

Prosperity and Tithing

March 29, 2015

I. Review:

A. Atonement (His poverty) of Jesus was to make us rich in three areas:

2Cor 8:9 the grace of Jesus Christ, ... He became poor, ... that you ... might become rich.

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. Primary causes of poverty and prosperity:

1. The curse of sin and disobedience (Gen 2:17; Dt. 28:15-68).
2. Ignorance (Hos 4:6; Isa 5:13).
3. Faith and unbelief (Heb 11:6; Mat 7:11; Ps 35:27)
4. Fear (Prov 29:25).
5. Not tithing (10%) - 3 primary arguments why people don't believe in tithing:

Argument # 1) They don't see it as a New Testament principle.

Answer # 1) Jesus confirmed tithing (Mat 23:23; Lk 11:42).

Argument # 2) They believe tithing is part of the Law of Moses.

Answer # 2) Tithing is an act of faith which began with Abraham (Heb 7:1-10; Gal 3:16-18).

Argument # 3) They teach that "Spirit led" giving is the New Testament pattern.

Answer # 3) Churches weekly took collections for the apostles to use at their discretion (1Cor 16:1-4; 2Cor 9:1-5).

II. Tithe and the windows of heaven will be opened

Mal 3:10 "I will open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."

A. Tithing is God's economy:

1. Tithing puts Him first in your life:

if He is first in your money, then He is first in your heart.

Mat 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. When you tithe remind yourself that you are a covenant - faith - person.

When we give of our tithes, we declare that we are in covenant relationship with Him.

Abraham, a covenant / faith man, gave tithes, and saw God provide for him.

Abrahamic Covenant

Gen 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives, and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Abraham gives Melchizedek 10% of all that he had (Gen 14:17-24).

vs. 19-20 He (*Melchizedek*) blessed him (*Abraham*) and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He (*Abraham*) gave him (*Melchizedek*) a tenth of all.

(Note: I made these italicized names)

God reveals Himself to Abraham as "Jehovah-Jireh", "the Lord will provide" (Gen 24:13-14).

3. Whether we tithe or not determines being blessed or cursed.

Failure to tithe perpetuates the curse.

Mal 3:8-10 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! "

Tithing releases God's blessing

Mal 3:10-12 "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." 11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts. 12 " All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

As the seed of Abraham, Christians are still blessed today as they honor the Lord with the first fruits of all their increase and pay their tithes. Our tithe belongs in our local church, our "storehouse" where we receive our spiritual food (Mal 3:10). And the Lord promises to open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing you cannot even contain. He also promises to rebuke the devourer. Anytime the devil comes to steal from us, the Lord will arise, rebuke him and guard your resources. Our money is the Lord's vehicle to be used for the propagation of the Gospel. He will protect His property in order to fulfill His purpose.

(From, Prosperity with a Purpose, by Wendell Smith; p. 35)

B. Tithing in the Scriptures

Tithing is not some legalistic act that was started under Old Testament law, but it is the same dynamic and supernatural covenant act that Abraham and his descendants performed some 430 years before the law was ever given to Moses (Gal 3:17).

The Bible teaches us to tithe as well as to give; tithing is taught throughout the scriptures.

1. **Abel** brought the firstborn of the flock as an offering to the Lord.

Gen 4:4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering.

2. **Abraham** established tithing

Gen 14:20; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he (Abraham) gave him a tithe of all.

28:13, 22 . . . of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.

3. **Moses** confirmed tithing

Lev 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD.

5. Kings used tithing (1Sam 8:11, 15, 17)

1Sam 8:11 He said, " This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: ...

v 15 He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants.

v 17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants.

6. Solomon endorsed tithing

Prov 3:9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

7. Tithing aids **Nehemiah** in the rebuilding of Jerusalem

Neh 10:35 And we made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD.

Neh 13:12 Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse.

8. Malachi prophesies that - tithing opens the windows of heaven .

Mal 3:10-12 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove 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 such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

9. Jesus Christ affirms tithing

Mat 23:23... you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Lk 11:42 But how terrible it will be for you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you completely forget about justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things. (NLT)

Lk 18:12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.

Jesus Christ also spoke about giving liberally.

Lk 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Mat 6:20-21 ... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

10. The NT Church was liberal in giving

Ac 2:44-45 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Ac 4:34-35 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

11. The Epistles confirm tithing

1Cor 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints...On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper....

Heb 7:5-10 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes...

III. What causes poverty? What causes prosperity?

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)