

## Prosperity God's Way

### (Overcoming A Spirit Of Poverty)

Review of the purpose of prosperity - **Genesis 12:2** " I will bless you...and you shall be a blessing." If you are Christ's then this promise belongs to you! **Galatians 3:29**

We saw in **Deuteronomy 8:18** it is He (God) who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant in the earth.

The power to get wealth is the GRACE to create it. Grace, being defined as His undeserved, unmerited favor, It's God's ability and His empowering us to do what we otherwise could not do.

The blessing is not just having streams of income coming in but it's for us to have the ability to start business's and have answers that bring solutions to people's financial problems.

The purpose of prosperity is that you be blessed so you can be a channel of blessing to others. Dead Sea prosperity and wealth is not Biblical prosperity.

The New Testament definition of prosperity based on **II Corinthians 9:8-10** is we are to have enough and extra, bread and seed.

The blessing of Abraham is a spiritual blessing and its already been given and it's upon you. It was spoken by God to Abraham, Abraham spoke it to Isaac, Isaac to Jacob, down the line to Joseph.

**Genesis 39:1-2** – “Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.”

The blessing of Abraham is voice activated. The blessing is already on us.

**Galatians 3:13-14** – “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Have you made room in your heart for blessing to flow through you? God can get it to you if He can get it through you!

So today we are going to look at **Overcoming The Spirit Of Poverty.** Not a demon spirit but a poverty (mentality, or attitude) of poverty.

**Proverbs 10:15** – “The rich man's wealth is his strong city; the destruction of the poor is their poverty.”

The rich man's strength and protection (strong city) from poverty is not just his present financial condition, but that he sees himself wealthy. A spirit of prosperity rules this man's heart.

Likewise, the poor man's destruction is not just his present condition of lack, but that he sees himself poor. A spirit of poverty (or a poverty mentality) rules this man's heart.

Whatever spirit (or attitude) rules our heart determines the fruit we will consistently experience in our lives.

It's what you see and how you see yourself that will determine what you experience in life.

There's power in imagination...imagine yourself blessed, imagine yourself prosperous, imagine yourself healed and whole.

I've included some things here that might help you identify if you have a poverty mentality ruling your heart.

### **You might have a spirit of poverty controlling your life if...**

1. You break into cold sweats whenever there is a downturn in the economy or you receive a negative financial report.
2. Your close friends call you Scrooge, tight wad, or a pessimist.
3. Murphy's law is more real to you than God's Word. (*Anything that can go wrong will go wrong*)
4. You are constantly complaining about how much things cost.
5. You are always trying to get things for less or for free.
6. You are holding on to and hoarding things you should be letting go of.
7. The blessing and good fortune of others bothers you.
8. You are obsessed with success and the accumulation of stuff.
9. You feel secure only if you have a certain amount of money in the bank.

One of the assignments of ministers from the Head of the church is to eradicate the spirit of poverty from the mindset, actions, and finances of God's people!

**Luke 4:18** – "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor."

We can't do that with confidence if we are allowing a spirit of poverty to rule our hearts and lives.

You can be a tither, a hard worker, have money in the bank, and still be controlled by a spirit of poverty. (Poverty mentality)

It's possible to be poor and have a generous spirit. It's also possible to be wealthy and stingy because a spirit of poverty is ruling your heart.

**Revisit the Bible's Definition of Prosperity - II Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things may have an abundance for every good work.

We have to give attention to this and meditate on it until it becomes real to us so the picture changes to enough and extra!

The spirit of poverty (or poverty mentality) paints an entirely different picture on the canvas of our hearts: it says, There's not enough in any situation.

There's not enough money, favor, housing, room, time, smarts, wisdom, talent, good paying jobs, strength, health, help, etc. So, you're left to yourself.

You can be confessing the Word but believing something different, and whatever you believe is what you're going to get, not what your confessing.

Our confession only works when it's in alignment with what you believe and what you really believe is what you're seeing in your heart. That's why meditation and imagination on the promises of God are so important.

Some people have such a hard time letting go of things. They worked so hard to get it and have no hope of restoring it without a similar output of personal energy.

God is not limited to bless us only with what we can do with our hands. A prosperity mentality says "God is able to make all grace abound towards me"

**Question: How do you see yourself and your situation? Enough or not enough?**

A poverty mentality will first feather his own nest, make sure his nest egg has been achieved and financial comfort zone has been protected. Then, he can give a little bit to charity but never beyond his comfort zone.

**Mark 12:41** – Jesus watches how people give.

The widow giving all she had gave a greater gift in Jesus' mind than those who gave out of their abundance.

The way Jesus measures the size of the gift is by the percentage, not the amount.

An abundant gift for a good work that stretches one's comfort zone is rarely considered,

much less given, by one ruled by a spirit of poverty.  
Why? Because of fear of lack or not having enough.

Look at Jesus' pattern of leadership for facing lack. - **John 6:5-13**

He recognized the need. - **John 6:5**

He involved others in the process. - **John 6:6-11**

He did not allow the need and apparent lack to either rule His heart or thinking or to dictate the final outcome. - **John 6:7-9**

He exalted the truth of what He knew about His Father and His trust in His Father's care and provision above the fact that it looked like there was not enough.

He asked the people to do something, and He involved their faith and action in looking to God and sitting them down in order. - **John 6:10**

He used what He had: five loaves and two fish. - **John 6:9, 11**

He gave thanks for it, instead of cursing it. - **John 6:11**

Far too many times, we curse or become ungrateful for the provision we have because it seems like it is not enough to meet the need.

Then we miss out on the opportunity for God to multiply it and make a miracle provision from it.

So here's our example from Jesus, when you and I get to a place where it appears to be more month left than there is money...bless what you have, give thanks for it, lift it up to God and let God multiply it.

**The Father wants you to know, there's always enough! See yourself blessed to be a blessing.**