 1Cor 5:10-11; 6:10; 2Cor 9:5; Eph 5:5)

4. Pursuing wealth

Prov 28:22 A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth And does not know that want will come upon him. (Prov 28:20; 1 Tim 6:9-10)