

# PROSPERITY GOSPEL

You may know this as health and wealth gospel, name it and claim it, word of faith or prosperity preaching. This type of preaching/teaching focuses on man's happiness, comfort and prosperity in this life. This has really taken root here in America. I will not be naming any names or bashing anyone but I will shine the light on this. Let's just think about this, is it necessary to have some jets or even one jet to get God's work done? Does a minister need million dollar homes and vacation homes and security crews and limos and hundreds of thousands of dollars as a salary or even as much as a million dollars? Is it Biblical?



# Prosperity Gospel

**Why wait for heaven to get your mansion?**

Have you heard things like this before: if 10 people will give 1000 dollars in the next ten minutes God will heal you or your breakthrough will happen etc. Lies!!

You are not going to name and claim anything that is not in God's will and more specifically in His will for your life. Have you heard them say something like this when someone says: my ex doesn't pay child support and they tell you, sew a seed of 30 dollars into this ministry and expect a harvest.

## SEED MONEY

II Cor.9:1,6-12 - For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: (verse 6) But this I say, He which sowes sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, he has dispersed abroad; he has given to the poor: his righteousness remains for ever. Now He that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

Prosperity churches and preachers don't want to offend anyone and many times the truth of God's Word is not preached in their churches. Some who are in favor of prosperity, are rejecting anyone opposing their view stating that they are trying to demonize success.

It is being **taught** out there, especially here in America. God wants to bless you with cars and big homes and businesses. He wants to prosper you. This is actually being taught in some churches like a business. They are teaching to keep a positive confession, and visualize what you want and make plenty of donations and the more the better your blessing will be. I reviewed a video on this and a lady was talking about how the church had her and her husband thinking if they didn't pay tithes and give more and more that God would not bless them. She said, "God was everything I wanted. They were quoting scriptures about getting stuff daily. God became less of a priority and us pursuing wealth and possessions

became more of a priority, that's all we talked about, that's all we thought about." They were over drawing their bank account trying to pay their tithes and give and give more so they could get more. They began to argue a lot and they were losing touch with Jesus in all of this. Until she said finally her and her husband were arguing so much about it all one day that the Lord hit them both between the eyes at the same time with the fact that they were out of His will. That is when the madness stopped.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuQloZV2KRY>

God is not a prize machine that you stick a quarter in and get what you want. Do we honestly think we can just work a formula on Him and get whatever we want? Would that be because we think He's not smart enough to know that's what we are doing? I assure you, He is the most intelligent Being in both realms.

One of the first things I always hear to back this position up is, well Abraham was certainly wealthy and it was material wealth. That is true. God promised to bless him and He blesses us too. Remember seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.

Look at Elijah, the Bible certainly doesn't portray him as a rich man or wealthy, but the Lord took care of him and met his needs.

When we go to the time that Jesus lived here on earth, we don't see a lot of riches talked about among those that followed Him. We know Joseph of Arimathea was rich and we know from Luke 8:1-3 that Jesus had women that supported His ministry. But for the most part, the disciples were fishermen and just regular people and Jesus wasn't living extravagantly.

Look at John the Baptist, Matt.3:4 – And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

What about Paul?

He says in II Cor.8:9 – For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich.

Was Paul rich with earthly possessions? No. II Cor.11:27 – In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. He was always in jail. Paul did not get paid.

Rev. 2:9 – I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of satan.

Matt.:19:23-24 – Then said Jesus unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

It's pretty obvious that Jesus didn't mix His words about a rich person getting into heaven. Many people don't even state the obvious that a camel can never go through the eye of a needle. So why would Jesus say that? In studying to see what that is you will find that when the cities had walls around them in addition to the big city gates that were usually opened during the day, there was a small hole type of gate that they called the needle gate and this is what Jesus was referring to when He spoke of the "eye of the needle." If someone was coming into the city after the gates were closed they would have to come through this gate. Usually it was so small that they would have to unpack the camel, taking all of his goods and packs off of him. Then the camel would have to kneel to get through the small opening. Some believe this is a picture of humbling oneself and even shedding or not clinging to their riches.



Needle gate (eye of a needle) going into Jerusalem

You can read a story of a prosperous farmer who stored up many good for himself in Luke 12:13-21. He stored and saved up so much and then God said this to him: Luke 12:20-21 – But God said unto him, You fool, this night your soul shall be required of you: then whose shall those things be, which you have provided? So is he that lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Matt.:6:19-21 – Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust does corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. How do you do this? By making Jesus the Lord of your life. By obeying God's Word. By getting to know Jesus' intimately, praying and interceding for others and loving and helping others. **THE GREATEST TREASURE IN ALL OF LIFE IS JESUS CHRIST, IF YOU HAVE HIM, THEN YOU HAVE ENOUGH.**

Many Pastors from regular churches here in America are having to work a secular job just to survive. Many times people are giving to these big tv ministries and they are not even supporting their local church. Some of these mega churches

are having 3 hour services with multiple offerings being taken up. I even saw a post on facebook this week where it showed a church sign and the sign said “sister so and so does not pay her tithes.” If you question or don’t go along with their agenda, you are given a label and viewed as against the gospel.

Many mega churches have ATM machines now. These televangelist charge for a seat and yet the gospel was freely received and we should freely give it. Why can’t they let the people come for free and trust God to move on their hearts to give.

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (NASB) [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#)

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. The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered. (NASB) [Prov. 11:24-25](#)

Is it wrong to be rich? No, as long as you don’t put your money in place of God, loving it so much that it has become your God. (1 Tim. 6:10) The blessings of God should flow, just like Living Waters flow. He wants His blessing to bless you and then to flow out from you to bless others also. There are still poor and needy people in this world.

Prov.3:27-28 – Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it. Say not unto your neighbor, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when you have it by you.

Luke 6:35-36 – But love your enemies, and **do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again**: and your reward shall be great, and you shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

James 1:27 – Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

I Cor. 9:9 – Paul certainly did not take pay, but God’s Pastors are worthy of their labor

These Pastors and Televangelist who have such lavish lifestyles and hoarding up riches for themselves will stand and be judged.

Individuals being wealthy and not helping others. Big new house, cars, clothes, jewelry, kids in tons of activities and they say I can’t afford to help. Is that what God intends when He blesses us? To be so blessed we cannot help anyone??

II Peter 2:2-3 – And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingers not, and their damnation slumbers not.

“Wealth is no mark of God’s favor. Poverty is no mark of God’s displeasure.” – J.C. Ryle

Remember the devil can bestow blessings too. Just because someone is rich doesn’t necessarily mean it is God doing the blessing.

Our God is a God of rewards, He is a giver. He gave the most precious thing He had when He gave Jesus.