

BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

Session 4 – Overcoming a Spirit of Poverty

I. Review – God's covenant of Prosperity and His Purpose for Prosperity

A. Genesis 12:2 – “I will bless you.... and you shall be a blessing”

1. This blessing is carried over throughout the old covenant into the new covenant.
2. **Galatians 3:29** ²⁹And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

B. **Deuteronomy 8:18** ¹⁸But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

1. Each of us has been given the ability to create wealth so that we may participate in establishing His covenant/work in the earth
2. The biblical purpose for prosperity is that you be blessed so you can be a channel of blessing to others.
3. God provides bread for food – something for us
4. God provides seed to sow – something for others
5. Whenever we are believing for our need, we should increase our faith to believe for something more to give

II. Overcoming the Spirit of Poverty

- A. **Proverbs 10:15** ¹⁵The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.
1. A Rich man's strength and protection from poverty is not just from his present financial condition, but that he sees himself wealth.
 - a. A Spirit of prosperity rules his heart
 2. The poor man's destruction is not just his present condition of lack, but he sees himself poor
 - a. A spirit of poverty rules his heart
 3. Whatever spirit rules our heart determines the fruit we will consistently experience in our lives.
- B. Recognizing the Spirit of Poverty – *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 refer to you as "tightwad"
Tightwad = penny pincher, miser, scrooge
 3. You are constantly complaining about how much things cost
 4. You are always trying to get things for less or free

5. You are holding on to and hoarding things you should be letting go of.
6. The blessing and good fortune of others bothers you
7. What others think about what you drive, where you live, and what you wear is a big deal to 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.

III. Revisit the Bible's Definition of Prosperity

2 Corinthians 9:8 ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

A. You will always have all sufficiency in all things

1. Always having enough in every situation
2. We must give attention to this, and meditate on it until it becomes real to us – enough and extra
3. The spirit of poverty paints an entirely different picture on the canvas of our hearts. *Which picture do you see in your heart – poverty – or prosperity?*
4. The spirit of poverty will always tell us there is not enough in any situation.

5. When you listen to the voice of poverty, you are left to yourself to do whatever you can to try to make ends meet.
6. The reason some people have a hard time letting go of specific things is because they believe they acquired them by their own self effort alone.
7. The voice of prosperity says, "I didn't acquire them on my own" but, God as my source provided everything I own.
8. QUESTION: How do you see yourself and your situation? Enough or not enough?

B. You have an abundance for every good work

1. This does not fit into the mindset of someone who is controlled by the spirit of poverty
2. A poverty mentality will always take care of himself and make certain that 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. What is your giving comfort zone?*
3. A poverty mentality toward giving is tipping . *They tip God, the poor and various charities to impress others or to feel better about themselves.*
4. Jesus took notice of the heart of the widow who gave the greatest gift, although it was small in comparison to other gifts.
5. Jesus measures giving by percentage not by the size of the gift
6. One who is ruled by the spirit of poverty will rarely stretch themselves to give beyond their comfort zone. *Why? Fear of lack.*

IV. Practical Steps to Overcoming the Spirit of Poverty

- A. Pray about it
- B. Change your mindset to exclude any thoughts that could give place to the spirit of poverty
- C. Practice biblical giving
 1. Tithe
 2. Offerings
- D. Practice hearing what the Holy Spirit is saying to you regarding giving
- E. Add faith to your giving (Comfort zone giving requires no faith)
- F. Remind yourself of the promises of God's provision and abundance
- G. Speak aloud God's financial promises until they become sown deep into your heart.

V. Declarations for finances

- *I am a cheerful giver and I sow under the direction of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 9:7)*
- *God gives me the power to get wealth so that He may establish His covenant upon the earth through me (Deut 8:18)*
- *God is my only source, I put my trust in God, not in man (Jeremiah 17:5-7)*
- *My God makes all grace abound toward me in every favor and earthly blessing so that I have all sufficiency in all things and abound to every good work. (2 Cor 9:8)*
- *I willingly obey the Lord in the tithe and in offerings. The windows of heaven are opened so that I am receiving blessings that there is not room enough to receive and the devourer is rebuked for my sake. (Mal 3:10)*