

Prosperity Gospel Devotionals

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Gospel Power

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. - Romans 1:16

Today's Scripture: Romans 1:1-17

One reason many Christians are so hesitant to witness for Christ is that they fear failure. They forget the life-changing power of the gospel.

Peter V. Deison, in his book *The Priority Of Knowing God*, tells about Ramad, a man in India who was a member of a gang of robbers. On one occasion, while burglarizing a house, Ramad noticed a small black book containing very thin pages just right for making cigarettes. So he took it. Each evening he tore out a page, rolled it around some tobacco, and had a smoke. Noticing that the small words on the pages were in his language, he began to read them before rolling his cigarettes.

One evening after reading a page, he knelt on the ground and asked the Lord Jesus to forgive his sins and to save him. He then turned himself over to the police, much to their amazement. Ramad the bandit became a prisoner of Jesus Christ. And in the prison where he served his sentence, he led many others to the Savior.

What was the book he had been reading? It was a Bible. The Holy Spirit used “the gospel of Christ,” and for Ramad it became “the power of God to salvation” (Romans 1:16).

Because there is great power in the gospel, we can always share the good news with confidence.

By: **Richard DeHaan**

Reflect & Pray

**The words we speak, the lives we live
Say much about the Lord we love;
But power in our witnessing
Comes from God's Word, sent from above. —Sper**
Religion can reform but only the gospel can transform.

True Prosperity

How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

- Mark 10:23

Today's Scripture: Mark 10:17-23

A few years ago, the banking empire Citicorp ran a series of billboards about money: “Money changes hands—just be sure it doesn’t change the rest of

you!” and “If people say you’re made of money, you should work on your personality!” These ads gave a refreshingly new perspective on riches.

God also has a surprising spin on wealth. From His perspective, you can be “well off” when it comes to worldly treasures and yet be in dire poverty in your soul. Or you can be poor in terms of earthside stuff and be lavishly rich by God’s standards.

The distorting power of wealth reminds me of the story of the rich young ruler. After a discussion about eternal life, Jesus asked him to sell his possessions, give to the poor, and follow Him. Unfortunately, the man “went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions” (Mark 10:22). This prompted Jesus’ lesson to the disciples: “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!” (v.23).

It’s not that Jesus is against wealth. It’s just that He is grieved by anything that we value more than Him. We can work hard and make money, but when those things are the main pursuit of life, then Jesus isn’t. Placing Him first and foremost in our lives is the key to true prosperity.

By: **Joe Stowell**

Reflect & Pray

**He possessed all the world had to give him,
He had reached every coveted goal;
But, alas, his life was a failure,
For he had forgotten his soul. —Denison**

Don't let riches—or the pursuit of riches—derail your pursuit of Jesus.

True Prosperity

Peter . . . fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am
a sinful man, O Lord!. - Luke 5:8

Today's Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Imagine having a financial advisor whose stock-market predictions were 100-percent accurate. Wall Street would soon put you on easy street. Or suppose your livelihood was fishing and you had a friend who could always lead you to just the right spot at just the right time. Every day you could have a money-making catch.

I wonder, did the appeal of such prosperity flash across the minds of the four seasoned fishermen who took Jesus' advice? After working all night with no success, they let down their nets at His command, and the catch nearly sank two boats (Lk. 5:6-7).

Many people today seem to be drawn to Jesus by those who proclaim that God wants them healthy and wealthy. Without question, Jesus showed concern for the sick and the poor. It is not wrong to make health and material needs the objects of our prayers, for our heavenly Father cares deeply about us (Mt. 7:7-11). But His greatest concern and delight is not to “fill our nets with fish.” He wants to fill our hearts with His love so we will become fishers of men. And He can do that only when we recognize, as Peter did (Lk. 5:8), how spiritually needy we are. The richest people are those who have experienced the love of Christ and want to share it with others. That’s true prosperity!

By: **Dennis J. DeHaan**

Reflect & Pray

*The riches of this world are vain,
They vanish in a day;
But sweet the treasures of God's love—
They never pass away. —Bosch*

No one is so poor as he who has nothing but money.

Spiritual Prosperity

Give us this day our daily bread. - Matthew 6:11

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 11:35-40

The Bible tells us that God will supply all our needs (Phil. 4:19). Because His resources are limitless, He is able to do that for everybody who comes to Him in faith.

Do we then have the right to expect that we will never be sick or hungry or in want? That's the teaching of some preachers today.

One speaker and author who promotes a health-and-wealth gospel has actually written: "The Word of God simply reveals that lack and poverty are not in line with God's will for the obedient God's will is prosperity."

According to that teaching, some of the great examples of faith portrayed in Hebrews 11, the Bible's Hall of Fame, must have been disobedient to God and His will. Verses 37 and 38 record that "they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth."

Surely God is concerned for our total welfare, yet He knows best when to withhold and when to bestow His provisions. His ultimate concern is for our spiritual health. We must therefore trust Him and acknowledge that adversity sometimes may be God's means of promoting our spiritual prosperity.

By: **Vernon Grounds**

Reflect & Pray

**O Lord, I would not ask You why
These trials must come my way,
But what is there for me to learn
Of Your great love, I pray. —DJJ**

There is no education like adversity.

I'm Rich!

I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. -

Psalm 119:14

Today's Scripture & Insight: **Psalm 119:9–16**

Perhaps you've seen the TV ad in which a person answers the door and finds someone who hands over a check for an enormous amount of money. Then the amazed recipient begins shouting, dancing, jumping, and hugging everyone in sight. "I won! I'm rich! I can't believe it! My problems are solved!" Striking it rich evokes a great emotional response.

In Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, we find this remarkable statement: "I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches" (v. 14). What a comparison! Obeying God's instructions for living can be just as exhilarating as receiving a fortune! Verse 16 repeats this refrain as the

psalmist expresses grateful gladness for the Lord's commands. "I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

But what if we don't feel that way? How can delighting in God's instructions for living be just as exhilarating as receiving a fortune? It all begins with gratitude, which is both an attitude and a choice. We pay attention to what we value, so we begin by expressing our gratitude for those gifts of God that nourish our souls. We ask Him to open our eyes to see the storehouse of wisdom, knowledge, and peace He has given us in His Word.

As our love for Jesus grows each day, we indeed strike it rich!

By: **David C. McCasland**

Reflect & Pray

Dear Father, open our eyes that we may see wonderful things in Your law.

Thank You that Your instructions give wise advice.

Rich treasures of God's truth are waiting to be discovered in His Word.

Rich Toward God

Godliness with contentment is great gain. - 1 Timothy 6:6

Today's Scripture & Insight: **1 Timothy 6:6–11**

Growing up during the Great Depression, my parents knew deep hardship as children. As a result, they were hard-working and grateful money stewards. But they were never greedy. They gave time, talent, and treasury to their church, charity groups, and the needy. Indeed, they handled their money wisely and gave cheerfully.

As believers in Jesus, my parents took to heart the apostle Paul's warning: "Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction" (1 Timothy 6:9).

Paul gave this advice to Timothy, the young pastor of the city of Ephesus, a wealthy city where riches tempted all.

"The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil," Paul warned. "Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" (v. 10).

What, then, is the antidote to greed? Being "rich toward God," said Jesus (see Luke 12:13–21). By pursuing, appreciating, and loving our heavenly Father above all, He remains our chief delight. As the psalmist wrote, "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days" (Psalm 90:14).

Rejoicing in Him daily relieves us of coveting, leaving us contented. May Jesus redeem our heart's desires, making us rich toward God!

By: **Patricia Raybon**

Reflect & Pray

How have you mishandled money, or made it more than it ought to be? How might you give your financial concerns to God this day?

Satisfy us in the morning, God, with Your unfailing love—replacing our greed with holy hunger for You.

Prosperity And Adversity

Give me neither poverty nor riches—feed me with the food allotted to me. - Proverbs 30:8

Today's Scripture: Proverbs 30:1-9

Prosperity and adversity are equal-opportunity destroyers. The extremes of life can be hazardous because a person with too much may encounter as much difficulty as one with too little.

Agur, the writer of Proverbs 30, must have sensed this danger when he prayed: “Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches—feed me with the food allotted to me; lest I be full and deny You, and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God” (Proverbs 30:8-9).

A similar request occurs in a beautiful choral anthem composed by Benjamin Harlan:

Write Your blessed name,

O Lord, upon my heart,

There to remain so indelibly engraved

That no prosperity, nor adversity

Shall remove me from Your love.

In Proverbs 30 the focus is on circumstances, while the song centers on the state of our heart. Perhaps we should pray that God would guard us in both areas of our lives.

The late Dr. Carlyle Marney, a prominent pastor, often said that most of us need to have our “wanter” fixed. Instead of always asking for more, we should seek the balance expressed in Proverbs 30.

When we invite the Lord to place His mark of ownership on our lives, we acknowledge His wise and loving provision for all our needs.

By: **David C. McCasland**

Reflect & Pray

Contentment is realizing that God has already given me all I need.

Rice Money

Their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. - 2

Corinthians 8:2

Today's Scripture: Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

In the province of Mizoram in India lives a group of Christians who have discovered a unique way to give to the work of the Lord. As the woman of the house prepares meals for her family, meals that consist primarily of rice, she measures out just enough rice to feed her family.

Then, before she cooks that rice, she reaches into the dish, grabs a handful, and takes it out. This she sets aside until Sunday, when she takes it to church and combines it with the rice brought by other women. The church then sells it and uses the proceeds to support missionary projects. One of the items purchased was a computer that is being used to help the Mizo people complete a translation of the Bible in their language.

It would be easy for people without much money to look at the little they have and decide it's not worth giving. Likewise, it would have been easy for

the widow in Luke 21 to feel inadequate with her two small coins when she saw the large amounts the rich people put in the temple treasury.

God isn't interested in the amount as much as He is in a heart of sacrifice. That's why Jesus said the widow put in more than all the others (v.3). Can we honestly say that our giving is sacrificial?

By: **Dave Branon**

Reflect & Pray

**The gifts we offer to the Lord
Are by His standards measured;
Our sacrifice and lives of praise—
Such gifts are highly treasured. —Sper**
Sacrifice is the true measure of our giving.

Get Involved

But [Jesus] needed to go through Samaria.- John 4:4

Today's Scripture: John 4:7-26

Norena's South Florida home was severely damaged during Hurricane Andrew in 1992. She received an insurance settlement, and the repair work began. But the contractors left when the money ran out, leaving an unfinished

home with no electricity. For 15 years, Norena got by with a tiny refrigerator and a few lamps connected to extension cords. Surprisingly, her neighbors didn't seem to notice her dilemma. Then, acting on a tip, the mayor got involved and contacted an electrical contractor who restored power to her house within a few hours.

When Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4), He got involved in her life and talked to her about her need for spiritual power. He established common ground with her (water, v.7) and piqued her spiritual interest and curiosity (vv.9-14). He was gracious and sensitive as He confronted her sin (vv.16-19) and kept the conversation centered on the main issue (vv.21-24). Then He confronted her directly with who He was as Messiah (v.26). As a result, she and many other Samaritans believed in Him (vv.39-42).

Let's get involved in the lives of others and tell them about Jesus. He is the only source of spiritual power and satisfies our deepest longings.

By: **Marvin Williams**

Reflect & Pray

Help me to see the tragic plight Of souls far off in sin; Help me to love, to pray, and go To bring the wandering in. —Harrison

A faith worth having is a faith worth sharing.

Get Smart

In vain I have chastened your children; they received no correction. -

Jeremiah 2:30

Today's Scripture: Jeremiah 2:29-37

The Israelites repeatedly ignored God's discipline (Jer. 2:30). The Lord was grieved that they were unwilling to admit their wrongdoing and change their ways.

I have encountered heartbroken parents with similar feelings about their children. So it was refreshing to hear a young minister at his father's funeral speak gratefully of his parents' corrective measures.

He said that when he was a boy, he was picked up by a policeman for throwing stones in a place where he could have caused great damage. The officer told his father that if he disciplined his son it would not be necessary to turn him over to the juvenile authorities. The minister recalled that the look on his father's face made him wish he could have chosen the juvenile authorities. Yet he knew that his father truly loved him. As he grew up, he continued to need discipline, but because he respected his father and was quick to admit his wrong, he became a responsible adult.

Whether the correction comes from God, a good parent, or some other authority, its effectiveness will be determined by our response. Remember, “He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding” (Prov. 15:32).

By: **Herbert Vander Lugt**

Reflect & Pray

For Personal Reflection

Think about the last time someone corrected you.

How did you respond?

How has that correction helped you?

Accept correction, and you'll need less of it.

Money Talks

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness. - 1 Timothy 6:10

Today's Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

As I was driving home from the office, I saw a minivan proudly displaying a bumper sticker that read: “Money Talks: Mine Says Goodbye.” I think a lot of people can relate to that sentiment.

Much of our living is spent acquiring and using money, which doesn't last. The stock market crashes. Prices go up. Thieves steal others' goods. Things wear out and break down, requiring the acquisition and expenditure of more money to replace what has been lost. The temporary nature of material wealth makes it a poor bargain in the search for security in an insecure world. Money is much better at saying goodbye than it is at sticking around.

Nowhere does the Bible say it's wrong to have money or the things that money can buy. Where we lose our way is when money becomes the driving purpose of our lives. Like the rich man and his barns (Luke 12:13-21), we end up pursuing the accumulation of things that eventually will be forfeited—if not in life, then certainly at death.

How tragic to live our entire lives, only to end them with nothing of eternal worth to show for our labors. To paraphrase Jesus' words, it is much better to be rich toward God than to work for treasure that can't last (v.21).

By: **Bill Crowder**

Reflect & Pray

**Let me hold lightly things of this earth;
Transient treasures, what are they worth?
Moths can corrupt them, rust can decay;
All their bright beauty fades in a day. —Nicholson**

Treasures in heaven are laid up as treasures on earth are laid down.

Money Matters

No servant 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.

- Luke 16:13

Today's Scripture: Luke 16:1-13

Godfrey Davis, who wrote a biography of the Duke of Wellington, said, “I found an old account ledger that showed how the Duke spent his money. It was a far better clue to what he thought was really important than the reading of his letters or speeches.”

How we handle money reveals much about our priorities. That’s why Jesus often talked about money. One-sixth of the Gospels’ content, including one out of every three parables, touches on stewardship. Jesus wasn’t a fundraiser. He dealt with money matters because money matters. For some of us, though, it matters too much.

Jesus warned that we can become slaves to money. We may not think that money means more to us than God does. But Jesus did not say we must serve God *more* than we serve money. The issue isn’t what occupies first place in our life, but whether we serve money at all. Pastor and author George Buttrick said, “Of all the masters the soul can choose, there are at last only

two—God and money. All choices, however small, however the alternatives may be disguised, are but variants of this choice.”

Does your checkbook show that Jesus is the Master in your life?

By: **Haddon W. Robinson**

Reflect & Pray

**If we pursue mere earthly gain,
We choose a path that ends in pain;
But joy and peace are in our soul
When we pursue a heavenly goal. —D. De Haan**

For a quick check on your heart, check out your checkbook.

Money Worries

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. - Luke 12:32

Today's Scripture: Luke 12:22-31

Of His words recorded in the Bible, Jesus has more to say on money than any other topic. Luke 12 offers a good summary of His attitude. He does not condemn possessions, but He warns against putting faith in money to secure the future. Money fails to solve life’s biggest problems.

Although Jesus speaks to many aspects about money, He seems to concentrate on the question: What is money doing to you? Money can dominate a person's life, diverting attention away from God. Jesus challenges us to break free of money's power—even if it means giving it all away.

Jesus urges His listeners to seek treasure in the kingdom of God, for such treasure can benefit them in this life and the next one too. “Do not worry,” He says (v.22), for God is the one who provides for our needs. And then to emphasize His point, He brings up King Solomon, the richest man in the Old Testament. Jesus said that a common wildflower is clothed more gloriously by God than a royal king. So do not have an anxious mind (vv.27-29), “but seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you” (v.31).

Better to trust in the God who lavishes care on the whole earth than to spend our lives worrying about money and possessions.

By: **Philip Yancey**

Reflect & Pray

For Further Study Learn more about this subject by reading *Jesus' Parables About Money*

The real measure of our wealth is what will be ours in eternity.