



Teacher: John and Amy Burton

Teaching Title: Prosperity with a Purpose

- I. Amy: The Impact of Biblical Generosity
 - a. Money allows us to force the world's system to do the work of the Kingdom of God.
 - i. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21, ESV)
 - ii. "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24, ESV)
 - b. Four Financial Types
 - i. The Scrooge: "I earned this money, and this money belongs to me."
 - ii. The Starter: "I earned this money, but all things including this money belong to God."
 - iii. The Spendthrift: "This money was a gift from God, which now belongs to me."
 - iv. The Steward: "This money was a gift from God, and it should serve His purposes."
 1. "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." (Matthew 6:24, ESV)
 - c. Symptoms of Mammon's influence (all points on one slide)
 - i. Worry and anxiety over money
 - ii. Money mismanagement
 - iii. Consistent financial lack
 - iv. "I can't afford it" mentality (testimony)
 - v. Impulse buying
 - vi. Stinginess
 - vii. Greed
 - viii. Discontentment
 - ix. Bondage to debt
 - x. Exaggerated emphasis on money and an overestimate of its true power
 - d. Sparrow Faith
 - i. "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Matthew 6:25–29, ESV)

- ii. Biblical definition of prosperity: "The ability to use God's power and knowledge to meet the needs of mankind as God directs in any realm of life." -Craig Hill & Earl Pitts
 - 1. "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:8–11, ESV)
 - 2. "And the word of the LORD came to him: "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So he went and did according to the word of the LORD. He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook." (1 Kings 17:2–6, ESV)
 - 3. "And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."" (1 Kings 17:7–9, ESV)
 - 4. ""One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?" (Luke 16:10–12, ESV)

II. John: Spirit and Truth

- a. Practical truth is critical just as spiritual revelation is.
- b. Rick Pino: If you do the right thing with 10% of your money but you do the wrong thing with the other 90% of your money, you will simply be a broke tither.
 - i. *"The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get."* (Proverbs 21:20, NLT)
 - ii. *"Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich. A wise youth harvests in the summer, but one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace."* (Proverbs 10:4–5, NLT)

III. Financial Truths

- a. Giving results in having our needs guaranteed to be met. (Phil 4:15-19)
 - b. Development of biblical wealth may take years or decades. (Gal 6:9-10)
 - c. You have to work. (which includes investing, developing businesses, etc.) (2 Thes 3:10-12)
 - d. There's no spiritual benefit to lack. (Prov 10:22)
 - e. Business creates wealth. (Luke 19:13)
 - f. Those who have will be given more. (Luke 19:26)
 - g. Extravagant giving is required. (Prov 28:22)
 - h. God gives us the power to create wealth. (Deut 8:18-19)
 - i. Obedience and holiness are key to wealth. (Ps 112:1-3)
 - j. Practical wisdom is critical. (Luke 14:28-30)
- IV. Five Financial Realms
- a. **A poverty spirit**
 - i. Blames others for lack.
 - 1. A victim mindset always blames others for their problems.
 - a. It can result in a vindictive spirit.
 - 2. A poverty spirit can manifest beyond the financial realm.
 - a. A political spirit that points fingers and gets angry at others for holding them back.
 - b. Blaming people for rejection, etc. is evidence of our feeling of lack.
 - ii. Causes you to feel unworthy to be blessed.
 - 1. A misunderstanding of the economy of Heaven.
 - 2. God gives, we receive, and then we give back.
 - iii. Causes fear to be prosperous.
 - iv. *"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."* (3 John 2, NKJV)
 - 1. We are more than conquerors!
 - 2. Our soul must prosper.
 - v. Results in greed and resistance to cheerful giving.
 - vi. Is devoid of vision, only sees limits
 - vii. Results in great debt.
 - 1. My early days (Venture credit card)
 - 2. Couldn't get a car loan (what the heck!)
 - viii. Closely related to an entitlement spirit
 - 1. "A spirit of poverty and a spirit of entitlement are closely related. Both blame people, government, their boss, etc. when they don't get what they presume they deserve. Both are focused on needs being met through people. Those who are free from both poverty and entitlement understand their success depends fully on themselves. They know who

they are in God, they reject the traps of the enemy and they possess the land. In my various leadership roles, both in the workplace and in the ministry, a clear indicator that someone wasn't ready for a leadership position on my team was if they blamed. If they got frustrated with others for not promoting them or funding them or affirming them, they couldn't truly be trusted as leaders. We need people who just get after it and get the job done." ~John Burton

b. A poverty spirit + a measure of faith: Expects financial breakthrough to come through others.

- i. The next step in our growth is to embrace faith, even as we struggle to break free from a poverty spirit.
 1. The problem is our focus.
 - a. We expect others to facilitate the breakthrough.
 - b. When they don't, bitterness can set in.
 - c. We lose faith.
 2. The lottery mindset
 3. We are open to miraculous breakthrough, but we are limited to our own imagination.
 - a. Quitting work to join a ministry prematurely
 - b. Blaming others when they don't support or fund our ministry
 4. We still expect increase to come through others.
 5. We are still vulnerable to jealousy.
- ii. My story of wondering if my pastor made too much.
 1. It was an evidence of a poverty spirit with some faith added in.
 2. If we embrace a principle of lack in another, we embrace it for ourselves.
 - a. This is a huge point!
 - b. This attitude will absolutely sink you.
- iii. This realm, a poverty spirit + a measure of faith, also manifests in other ways.
 1. When people let us down, we are taken out.
 2. When we are rejected, we give up.
 3. When we tried to serve and minister in the church, but aren't acknowledged, we spin out.
 4. This is a poverty spirit at work. We still lack.

c. Freedom from a poverty spirit + a measure of faith: Seeks to bless others financially while contending for their own breakthrough.

- i. This is where it starts to get good.
- ii. We never blame, never point fingers.
- iii. Instead, we look to solve other people's problems.
- iv. You might not have broken through yourself, but you are starting to build the foundation of wealth.

- v. Story of Amy giving \$300.
- d. Great faith: Extravagant giving results in financial breakthrough.**
 - i. Fear is gone.
 - ii. Excitement and great expectation of God's provision is constant.
 - iii. Financial testimonies start to overtake us.
 - iv. Giving is addictive.
 - v. *"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."* (2 Corinthians 9:6–8, NKJV)
 - vi. You'll find yourself working toward giving as much as previous annual salaries were each year.
- e. Great faith + biblical strategies: Extravagant giving and the development of streams of income results in wealth.**
 - i. It's not until we get to this stage that wealth typically starts to manifest.
 - ii. Work, investing, business development, etc. are given great attention.
 - iii. We expect to succeed, but if we don't we keep going.
 - 1. The Axe Game → SP
 - 2. Vacation rental
 - iv. We can't be stopped!
 - v. Giving radically increases.
 - vi. God will challenge you intensely to give more.
 - 1. Profits from a certain financial source is given 100% away.
 - 2. You'll look for ways to radically bless others.
 - 3. Waitresses, cars, etc.
 - vii. You will come alive as you do so.
 - viii. Abundance will overtake you.
 - ix. *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try 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 such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts."* (Malachi 3:10–12, NKJV)