

PROSPERITY - I

"Breaking the Curse of Poverty"

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE

- A. Too many of God's people being attacked and held in bondage
- B. What we do affects so many others--church and family
- C. Pr. 13:18 - *"Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction; but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured."*

II. POVERTY IS A SPIRIT AND IS UNDER THE CURSE

- A. We can develop wrong attitude and frame of mind
- B. We can develop wrong confession; poor mouth mentality

III. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL CONCERNING PROSPERITY?

- A. I would that you prosper, be in health as your soul prospers
- B. What is prosperity?
 - 1. As long as you're happy, meeting your needs, and not having to depend on someone else
 - 2. Having more than enough
 - a. Meet your needs, store up for children, have enough to help others
 - b. Eat the fat, drink the sweet, send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared.
 - c. Should lend and not borrow
 - d. Owe no man anything
 - 3. God prospers those who are willing to give
 - a. Should always have giving attitude
 - b. Should never resent or begrudge giving to servants of the Lord
 - c. God will prosper those who will use motivational gift of giving
- C. God's will is for storehouse to be filled

IV. CURSE IS BROKEN THROUGH OBEDIENCE

- A. Deut. 11:26-28 - *"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God...and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God..."*
- B. Deut. 28:8 - *"The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."*
- C. *"The willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land."*

V. THE CURSE BROKEN THROUGH UNDERSTANDING LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING

- A. We sow to our day of need

1. Laying up treasures
 2. "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord."
- B. Principles of sowing and reaping
1. What you sow, is what you will reap--there's a harvest coming
 2. How you sow, is how you will reap--bountifully or sparingly
 3. Must patiently wait for harvest--time lapse between seedtime and harvest
 4. Always reap more than you sow--30, 60, or 100-fold

VI. YOU ARE CURSE WITH A CURSE

- A. Mal. 3:8-9 - *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse..."*
- B. Tithing is not an option--not just for those who can afford to
- C. Should not be guilty of spending God's money--tithe is holy
- D. When we know we've been faithful in tithing, can freely enjoy blessings of the Lord--don't have to apologize for success or prosperity
- E. The Lord will rebuke the devourer for our sakes
- F. Open windows of heaven to pour blessings out upon us

VII. DON'T BECOME WEARY IN WELL DOING (REAP IN DUE SEASON IF FAINT NOT)

- A. Getting discouraged and slacking up because don't see immediate fruit
- B. Become prosperous and then slack up
1. Don't forget where God brought you from
 2. Be easy for Satan to slip back in and rob you clean
- C. Secret is to be faithful and consistent
1. You prove faithfulness over the long haul
 2. Should be consistent--don't tithe sporadically
 3. *"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."* (I Co. 4:2)
 4. Start out by being faithful in small things before God can entrust you with greater responsibility

Scriptures:

II Sam. 24:24 - *"...but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing..."*

Deut. 16:16-17 - *"Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and thou shall not appear before the Lord empty. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee."*