

### Opening the hand: Proverbs on money and giving

#### 1. Give worshipfully. Prov 3:9 To Honor Him. The word 'honor' means to glorify

a. **For God's glory.** He owns it all and needs nothing from us.

i. **Thankfulness for salvation not to gain it.**

Deut. 16:10-12

Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. <sup>11</sup> And rejoice before the Lord your God —<sup>12</sup> **Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.**

b. Not to gain wealth: NOT the **Prosperity gospel.**

A. It explanation

i. **Costi Hinn quote**

I was traveling the world on a private Gulfstream jet doing "gospel" ministry and enjoying every luxury money could buy. . . . \$25,000-a-night royal suites in Dubai, seaside resorts in Greece, tours of the Swiss Alps, villas on Lake Como in Italy, basking on the golden coast of Australia, shopping sprees at Harrods in London, and numerous trips to Israel, Hawaii, and everywhere in between. . . . There was just one problem: We weren't preaching the same gospel as Paul.

Growing up in the Hinn family empire. . . Our lifestyle was lavish, our loyalty was enforced, and our version of the gospel was big business. Though Jesus Christ was still a part of our gospel, he was more of a magic genie than the King of Kings. Rubbing him the right way—by giving money and having enough faith—would unlock your spiritual inheritance. God's goal was not his glory but our gain. His grace was not to set us free from sin but to make us rich. The abundant life he offered wasn't eternal, it was now. We lived the prosperity gospel. – CT article 2017

ii. **God is sovereign, but the prosperity gospel advocates He cannot do as He pleases (Dan. 4:32; Isa. 45:11). He is depicted as a benevolent benefactor at the service of believers who can get Him to act by saying the right words in 'faith'. This 'gospel' is a grave error as it enthrones 'the deity of the believer' who is conferred with similar authority as the Almighty.**

B. Its' popularity. 30% of Brazil; Hordes in India; Pakistan,

- Oral Roberts; Joel Osteen Creflo Dolla Benny Hin. TD Jake. Joyce Meyers; Kenneth Copland; Robert Tilton
- Trinity Broadcasting network
- Lifeway Research 2017 poll: Almost 40% say if you give God will prosper; 70% said God wants me to prosper financially This is among evangelicals.

C. Its refutation

iii. **John 16:32:** In this world you will have tribulation. Our best life is not now but in heaven, whose glory will far surpass the present suffering. **Rom. 8:18**

iv. **OT Commands not to have the poor give to you but to give to them. The prosperity preachers ask for money from the poor.**

a. **Deut. 16:7-8**

If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. <sup>8</sup> Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.

- v. **God calls us to be content.** 1 Timothy 6:5-10. READ  
Prov. 25:16  
Have you found honey? Eat *only* <sup>[a]</sup> what you need,  
That you not have it in excess and vomit it.
- vi. **The poor and afflicted are not outside the will of God:** Eg. Paul, Jesus, :purpose of sickness and suffering is to display God's grace to help. 2 Cor. 12:7-10
- vii. **Jesus says suffering and trials are his venue to display his grace.** 2 cor. 12:7
- viii. **Our goal is not to accumulate wealth but give ourselves away.** Matt. 6:19
- ix. Your wealth is not a sign of your superior spirituality, divine favor or giftedness. It is god's grace that gives it to you. 1 Cor. 4:7

**Illustration: Piper preaching clip from YouTube.**

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/story-behind-john-pipers-most-famous-attack-on-the-prosperity-gospel/>

**2. Give as a priority. Prov 3:9. First fruits**

- a. By giving the first and best of what he gives you
  - i. From all that you earn or have. Deut 18:4  
"You shall give him the first fruits of your grain, your new wine, and your oil, and the first shearing of your sheep
  - ii. Don't delay. Ex. 22:29  
You shall not delay *the offering from* your harvest and your vintage.

**3. Give generously. Prov 3:9**

- a. **From all you have:**
  - i. **Give from what you possess – wealth = possessions**  
Pr. 24:4 And by knowledge the rooms are filled  
With all precious and pleasant riches.  
Ezek 27:12. "Tarshish was your customer because of the abundance of **all kinds of wealth; with silver, iron, tin and lead** they paid for your wares.

**Illustration of giving from our possessions: Acts giving homes and property. Acts 4:32-27 They sold homes and land to give for ministry**

**ii. Give from what you produce – first fruit = income**

A. Ezek. 44:30

The first of all the first fruits of every kind and every contribution of **every** kind, from all your contributions, shall be for the priests;

- iii. Tithe is starting point, not denied in NT but encouraged to give sacrificially. 2 Cor. 8:1-5

**b. Beware of greed – give sacrificially and immediately. 3:27-28**

- i. 2 COR. 9:5 Don't let your intentions to give be delayed by greed. -

<sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given

4. **Give dependently.**, Proverbs 3:5 is the context of giving: Trusting God not yourself  
Prov. 3:5: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding

Prov. 11:28

He who trusts in his riches will fall,  
But the righteous will flourish like the *green* leaf.

Prov. 18:11

A rich man's wealth is his strong city,  
And like a high wall in his own imagination

5. **Give expectantly.** 3:10. God will take care of you. Phil. 4:19. Spiritually. Cop. Rev. 7 Trib saints leave earth with no food, water or shelter. Eg. Elijah fed by the brook;

- a. God promises to supply our needs Prov. 3:10

- b. Prov. 11:24

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.

Prov. 11:25-26 <sup>25</sup> The <sup>[a]</sup>generous man will be <sup>[b]</sup>prosperous And he who waters will himself be watered.

<sup>26</sup> He who withholds grain, the people will curse him,  
But blessing will be on the head of him who sells *it*.

6. **Give for ministry. Serve others with your money. Prov. 3:27-28**

- a. Use it to spread the gospel. Philippians 1:3-5 Partner in gospel ministry

- b. Give liberally to meet needs of fellow believers. 2 cor. 8

- c. Your wealth is god's means of helping others. 2 Cor. 9:8

Prov. 19:17

One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord,  
And He will repay him for his <sup>[a]</sup>good deed

- a. for gospel ministry. Acts 2-3 phil. 1:5; 2 Cor. 8-9; 1 Cor. 9; Acts 1

7. **Don't sacrifice spiritual priorities to accumulate wealth.**

Prov. 10:2

<sup>[a]</sup>**Ill-gotten** gains do not profit,

But righteousness delivers from death

Prov. 15:16-17

Better is a little with the <sup>[a]</sup>fear of the Lord  
Than great treasure and turmoil with it  
Better is a <sup>[b]</sup>dish of <sup>[c]</sup>vegetables where love is  
Than a fattened ox *served* with hatred.

Prov. 21:6

The acquisition of treasures by a **lying tongue**  
Is a fleeting vapor, the <sup>[a]</sup>pursuit of death.

Prov. 22:1

**A good name is to be more** desired than great wealth,  
Favor is better than silver and gold.

#### 8. **Don't become enslaved to debt or foolishly invest**

Prov. 22:7

The rich rules over the poor,  
And the borrower *becomes* the lender's slave.

Prov. 6:1-5

My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor,  
Have <sup>[a]</sup>given a pledge for a stranger,  
<sup>2</sup>*If* you have been snared with the words of your mouth,  
Have been caught with the words of your mouth,  
<sup>3</sup>Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself;