

# Spiritual Causes of Poverty or Prosperity

April 12, 2015

## I. Review:

### A. The benefits of redemption.

The Bible specifically details three things that Jesus did for us in taking our place. Jesus Christ became sin, sickness and poverty so that we might become righteous, healed and prosperous.

### B. Jesus became poor so that we might be made rich.

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

### C. We looked at what the New Testament says about poverty.

(25 points in over 50 Scriptures)

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

1. Financial poverty (Mat 11:5; Rom 15:26)
2. Spiritual poverty (Rom 3:23)
3. Poverty of spiritual gifts - gifting (1Cor1:4-8)
4. Poverty of soul (Mat 19:20-21)
5. Poverty of health (sickness); (Mk 5:25-34)

#### 2. The 5 primary cause of poverty or 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%); (Mal 3:10)

## II. Spiritual Causes:

### A. 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)

### B. (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)

### C. 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)

### D. 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)

### E. 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)

## **F. Ministry to the poor, giving 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)

## **III. Financial Causes:**

### **A. 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)

### **B. 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.

### **C. 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)

### **D. 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).

### **IV. Attitude causes**

#### **A. 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)

#### **B. Loving pleasure**

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

#### **C. 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)

#### **D. 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)

### **Some Great Quotes about poverty and Money:**

The greatest of evils and the worst of crimes is poverty... our first duty, a duty to which every other consideration should be sacrificed, is not to be poor.

George Bernard Shaw

The poorest man with Jesus is rich, and the richest man without Him is poor.

Kathryn Kuhlman

From Genesis through Revelation, the Bible, God's Treasure Map, charts prosperity for His own! Your Heavenly Father longs to share His inexhaustible riches with you starting today!

George Otis

Let us give according to our incomes, lest God make our incomes match our gifts.

Peter Marshall

The love of money is the root of all evil but the love of people is the root of all giving!

Wendell Smith

Our brother the monk and our brother the prosperity preacher have failed to understand the essence of Christianity. The Christian experience is one that transcends the issues of abundance or lack, and provides a contentment and peace that carries the believer through the vicissitudes of life's bull and bear markets, full and empty pantries, and abounding or overdrawn checking accounts. "I can do all things through Christ" means that he is my focus of existence. He is my source of contentment and the One who, through want and abundance, meets my needs. I trust Him. He supplies my wants and releases my prosperity in the increments I can handle. It is not because I am such a good sheep. It is that He is the good shepherd that I shall not want!

Bishop T.D. Jakes

God doesn't mind you having money, but he minds money having you. Prosperity is part of the process, but it is not the objective. The objective is to become a conduit whereby currency flows through you like electricity through metal. Money is called currency because it is meant to flow like the

currents of a river. As it flows, some of it will moisten the parched ground of your personal life. Some will flow through to your children and your family. And some will flow through you to bless the ministry that is helping you become all you can be.

Bishop T.D. Jakes

Money is neither evil nor good. It is what you do with it that colors it with moral relativity. The same hundred-dollar bill can feed a crack habit or put food on the table, pay for a prostitute, or buy your wife a bottle of perfume. Money simply makes you more of what you already were before you had it.

Bishop T.D. Jakes - The Great Investment - Faith, Family and Finance

When you possess godliness and contentment, you are truly prosperous, for you are living a life destined to bring a reward and you are happy on the journey. By contrast, the apostle Paul noted that the way of seeking prosperity through riches is one that only "drowns men in destruction and perdition, piercing them through with many griefs." With contentment, you enjoy a prosperity that is independent of your circumstances. It is the kind of contentment the apostle Paul testified to when he declared, "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."

Benny Hinn - The Biblical Road to Blessing

In order to prosper we must understand what the Word of God says regarding prosperity. We must lay aside the thinking that spiritual blessings and heaven are all we need, and that material blessings are out of place for us. The salvation which Jesus wrought for us has the same power in the material as the spiritual world. Yes, let us not confuse prosperity with greed! Greed is characteristic of the devil while prosperity, attitude of God

David Yonggi Cho

Wealth is not just the ability to give, it is the freedom to serve.

Dave Heindel

From Dr. John Maxwell - There's No Such Thing As "Business" Ethics

PEOPLE WHO GO FOR THE GOLD

Ask, "What can you do for me?"

Make convenient decisions

Sacrifice family for finances

Develop a rationale for their actions

Possess a "me first" mind-set

Count their dollars

Base their values on their worth.

PEOPLE WHO GO FOR THE GOLDEN RULE

Ask, "What can I do for you?"

Make character decisions

Sacrifice finances for family

Develop relationships with their actions

Possess an "others first" mind-set

Count their friends

Base their worth on their values.

God is the biggest investor in the world. He sowed His own Son to win the World.

Dr. Joseph Ripley

True wealth is not the measure of what a person has, but the measure of what they give in proportion to what they have.