

OVERCOMING THE SPIRIT OF POVERTY

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Poverty which is the absence of the necessities of life is not only a disease, but a spirit. This spirit can come upon someone when a door has been opened through:

1. A sinful life,
2. Laziness,
3. Ignorance,
4. Stinginess,
5. Non-payment of vows or pledges to God,
6. Refusal to tithe,
7. And a curse (inherited or direct).

Prosperity or Poverty is a choice. God promised his people prosperity if they will walk in obedience to all His instructions. It is what you do with what God says that determine prosperity or poverty.

Deut 15:4-6

4 However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, 5 if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. 6 For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

NIV

Deut 15:7

7 If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother.

NIV

Deut 15:11

11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

NIV

SYMPTOMS OF THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT OF POVERTY

1. The first sign to be recognized is working and struggling very hard only to reap very little financial rewards.

Gen 3:17-19

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground

because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."
NIV

2. The second sign is people who are easily disgruntled with their jobs and walking away, or those laid off for no apparent reason. They cannot keep a job or a business.

Gen 4:9-12

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."
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3. When you observe that all your endeavours are aborted - Always experiencing stiff opposition leading to prolonged delays and failures. It is a curse that causes unfruitfulness.

Matt 21:18-20

18 Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. 19 Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. 20 When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked.
NIV

4. When you cannot account for the money that comes into your hands. Before, the money you are expecting comes into your hands, problems that will swallow the money will start manifesting.

5. When nobody to hire you (employ you). Always being denied promotions when you merit them.

6. Every advancement or increase is with great fight and effort. Progress is always extremely slow and hard. It is like working like an elephant and eating like an ant.

HOW TO OVERTHROW THE SPIRIT OF POVERTY

1. Repent of the sins that may have opened the door for the spirit of poverty into your life.

2. Confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour of your life.
3. Make up your mind to live right before God. Practice obedience to the commandments of God - Deut. 28:1-14.
4. Become a faithful tither and giver - Mal. 3:8-12.

5. Do not neglect God's work and his house anymore. Be a regular kingdom investor.

Hag 1:2-11

2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the LORD's house to be built.'"

3 Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. 6 You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

7 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD. 9 "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. 10 Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. 11 I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands."

NIV

6. Settle all outstanding vows or pledges to God. Make up your mind to fulfill every vow or pledge.

Eccl 5:4-6

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. 5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it. 6 Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the [temple] messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands?

NIV

7. Give your way out of poverty. Plant financial seeds

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

NIV

Phil 4:14-19

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

NIV

8. Keep knocking on God's door through service.

Matt 7:7

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

NIV

9. Use the blood of Jesus and the word of God and the name of Jesus to war and overcome poverty.

- Deal with the curse

Gal 3:13-14

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

NIV

- See yourself as Christ is and keep making positive confessions that will destroy poverty mentality and bring you into your wealthy place.

1 John 3:2

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

NIV

- It is your portion to be rich.

2 Cor 8:9

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

NIV

- Apply the blood of Jesus Christ.

Rev 12:11

11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

NIV

- Bind the spirit of poverty and cast him out your life.

Matt 18:18

18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

NIV

- Find something to do if you have not employed. Do your work with faith that God will bless you from now on.

Deut 28:8

8 The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

NIV

- Declare and believe that no curse will work in your life anymore.

Num 23:23

23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

KJV

10. Fight laziness with hard work and creative efforts that will bring you into abundance.