

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

FLM PRAYER STUDY #128

A Spirit of Poverty

Beloved, I wish about all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3rd John 2 KJV

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers. 3rd John 2
AMP*

SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

We are made in the image of God, a tri-union being:

1. Body is the “carton” we come packaged in, i.e. the physical body with its five senses.
2. Soul: mind(imagination, reasoning, thoughts, logic, intellect, understanding) will(decision, choice, intent, purpose, desire, determination), emotions(intangible feelings such as hatred, love, anger, etc.) The soul when not in proper alignment with the spirit wants what is of self and is self-conscious.
3. Spirit: the real you, that which is dead in trespasses and sin but is born again by the Spirit of our God. The spirit wants what is of God and is God conscious. It is where we do real worship(John 4:23-24). It gives us the ability to hear God.
(The heart in scripture usually refers to the soul and spirit.)

EYE GATE

Generally speaking the eyes are the windows of the soul. Often we can see evil in people's eyes or can see Jesus. This eye gate is very important in deliverance ministry. A person's eyes can tell you a lot about what is going on. Isaiah 33:17a *Thine eye shall see the king in his beauty....*

Matthew 13:15-16 *For this people's heart is become gross and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and should understand with their heart and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.*

SOULISH RELIGION

A soul not properly aligned **under** control of the spirit does not prosper, and soulish religion is often full of arrogance, haughtiness,

opinions, pride, boastings, dominance, pushiness, unbelief, disobedience, self-will, lack of commitment, unfaithfulness, no punctuality, no reliability or dependability. It is telling God where you are going and what you are going to do, and asking Him to bless it, instead of surrendering your life to God and asking Him what He wants done. We must allow the Spirit of the Lord to deal with our soul nature so that we can come out as someone who will glorify Christ and release the Spirit of God to people rather than manipulating and influencing with our personalities, popularity or good looks, which appeal to soulish thinking. The soul is the seat of most of the problems we have in conforming to the image of Jesus. Since it is also the seat of personality, we should be conforming our personalities to the character of Jesus, the pattern son. It is not, of course, that God wants our personalities dead. He wants us to reckon ourselves as dead, meaning no longer independent. When you are born again, you lose the right to be your own God, and your spirit should be your authority over your soul.

(Much of this information comes from an excellent but rare book *The Merimos* by Randy Shankle. Merimos is the Greek term for dividing asunder as in Hebrews 4:12-13)

Salvation:

1. Salvation for the spirit is instantaneous when you are born again.
2. Salvation for the soul comes progressively as you read and receive the Word of God.
3. Salvation for the body comes in the future when we receive a glorified body.

<u>THREE TEMPTATIONS</u>	<u>THREE ANTIDOTES</u>	<u>THREE AREAS</u>
1. Lust of the Flesh	Word of God	Body
2. Lust of the Eyes	Worship	Soul
3. Pride of Life	Faith	Spirit

WHY WE DON'T PROSPER EVEN AS OUR SOUL PROSPERS

Causes of Poverty

1. **Impatience:** **Proverbs 21:5 KJV** *The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty, only to want.*
Living Bible *Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.*

2. **Greed: Proverbs 22:16 KJV** *He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want. Living Bible He that gains by oppressing the poor or by bribing the rich shall end in poverty.*
3. **Laziness: Proverbs 24:30-34 KJV** *I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw and considered it well; I looked upon it and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep; so shall thy poverty come like one that traveleth, and thy want like an armed man. Living Bible I walked by the field of a certain lazy fellow and saw that it was overgrown with thorns and covered with weeds; and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked, I learned this lesson; "A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest means that poverty will break in upon you suddenly like a robber and violently like a bandit.*
4. **Transgressions and Disobedience: 2nd Chronicles 24:20 KJV** *And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, the priest, who stood about the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God: "Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? Because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you."*
5. **Hiding One's Sin: Proverbs 28:13 KJV** *He who covers his sin will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*
6. **Distrust of the Lord and putting your trust in men: Jeremiah 2:36,37 NIV** *Why do you go about so much, changing your ways? You will be disappointed by Egypt as you were by Assyria. You will also leave that place with your hands on your head, for the Lord has rejected those you trust; you will not be helped by them.*
7. **Swearing falsely and stealing: Zechariah 5:1-4 NIV** *I looked again-and there before me was a flying scroll! He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll, thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide." And he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other , everyone who swears falsely will be banished. The Lord Almighty declares, "I will send it out, and it will enter the house of*

the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones.”

8. **Robbing God: Malachi 3:8-9 KJV** *Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, “In what way have we robbed You?” In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.”*
9. **Neglecting God’s Work to bless yourself: Haggai 1:4-6 KJV** *Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins? Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little: You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.”*

Dake’s 21 Blessings of Obeying God’s Commandments- Deuteronomy 4

1. Long life.
2. Success
3. Mercy and justice
4. Wisdom and understanding
5. World wide reputation for wisdom, knowledge, and greatness
6. Nearness to God
7. Answers to prayer
8. Perfect code of laws
9. Good and lasting memory
10. The only true religion to teach to children
11. Learning the law of God, which is the beginning of wisdom
12. Preservation from corruption through idolatry
13. Being a special people
14. An inheritance
15. A covenant with Jehovah
16. Faithfulness of God
17. Manifestations of God
18. Proof that Jehovah is God
19. Victory over enemies
20. Prosperity
21. Blessings upon offering

A Few of Dake's Curses for Disobeying God's Commandments in Deuteronomy

1. Serve your enemies
2. Hunger
3. Thirst
4. Nakedness
5. Want of all things
6. Bondage
7. Destruction of lives
8. War with foreign nations
9. Unmerciful treatment from enemies
10. Destruction of cattle
11. Destruction of crops
12. Robbery of all possessions
13. Siege of cities
14. Destruction of cities and trusted defenses
15. Conquest of the whole land
16. Famine and distress
17. Great plagues and sicknesses of long endurance
18. All the diseases of Egypt
19. No peace
20. Fearful and trembling hearts
21. Eye failures
22. Sorrow of mind
23. Fretting and worry because of the constant dangers of life
24. Enemies will eat your crops.
25. Crops will be destroyed by locust.
26. Strangers will lend to you.

How to break at Spirit of Poverty!

1. **Give:** Luke 6:38 KJV *Give and it shall be given unto you good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye measure it shall be measured to you again. 2nd Corinthians 9:6-8 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to*

make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Specifically give the Tithe: Malachi 3:10-12 KJV *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in mine house, and test me now herewith, said the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for you sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts.*

2. **Praise:** Psalm 35:27-28 AMP *Let those who favor my righteous cause and have pleasure in my uprightness shout for joy and be glad and say continually, "Let the Lord be magnified," Who takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant. And my tongue shall talk of Your righteousness, rightness and justice and of my reason for Your praise all the day long.*
3. **Prophecy:** Ezekiel 37:4 *Again he saith unto me, Prophecy upon these bones and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.*
4. **Listen to God's Prophets:** Ezra 6:24a KJV *And the elders of the Jews built; and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai, the prophet, and Zechariah, the son of Iddo...*
5. **Walk by Faith and Not by Sight:** 2nd Corinthians 5:7 *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*
6. **Obeys the Word:** All of Deuteronomy 28, & Joshua 1:8 KJV *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success, & Leviticus 26:3-5 KJV *If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land safely.**
7. **Resist the Enemy:** James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*
8. **Bless the Poor and the Orphans and Widows:** Proverbs 28:27 Contemporary English Version *Giving to the poor will keep you from*

poverty, but if you close your eyes to their needs, everyone will curse you.

9. **Seek First the Kingdom:** Matthew 6:33 KJV *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.*
10. **Break off Any Generational Curses**(Exodus 20:5-*I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.*)-Isaiah 53:5-*He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.*
11. **Trust in God:** Nehemiah 2:19-20 KJV *But when Sanballat, the Horonite, and Tobiah, the servant, the Ammonite and Geshem, the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn and despised us, and said, “What is the thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?” Then I answered them, and said unto them, “The God of heaven will prosper us; therefore we, His servants, will arise and build; but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem.”*
12. **Being Content with What We Have:** 1st Timothy 6:7-10 *...we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grieves.*

THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL? YOU DECIDE!

The Prosperity Gospel, emphasized by most faith teachers, is a teaching that God desires material prosperity for those He favors. Prosperity theology promotes the idea that God wants Christians to be “abundantly” successful in every way, especially financially. Here are some verses to support this theology:

YES

Deuteronomy 8:18-*But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.* NAS

Malachi 3:10-Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. NAS

John 10:10-The thief cometh not, but to steal and to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. KJV

3rd John 2-4-Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. KJV

Luke 6:38-Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. KJV

NO

Those who oppose the Prosperity Gospel teach that this teaching is actually a teaching of materialism masquerading as theology in spite of no valid biblical support. The opponents cite the following scriptures:

1st Timothy 6:7-10-For ye brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 16:13-Do not store for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Money. KJV

Luke 18:22-25-...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. KJV

1st John 2:15-Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. KJV

1st Timothy 6:3-5-If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. KJV

Matthew 19:21-Jesus said to him, If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. KJV

Proverbs 22:16-He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth, and he who gives gifts to the rich-both come to poverty.

Matthew 6:19-20-But lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth 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.

Revelation 2:9-Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods and have need of nothing, and knowest that thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Proverbs 28:22-He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

Acts 8:20-But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Proverbs 3:17-There is he that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is he that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

Other criticisms (quotes taken from Wikipedia):

Anthony K. Thigpen and David W. Austin: *Money has always been mankind's greatest temptation. People wrestle against the truth everyday. The kingdom of God is not the American Dream-one is spiritual and the other is physical.*

David Jeremiah: *Any gospel that cannot be preached in a third world country is not the True Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Mahatma Gandhi: *I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ. The materialism of affluent Christian countries appears to contradict the claims of Jesus Christ that says it's not possible to worship both Mammon and God at the same time.*

Anthony K. Thigpen and David W. Austin: *The prosperity theology defines quality of life based on quantity of possessions. This deceptive movement teaches that financial lack is based on limited faith and minimal giving. The theme of Christianity is not money. How to get rich and have everything you ever wanted is Satan's message modernized. Money is a mere illusion. God gave His only Son that life would become more meaningful, namely spiritual. Money does not make life valuable, God does.*

We at First Love Ministries believe that we can have different opinions and still worship in unity under a big umbrella. We ask only that you be a Berean when you disagree with one another here. Personal opinions or church traditions don't mean much if they are not backed up with scripture. We love the Church, but we are finding more and more that scripture does not always back-up what we have been taught. We believe the Word is inerrant and the final answer. Our interpretations of scripture may be different, and all of us walk in different levels of revelation, and in this case there are scriptures that seemingly support both viewpoints, but I don't think they are contradictory. I think the Lord wants us to prosper spiritually and to live abundant lives and to have all our needs met. I also believe He will prosper us financially when we see our money and possessions as Kingdom money and Kingdom possessions used to bring others to the

Kingdom and to glorify Him on this earth. Perhaps my own bias is showing through in this teaching, and I do want to say that I highly respect some of the pastors and teachers who teach the Prosperity Gospel, but I have trouble reconciling this gospel with the Gospel life of the Pattern Son, Jesus, who had little of this world's goods when He walked on the earth. And I must admit that I am turned off by those pastors who have several rings on their fingers, a Rolex watch, big houses, several expensive cars, body guards, etc., and who make 6 figure salaries and go on frequent and exotic vacations. I believe that America is under judgment because of the wrong emphasis on material wealth and love of money in the Church that He died to redeem. How can we wear several diamonds on our fingers when our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world are dying for lack of food? I wonder how many Bibles those rings might buy to share the Gospel throughout the world or how many missionaries we could send out to preach the Gospel. We are a nation that reportedly spends more money on dog food than we do to feed the world's hungry. We have brothers and sisters in other parts of the world that struggle to stay alive because of lack of food. I do believe in praying for financial blessings-and I call it forth from the NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, and WEST but only to be used for the Kingdom or to supply our needs so we can be free of the fear of financial lack and bounced checks and can concentrate fully on being a representative of Christ on the earth. We don't solicit money here, and we don't charge for ministry. We rarely pay our speakers or our musicians because we think that those who have freely received should freely give. We do know that the workman is worthy of his hire, and we do believe that ministers should be compensated well, when they are depending on giving from God's people to live. We appreciate so much those faithful ones who give to keep this ministry going and growing. The more people give, the more people we can reach, so we are not against money. There has to be a balance, however, and ministry should never be gone into as a means to get rich. Again, these are my personal feelings, and we invite differences of opinions, as we know that we ALL have on blinders and see through a glass dimly. None of us have the full revelation yet, and no ministry that stands on Bible principles that I have attended is without TRUTH and none is without some degree of ERROR, including here.

LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT

by Kittie J. Suffield

(1924)

In the harvest field now ripened
There's work for all to do;
Hark! The voice of God is calling
To the harvest calling you.

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.

Are you laid aside from service,
Body worn from toil and care?
You can still be in the battle,
In the sacred place of prayer.

When the conflict here is ended
And our race on earth is run
He will say, if we are faithful,
"Welcome home, my child, well done."

CHORUS

Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown, and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' Name.