

A Thousand Hills

“Confronting the Spirit of poverty”

Psalm 50:10 (NLT) – *For all the animals of the forest are mine and I own the cattle on a thousand hills.*

Introduction:

- Last week during time of giving I shared with you some statistics about the average Christian and the average church in America. It so moved my heart that I felt strongly that I was supposed to come back and deal with this demonic principality that rules the hearts of many of us today.
 - o 10-15% of a healthy American church practice tithing
 - o Christians gave less than 2% of their income last year. During the Great Depression Christians gave over 3%. Even though we live in an economy of abundance we give less.
 - o 8% of families that make less than 25 thousand a year tithe while families that make more than 75 thousand a year give less than 1% of income.
 - o The average American Christian gives less than 17 Dollars a week.
- When I saw these stats and had time to really think about it dawned on me what we in the body of Christ are really dealing with: The Spirit of Poverty
- There is a prison that holds more people than all other prisons combined. There are no grey, stone walls or steel bars, but it is a prison none-the-less. This prison holds single mothers who are trying to make enough money to feed and clothe their children. Other inmates are from every walk of life. This prison is the prison of poverty. Poverty is Satan’s curse on humanity, because of sin. In order for Satan to impose poverty, he has to come through doorways that have been opened by individuals. He comes through these open doors and forces his will over humanities will.
- We serve a God of unlimited, abundant supply and he wants you to walk in his blessing. We are going to get an idea of what our God thinks about our financial well-being... most of us really don’t understand how God wants us to live. We some how believe that being a Christian is synonymous with being poor.
- In the scripture you do have a record of believers who didn’t have great wealth, but you also have record of many people of faith who had tremendous, world altering wealth.

You must trust me as your man of God as I teach over the next several weeks: Satan has cleverly sown the seed of mistrust in ministries and it’s a demonic trap! I gain nothing because of your giving, unless you give it directly to me. It all goes to this church. My board has my salary set and unlike many pastors, my salary is not based on a percentage of the income of this church!

1 Thess. 2:13 (Amplified) - And we also thank God continually for this, that when you received the word of God [concerning salvation] which you heard from us, you welcomed it **not as the**

word of [mere] men, but as it truly is, the word of God, which is effectually at work in you who believe [exercising its inherent, supernatural power in those of faith].

2 Chronicles 20:20 - ...Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.

You must believe what I'm teaching you will work for you and manifest in your life!

John 1: 45-46 - Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

- Nathanael believed the word for (he had studied Moses and the Law), but he did not believe it could manifest in his day.
- Make a declaration: "I believe and declare that prosperity will manifest in my life now"

1. Is it really God's will for my family and I to walk in financial abundance?

Before we start acquiring the keys to unleash the power of prosperity, we must first establish the will of God in our finances:

- **Genesis 13:2** – Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.
- **James 2:23** – He was the friend of God
- **God's best friend was a millionaire!**
- **Deut. 8: 18** – *Remember the Lord, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish his covenant which he swart unto thy fathers, as it is this day. (KJV)*
 - (NLT) *Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you power to become rich, and he does it to fulfill the covenant he made with your ancestors.*
- **Psalm 35: 27** - *Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.*
- **Psalm 112: 1-3** – Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who delights greatly in His commandments. ² His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. ³ **Wealth and riches will be in his house,** And his righteousness endures forever.
- **Proverbs 13:22** - A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.
- **II Peter 1: 3** (KJV) – *According as His divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*

- **2 Corinthians 8: 9** (KJV) – *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich.*
 - The context of this verse is found in verses 1 and 2. It is speaking of physical wealth, not spiritual wealth.
 - This cannot be speaking of spiritual wealth because Jesus never became poor spiritually. If he had become poor, he would have been disqualified to be our substitutionary sacrifice.
- **2 Corinthians 9: 10-11** – *God promises gives multiplication and enrichment. He is speaking of physical riches in this passage.*
- **Proverbs 19: 4** – *Wealth makes many friends.*
- **Eccl. 7: 12** – *Wealth is a defense.*
- **Eccl. 10: 19** – *Wealth answers all problems*
- All of the patriarchs of the faith were men and women of great wealth: Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David, Solomon, Boaz, etc...
- **Jesus spoke on the topic of money 16 out of 38 parables.**
- **1 out of 10 verses in the Gospels deal with money or possessions.**
- **In the Bible there are 500 verses on prayer; less than 500 on faith; but over 2000 on money and possessions.**
- **3 John 2** – *Beloved, I wish above all things that you would prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.*

2. How do I know if the spirit of poverty is at work in my life and how do I break it?

The spirit of poverty must be broken before the principles of prosperity will work

Matthew 6: 24: No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- a. John Milton wrote a poem entitled "Paradise Lost." This poem painted a detailed portrait of Hell. Milton showed Satan as a fallen commander-in-chief surrounded by demon generals: Moloch, Dagon, Astarte, Osiris, and Belial and ***Mammon***.
- b. Here Jesus is clearly identifying a "spirit of mammon"
- c. ***Mammon*** is an Aramaic word meaning "riches." The Assyrians got the concept of a god of wealth from the Babylonians.
- d. In a biblical sense, ***mammon*** is a spirit which rest on money!
- e. ALL MONEY HAS A SPIRIT ON IT: THE SPIRIT OF GOD OR THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON!
 - i. That money that you received this week as pay has been touched by drug dealers, addicts, sexually immoral individuals, greed... It has a spirit on it!
 - ii. Money that is surrendered to God has ***His*** blessing on it – Money that has not been submitted to God has the spirit of mammon on it.

- iii. *Mammon* says buy and sell – God says sow and reap; *mammon* says steal, cheat and manipulate – God says give and receive!

f. Money makes you mobile in the earth

g. **1 Timothy 6: 10** – *the love of money is the root of all evil*

h. This spirit manifest itself two ways:

- i. *Poverty – Wealth comes from the devil*
- ii. *Pride – Wealth comes from hard work*
- iii. *Prosperity – Wealth comes from God*
- iv. I have seen a lot of wealthy people who have a poverty mentality. They are ashamed of what they have, because they feel guilty.