

Thrive Finance 2

Intro:

Good is the enemy of the great

Thrive means to: develop well, prosper, flourish

When we thrive, our community benefits!

Psalm 23:5b “My cup runs over”

Our cup doesn’t need to always be empty in order to bless someone else

God’s blessing allows our cups to run over!

Today we discuss three mentalities: Poverty, Pride and Prosperity

Recap:

16 out of 38 Jesus’ parables talked about money

More than 500 verses in the Bible about prayer, 500 about faith, 2000 about money

What you believe about money is a reflection of your belief about God

Money Is Not Your Savior

Matthew 6:33 “*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*”

Money Is Not Evil

1 Timothy 6:10 “*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.*”

Serving Mammon IS evil

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.*”

Money Is a Tool

Three mentalities about money:

Note: these mentalities are not determined by your current financial status!

POVERTY:

Def. The state of being poor

The state of being inferior in quality or insufficient in amount

The renunciation of the right to individual ownership of property as part of a religious vow

A poverty mentality says there is, nor will there ever be, enough.

EXAMPLE:

Hording the “good”, “name brand” food gathered from the food bank and serving the cheaper/not so good stuff to the family. Meanwhile, the “good stuff” went bad!

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

People that never have enough are more willing to horde than to give.

A poverty mentality shows that the heart is more willing to lay up treasure on earth than in heaven.

A poverty mentality says, “*I’ll never have to worry about any of this because I don’t have enough to make this relevant to me*”.

You might not have enough because of these reasons:

You haven’t been faithful in the little. Luke 16:10

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”

You don’t think God is big enough to supply extra.

You think God created you to be inferior or insufficient (see def. of poverty)

How do you know if you have a poverty mentality?

Do you have plenty but keep fighting for more?

I think more rich people have a poverty mentality than anyone else.

Are you ashamed of God’s blessings regarding money?

Do you down play things so people won’t think you are prideful

“Hey nice watch”, “Oh, I got is super cheap”.

Compared to, “Thank you, God really blessed me with this”

Do you put down others that have been blessed?

Drive by a really nice house and check your heart!

Read pg. 90,91 of “the Blessed Life”.

Start, “I remember purchasing a very nice...”

End with, “You’ve never needed any help from me...”

GOD NEVER SPEAKS TO US THROUGH CONDEMNATION!

Romans 8:1 talks about living without condemnation because we live according to the Spirit.

Our purchasing decisions MUST be based on the Spirit's direction not money!

PRIDE:

Def. A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own accomplishments... or from possessions that are widely admired

The quality of having an excessively high opinion of oneself or importance.

A mentality of pride says that everything you have is based on your own efforts alone.

A mentality of pride says that your pleasure or satisfaction comes from your possessions and the admiration of others

Satisfaction based on possessions is limited to buying more stuff!

Pride leads people to show off what they have to others that don't have as much.

EXAMPLES:

Rich people demanding better for themselves because they have.

Poor people demanding better for themselves because they don't have.

COMPARISON BETWEEN POVERTY & PRIDE:

When you think about your situation in life

Pride: I deserve more!

Poverty: I should feel guilty for what I have

When someone says "wow, nice house":

Pride: We were going to build a bigger one

Poverty: It was a foreclosure

When someone says, "Nice suit"

Pride: It's tailor-made

Poverty: The only way I could afford it is that it was half price

When someone says, "Nice car"

Pride: I've got three of them

Poverty: I couldn't afford this, it's a company car

PROSPERITY:

Def. successful in material terms, flourishing financially

Bringing wealth and success

Personal Def.

God has brought you resources, including finances.

God has shown you what true success looks like (not limited to money)

Luke 6:38 *Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that your use, it will be measured back to you.*

3 POINTS ON PROSPERITY

1. Prosperity is not limited to financial gain!

Luke 6:36,37 Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

2. Prosperity isn't just about YOU

Luke 6:30-35 Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Prosperity is about what God has done.

He is kind.

He allows us the resource to give.

He asks us to bless others even without promise of payment from them.

Prosperity gives credit to God!!!

All the questions earlier comparing pride and poverty can be answered from the perspective of prosperity with a simple, "Thank God for what he has provided"

3. Prosperity isn't just about others

Luke 6:38 Give and it will be given to YOU...

Pressed down shaken together and running over like popcorn at the movies...

AND YOU get to enjoy it!

God loves us and wants us to have forgiveness, hope, joy, restoration, protection, and yes, even financial blessing.

It's not just for everyone else that you are blessed, its because God loves you.

He is a good father that gives good gifts...

Conclusion:

Today you must make a choice. Which mentality will you live in?

Poverty

Pride

Prosperity

