

Are These Your 3 Reasons You Aren't Prospering Yet?

What if anytime there was a need that came across your path, and your heart was moved to meet that need, you had a stream of income to meet it?

According to 2 Corinthians 9:8 (chapters 8 and 9 are two whole chapters talking about finances and giving), "God is able to make *all* grace *abound* to you so that having *all* sufficiency in *all* things at *all* times you would *abound* in every good work."

That is a lot of *alls*.

I just want you to know that anytime something is called "grace" it means it's paid for on the cross.

If 2 Corinthians 9:8 isn't true, then John 3:16 is not true.

Prosperity is not selfish because it's not all about you. Prosperity is primarily defined by how much you give away, not how much you keep for yourself. Prosperity is about blessing not possessing.

Could we just flip this thing on its head? Actually, it's selfish for you not to desire prosperity. When God only provides for your needs, the world will lack a revelation of an abundant Father. People are never going to know what Dad's like.

No one needs to feel bad folks, but we need to break off this religious ceiling, these religious blinders that keep us from seeing the goodness of God.

☪☪☪

Prosperity is about blessing not possessing.

¢¢¢

In Psalm 67:1-2, David gives us a verse that straightens this whole thing out. This is actually a prayer: "May God be gracious to us and bless us, and make His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations."

Guys that sounds like revival to me.

People lack a revelation of the goodness of God. What if this really became our prayer? What if, like David, we prayed, "God put Your hand of blessing on me so people will see what You're really like?" It's basically saying, "God they won't know what You're really like unless they see Your blessing and Your favor upon me."

I believe one of the most underrated tools for ministering to this lost world is living a blessed life. Not just material, but in our families and in our souls. And it also includes this material part.

Listen guys, in Romans 11, God provoked the Jews to jealousy through the blessing of the Gentiles. Let me just say that broke Christians are not going to provoke the world into jealousy. Blessings are not just financial, but financial wealth is part of it.

You might be saying, "I don't know Jim, this just sounds to me like a bless-me-club." Well, Jesus didn't die for a curse-me-club. Truthfully, what is the problem with a bless-me-club anyway? As Christians, when we're blessed do we not become a bigger blessing?

"Well Jim, I just want enough to provide for me and my family."

Wow, now that is selfish. That's the spirit of poverty and the spirit of stupid getting married and having a child together.

Let me translate that for you: my needs are met. Who gives a rip about the rest of the world?

☪☪☪

Prosperity is about having more than enough not just for yourself but for other people.

☪☪☪

This kind of thinking, conscious or not, is what cripples us as believers to represent what Dad is really like.

Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister of England said this, “No one would have remembered the Good Samaritan if he’d only had good intentions. He had money as well.”

Here’s a revelation—you cannot be a big giver if you don’t have a big abundance.

Prosperity is about having more than enough not just for yourself but for other people.

☪☪☪

We need to be shaken out of our poor theology.

☪☪☪

“Well, Jim, money can’t buy happiness.”

I would argue that poverty can’t buy anything.

People who say money can’t buy happiness just simply haven’t given enough of it away.

I hope this challenges you. We need to be shaken out of our poor theology. There is a world that is watching and needing

to see the goodness of God. Can you think of a time when your giving purchased someone else's happiness? Let's keep this ball rolling. Let our giving be contagious so that we may reflect the heart of our generous Dad.

Contact [Wealth With God today to unlock your prosperity today](#).

Jim Baker is the Senior Leader and Pastor at Zion Christian Fellowship in Powell, Ohio. He was led by the Lord to go into finance in 2011 and has helped others utilize biblical principles to experience financial breakthrough in their lives. Baker is now committed to a movement of kingdom wealth-builders who understand that prosperity has a purpose.

7 Prophetic Truths for Spiritual Readiness

Core Group leader Jenny Weaver unleashed a powerful and urgent prophetic word for her fellow believers.

When God sounds the alarm and awakens believers to the urgency in the spiritual realm, it signifies a divine invitation to participate in His kingdom work.

By responding obediently, believers can experience a deeper intimacy with God, a heightened sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and a greater capacity to discern and act upon His leading. Additionally, obeying God's urgency allows believers to be strategically positioned to impact the world around them, share the gospel and bring about transformative change in their communities. It is through obedience to God's urgency that Spirit-filled Christians can fulfill their calling,

advance God's kingdom and bear fruit that glorifies Him.

Here are seven key points from Weaver's prophetic word:

1. Urgency in the spiritual realm: There is a sense of urgency and awakening in the spiritual realm as God sounds the alarm for His people. As the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 13:11, "It is now the moment for you to rise from sleep, for our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." It is a call for believers to awaken from spiritual slumber and recognize the signs of the times.

2. Invitation to come up higher: God is inviting His people to ascend to higher dimensions of His glory. In Revelation 4:1, John writes, "After these things I looked, and there was a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.'" This invitation requires a shift in mindset and a deeper commitment to pursuing God's presence and purpose.

3. Revelation and insight: As believers respond to God's call to come up higher, He will reveal His plans, strategies and assignments to them. Proverbs 3:32 states, "For the perverse is an abomination to the Lord, but His secret is with the upright." God shares His secrets and insights with those who walk in righteousness and seek Him diligently.

4. Preparation for the coming days: The speaker emphasizes the need for preparation in light of God's unfolding revelation. In Amos 3:7, it is written, "Surely the Lord God does nothing without revealing His purpose to His servants the prophets." God's revealing is akin to the Book of Revelation, where He unveils His plans and purposes. It is essential for believers to position themselves as part of God's chosen ones, His remnant, and His bride.

5. End of confusion: God will refine and perfect His people, bringing an end to confusion and uncertainty. In Isaiah 32:17,

it is prophesied, “The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.” As believers allow God to work in their lives and align themselves with His righteousness, they will experience a profound sense of peace, clarity, and purpose.

6. Patiently waiting on God: Believers are encouraged to patiently wait on God’s timing and seek His presence and counsel. Psalm 27:14 states, “Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.” Waiting on God involves trusting in His faithfulness and seeking His guidance, even when circumstances seem uncertain.

7. Reward for dwelling in the secret place: Those who consistently dwell in the secret place of God’s presence will be rewarded with a greater measure of His glory and divine encounters. Psalm 91:1 declares, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Those who make their home in God’s presence will experience the protection, provision, and intimate communion that comes from dwelling in the secret place.

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

5 Ways Preferred Pronouns Cause Conflict

Traditionally, English pronouns have been associated with an individual’s biological sex. However, a recent shift is underway, challenging this long-held belief. Advocates are pushing for pronouns to align with a person’s self-identified gender rather than their assigned sex at birth.

As of 2023, there are a total of 107 identified gender identities. One's happiness and self-acceptance should not depend on the approval of others but should be rooted in an authentic understanding of their identity in Christ.

In light of these developments, [it is crucial to maintain biblical integrity and discernment.](#) The commitment to truth and alignment with the teachings of the Bible is a guiding principle for Christians, even as they seek to navigate and engage with different perspectives on gender identity.

While it is important to show respect and kindness to all individuals, including those who identify as transgender, it is worth noting that for Christians, [respect does not equate to endorsing ideas that contradict biblical teachings.](#)

1. Making people use preferred pronouns is coercion of free speech.

Psychologist Jordan Peterson recently expressed his opposition to using preferred pronouns, citing concerns about free speech. In an interview, he referred to Canadian Bill C-16, a federal legislation aimed at extending human rights provisions to transgender and non-gender binary individuals. The bill also classified discrimination or harassment based on gender identity as a hate crime under the criminal code.

The interpretation of this legislation and its definition of discrimination or harassment was delegated to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which Peterson criticized as a radically leftist organization. He argued that the policies generated by the commission would restrict freedom of expression and compel individuals to use pronouns that they do not believe to be true. Peterson highlighted the importance of compassion but cautioned against using it as a means to coerce speech and suppress differing viewpoints.

As Christians consider these discussions on gender identity and pronoun usage, they can find guidance in Scripture.

Ephesians 4:29 encourages believers, saying, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, that it may give grace to the listeners." Christians are called to speak truthfully, with grace and love, while also upholding their convictions and remaining faithful to their understanding of God's Word.

2. If being transgender is your new identity, your happiness shouldn't depend on anyone else's approval.

If transgender identity is genuinely empowering and extraordinary, why does it seemingly clash with biological realities, religious beliefs and societal norms? Furthermore, why does personal fulfillment often depend on widespread approval?

These inquiries raise concerns about potential confusion and inconsistency. From a biblical perspective, human identity finds its foundation in God, with gender and sexual identity being divine assignments at birth. Embracing this divine design and aligning beliefs accordingly, rather than pursuing physical changes based on personal perception, leads to a profound sense of peace and contentment.

Through encountering Jesus Christ and accepting Him as Lord, individuals discover an inner peace independent of external validation. This enduring peace withstands the influence of others' opinions and preferences, as it is rooted in a relationship with Christ.

Conforming to preferred pronouns does not align with a Christian worldview, as it contradicts God's established plan for gender and identity. Genuine fulfillment in matters of gender and identity is discovered by anchoring oneself in the unwavering truths of Scripture, which reflect God's perfect design.

3. Respecting someone doesn't extend to endorsing ideas the Bible calls false.

Christian respect does not involve endorsing ideas that contradict the teachings of the Bible. According to Genesis 1:27, God created humanity in His own image, making them male and female. This biblical truth is clear to Christians, as we believe in the divine distinction between genders. While individuals have the freedom to make their own choices in relation to God, no one is obligated to align with decisions that go against God's established order. It is equally unfair to censor or exclude someone else simply because they hold a different view.

4. One of the ways we testify of Christ in this godless world is to live by the truth.

In a world consumed by propaganda, Christians firmly believe that Jesus personifies truth. Anchored in the conviction that "you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free"(John 8:32), Christians understand that upholding truth is integral to their witness. While Christianity espouses love, it encompasses truth as well. Despite societal pressure to compromise or seek tolerance at the expense of truth, Christians must remain resolute in their commitment to unyielding truth.

5. We must avoid purposeful conflict.

In pursuing our Christian calling, it is crucial to approach conflict with intention and purpose.

God does not require Christians to be rude, unnecessarily aggressive or offensive. Instead, we are called to be meek and humble while standing firm in the truth. Romans 12:18 advises us to live peacefully with everyone as much as it depends on us. However, it is important to recognize that achieving peace with everyone may not always be possible or solely within our control.

While we should maintain a respectful and kind demeanor, it is unrealistic to expect immediate acceptance and agreement

solely because of our love and adherence to the truth. In our culture, tolerance alone will not halt the progression of evil; it will only cease when it dominates and suppresses opposing views, coercing surrender and imprisonment to others' opinions and the dictates of the "woke mob."

Yet, in Christianity, peace is not attained by compromising and acquiescing to any demand. True peace is found through faith in Jesus Christ, who sacrificed Himself to provide forgiveness and reconciliation with God. The notion that conforming to every demand will lead to peace is actually a form of bondage.

James Lasher is Staff Writer for *Charisma Media*.

Hockey Teams Abandon Controversial Sweaters

Recently, the NHL demonstrated that if Christians are going to have any effect on the direction of American society, they need to stand up and speak out on their beliefs in front of the whole world.

Several Christian hockey players did just that and now the National Hockey League announced they are no longer having teams wear "Pride"-themed jerseys.

In a recent announcement, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman revealed that teams would cease wearing specialty warmup sweaters to promote various causes, including the LGBTQ community.

This decision came after some players, [driven by their](#)

[Christian beliefs, chose not to wear such jerseys](#) during the previous season. As Christians, these players recognized the significance of prayer and its impact on the choices made by individuals and organizations.

During an interview with Sportsnet following an NHL board of governors meeting in New York, Bettman shared his perspective, stating, "It's become a distraction."

[Prayer can influence hearts and minds, leading to decisions that align with one's faith.](#) In January, players like Philadelphia Flyers defenseman Ivan Provorov and San Jose Sharks goaltender James Reimer, guided by their Christian convictions, chose not to wear pride-themed warmup sweaters. Their actions reflect their deep commitment to living according to the teachings of the Bible, which they hold as the highest authority in their lives.

Reimer eloquently expressed his stance, stating, "For all 13 years of my NHL career, I have been a Christian, not just in title but in how I choose to live my life daily. I have a personal faith in Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins and, in response, asks me to love everyone and follow Him."

Despite their refusal to endorse specific messages, these players firmly believe in embracing all individuals, including those within the LGBTQ community, and ensuring that they are welcomed in every aspect of the game of hockey.

But they will not waver in their faith when it comes to supporting ideologies that conflict with biblical principles.

The decision to discontinue specialty jerseys also considered the concerns raised by Russian players Ilya Lyubushkin, Denis Gurianov and Andrei Kuzmenko, who declined to participate in their respective teams' pride night warmups due to a Kremlin law which restricts the promotion of LGBTQ ideology.

In light of these circumstances, the NHL board of governors agreed with Commissioner Bettman's viewpoint, recognizing the significance of keeping the focus on the game itself.

Christians know that prayer has the power to transform hearts, minds and circumstances. Fellow believers can draw inspiration from the prayerful decisions made by players like Provorov, Reimer and others, who seek to live out their faith authentically.

As the apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 15:58:

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

7 Prophetic Insights into the End Times with Bishop Alan DiDio

As humans navigate the complexities of the world today, it is natural to ponder the significance of these times in light of biblical prophecy. The coming of the end times has captivated the minds and hearts of believers for centuries.

While there are varying interpretations and viewpoints on this subject, it is essential to delve into the Scriptures to gain insights and seek a deeper understanding of what the Bible reveals about this remarkable period.

By examining the signs, events and teachings found in the Scriptures, Bishop Alan DiDio hopes to inspire reflection, discussion and ultimately a renewed sense of urgency and faith in the imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are seven prophetic insights into the End Times:

The Signs of the End Times: The accumulation and tight succession of significant events signal the approaching end. Jesus compared it to birth pangs, emphasizing their increasing frequency and intensity. These signs correlate with the nation of Israel's restoration, such as the birth of Israel in 1948 and the recognition of Jerusalem as its capital (Matt. 24:3-14; Luke 21:29-31).

"It's not just these things that are a sign of the end," explains DiDio, "it is the swarm of these things. It is the accumulation of these things...not only that they're happening, but they begin to happen in tight succession with one another, in correlation with what we see happening with the nation of Israel."

Unity and the Great Commission: Despite differing views and interpretations, believers are called to unify and focus on the Great Commission. In the face of greater threats and enemies, it is crucial to prioritize unity in the body of Christ, setting aside minor differences to reach out to those who need salvation (John 17:20-23; Matt. 28:19-20).

"Everybody loves talking about unity in the body...until we actually start doing it," says DiDio. "Then everybody gets upset. Because how could you have that person, and how could you interview that person? Well...God is calling us to unify. Are you paying attention to what happened the last three years? We have bigger threats and bigger enemies than someone who thinks differently about deliverance, or about their eschatology, or about prosperity, or about faith. We've got bigger fish to fry right now."

The Importance of Eschatology: Eschatology, the study of the end times, holds significance in understanding God's plan. While it may be a topic of debate, it remains essential to discuss and engage in conversations about the end times, as it awakens people to the urgency of being ready for Jesus' return (1 Thess. 4:16-18; Titus 2:13).

"Eschatology is such an important doctrine," says DiDio. "And I feel like nobody agrees with me...we've got to be willing to have a conversation [about differing views] once again. Otherwise, all these camps and streams get more and more extreme because there is no counterbalance. There's no one to challenge us any longer. ...In our ministry, we are called to wake people up to the times that we're living in, and to make sure they're ready for Jesus' return."

Evangelistic Opportunities: The awareness of living in the last days presents an evangelistic opportunity. As people recognize the signs and sense the urgency, discussions surrounding end times issues can capture their attention. By addressing these topics and sharing God's love, grace and forgiveness, we can lead individuals to repentance and salvation (2 Tim. 4:2; Rom. 10:14-15).

"There is an evangelistic opportunity out there, because there are people who know we are living in the last days," DiDio says. "They know they're not right with the Lord. So, if we'll begin to talk about end times issues, they're going to per up and pay attention. Then we talk about the love of God and the grace of Jesus Christ and His power to forgive sin if we just repent of those sins and come to Him and make Him the Lord of our life."

Natural Disasters and Unexplained Phenomena: The increase in natural disasters and unexplained phenomena should not be ignored. While some events can be explained by advancements in technology and increased reporting, there are occurrences that defy human understanding.

“We can measure these things now...but we’ve had this instability for a very, very long time. In the last few decades, there has been a rapid increase in these kinds of things. And it’s not just these things that are a sign of the end, it is the swarm of these things. It is the accumulation of these things,” explains DiDio.

Non-Human Origins and Spiritual Deception: Reports of encounters with non-human entities are prevalent. These encounters often involve messages promoting unity of religions and governments, asserting that we are all gods and downplaying the uniqueness of Jesus. Such encounters can lead to extreme negative effects like depression, insanity and spiritual confusion. These encounters align with biblical warnings about spiritual deception in the last days (Matt. 24:24; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:9-10).

“It’s interesting, the phrase ‘non-human origin,’ not extraterrestrial, not outer space, simply non-human, which I appreciate, because I think it’s a far more biblical description of what we’re looking at,” says DiDio.

“A lot of UFO reports, UAP reports, are hoaxes. Even more of them are advanced military technology...but the question is: is there are portion of them that are of non-human origin? I think this is really important, because I think this plays into the anti-Christ narrative in the last days,” he adds.

Discernment and Faith: In the face of uncertain phenomena and spiritual deception, believers are called to exercise discernment and trust in God’s Word. By remaining anchored in biblical truth, cultivating spiritual discernment and relying on the Holy Spirit’s guidance, we can navigate through the complexities of the end times and avoid falling into deception (1 John 4:1; Eph. 6:10-11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

“This is a time to engage, because there is a greater One on the inside of you...there’s greater innovation on the inside of

you. There's greater anointing on the inside of you. Greater power, greater authority on the inside of you. ...If you want to avoid the deceptions of these last days...pay attention to signs and wonders, because the Antichrist will come with lying signs and wonders," warns DiDio.

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Megachurch Pastor Robert Morris Rushed Into 'Immediate Surgery'; Family Asks for Prayers

Pastor Robert Morris of Gateway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, has undergone emergency surgery for a herniated disc, which had been causing him severe pain due to pressure on his sciatic nerve.

[The news was shared by his son, James Morris, an associate senior pastor at Gateway.](#) James took to Instagram to provide an update on his father's condition, stating that the surgery was successful in relieving the sciatic nerve pain, although some post-surgery discomfort remains.

"Hey everyone! Here is a quick update about my dad. While he was on vacation last week, he experienced excruciating back pain. He had a herniated disc that was so large that they had to do immediate surgery this morning because it was pressing against his sciatic nerve," he posted on Instagram.

The expected recovery time is six to eight weeks, with Pastor

Morris planning to return to the pulpit in August as scheduled. In his post, James requests prayers for his father's quick healing, restful sleep and complete recovery.

"The back surgery was completely successful, and he has no more sciatic nerve pain," the younger Morris continues. "He does have some pain from the surgery. The total recovery time will be 6-8 weeks, but he will be able to be back in the pulpit preaching in August as planned.

"We would love for you to pray for him as he recovers over the next few weeks.

"Prayer Points:

1. Quick and painless healing process.
2. To be able to sleep well.
3. Complete and total healing.

"Thank you for all your prayers!" the post concludes.

Robert Morris, founding pastor of Gateway Church and chancellor of The King's University, is well known for his bestselling books, including "Take the Day Off," "The Blessed Life," "Frequency" and "Beyond Blessed."

In the past, he gained attention for his challenge to the financially struggling Willow Creek Church, encouraging the congregation to tithe for a year with a money-back guarantee if they were not satisfied. Similarly, Pastor Morris extends the same guarantee to Gateway's 44,000-member congregation, noting that no one has ever requested a refund in the 22 years of the church's existence.

James Lasher is Staff Writer for *Charisma Media*.

Pentecostal Bishop Unpacks Conflicts in Hutchins' Church

In a recent Instagram Live session, Bishop Brandon B. Porter, a respected figure within the Pentecostal Christian community, addressed the ongoing conflict surrounding Bishop Derrick Hutchins' church. The discussion was sparked by a call from Pastor D, who happens to be Bishop Hutchins' brother. However, it was Bishop Hutchins Jr. who took to Instagram Live to express his grievances about a disagreement with his uncle regarding the church. During the enlightening live session, Bishop Porter shed light on the situation and provided an explanation based on documented evidence left behind by Bishop Hutchinson Sr., which entrusted the church to the brother instead of the son.

As Charisma News reported, [Bishop Hutchins Sr. passed away in December of 2022 at the age of 65.](#)

Throughout the conversation, Bishop Porter subtly hinted that the son had insinuated political motivations behind his uncle's support, coinciding with the upcoming COGIC elections. Despite the strained relationship between the son and the brother, Bishop Porter expressed his love for both individuals and acknowledged their differences.

Bishop Porter clarified that his primary intention in visiting the church was to mediate and attentively listen to both sides, rather than imposing his own judgment on the matter. Unfortunately, the situation has escalated to the point of a court case, which has deepened the complexities of the conflict. Bishop Porter brought up the important matter of a key man policy, particularly in relation to the church mortgage. He mentioned that, if he were to pass away today, Pastor J. Drew Sheard would assume the pastoral role, with the national church organization assuming control. This decision

was made because his own sons are not yet prepared to shoulder such a significant responsibility.

During the church meeting, the son chose to share the ongoing situation with his father's church on Instagram Live. Bishop Porter emphasized the importance of credibility and various other qualities required to effectively run a church. He acknowledged that Bishop Hutchins Sr. had not anticipated his untimely passing and had plans for retirement rather than a sudden departure. In light of this, Bishop Porter called for unity among family members to honor and preserve Bishop Derrick Hutchins Sr.'s legacy. He shared a personal moment when his own son advised him to release the burden of the fight, as it was no longer his to bear. This emotional revelation prompted Bishop Porter to declare that he would no longer engage in discussions about the matter.

YouTube personality King Jives uploaded a video featuring Bishop Brandon Porter's poignant live session. In the video, Bishop Porter expressed his disappointment at witnessing the division within Bishop Hutchins Sr.'s family and the potential impact on his church and legacy. He urged Bishop Hutchins Jr. to exercise patience and recognize that his father had taken care of them both. Bishop Porter also revealed that the church's financial stability was maintained through wise investments made by Bishop Hutchins Sr., including several leases generating a minimum monthly income of \$25,000 before tithes and offerings.

During this challenging situation, our thoughts and prayers are with the church congregation as they navigate through the conflicts and uncertainties. We hope that the right decisions will be made to protect the church and its members.

Bishop Porter acknowledged that the Instagram Live session conducted by Hutchins Jr. had transformed into a heated argument, emphasizing the necessity for a more constructive

and respectful approach to resolving the conflicts at hand.

By the conclusion of the live session, Bishop Porter made it evident that, based on the documentation left behind by Bishop Hutchins Sr., he believes that the church should be under the leadership of the brother at this time. However, he also subtly implied that the son should further develop his character and credibility before assuming such a significant role.

Finally, Bishop Porter emphasized the deep understanding that Bishop Hutchins Sr. had of his own son, drawing a parallel to his own understanding of his son.

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

From Lack to Abundance: Embracing Christ's Provision

The two things that have been probably fought against the most in the last 30 years in the body of Christ are health and wealth. Healing and finances. Many people call it the "health and wealth" gospel. I have some good news for you: Jesus didn't die for the sickness and poverty gospel.

If the enemy can keep you sick and poor, he's going to severely limit your destiny.

Somehow Christians are even partnering with the idea that God made them sick to make them more like Jesus.

Jesus wasn't sick. It's the Holy Spirit's job to make you more like Jesus, not sickness. He paid for it all. He didn't leave

one thing out.

There are two errors Christians often see concerning health and wealth. The first error many in the church world believe is that poverty is a spiritual value. Some say that it's good to be poor and that lack is a good thing because it keeps you dependent upon Jesus.

Well, if poverty is so spiritual why does the Bible tell us to give to the poor? Wouldn't that just ruin their spirituality?

I tell you what, the poorest way to help the poor is to be poor.

I don't want anyone to feel bad about your current financial situation, but if you're partnering with lack, you're never going to raise your eyes up to see what Jesus paid for on the cross.

Sometimes we need to pull some weeds before we can plant good seeds.

Think about it...

- It's ironic that the monks who take a vow of poverty live off the wealth of other people.
- God has called each one of us to be stewards. To be a steward, you're going to have to have something to steward.
- The only people praised with "well done good and faithful servant" before they died were investors who stewarded their money and increased it.
- If poverty is from God, why did the Lord bless Isaac so that he became rich and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy (Gen. 26:12-13)? It wasn't the devil who prospered him, it was God.
- If poverty is so spiritual, why are we told to pray "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven?" There's no poverty in heaven. There's never

been a recession in heaven. There are no 30,000-year mortgages on the mansions in heaven. God has an abundance. The enemy has a budget.

- If money's so bad for us why doesn't Satan just pour it on Christians and watch them backslide into hell?
- If money is so bad why does Satan take it away from Job and at the end of the book, why does God reward him with a double portion?
- Why is the good man the one who leaves an inheritance to his children's children?

Think about it. We are told to "Seek first the kingdom of God." Every religious person on the planet loves the person who seeks first the kingdom, but when the next part of that verse happens, "and all these things will be added..." well, that might be getting a little too much.

So, how much is too much?

Whatever amount replaces trust in God.

Religion doesn't mind the person who is a million dollars in debt, or even getting him debt free, but if they go a million dollars in the positive, you're going to be getting some complaints.

Material possessions are not a sign of God's blessings unless they are. There are actually a whole bunch of times in the Bible where someone's material possessions were actually a sign of blessing right from God's hand.

How about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Solomon? God was the direct cause of their blessing.

Here's what that means for you. It's not your job to be the prosperity police, trying to figure out who has too much.

The pressure's off. You don't get to judge another man or woman's harvest when you don't know what kind of seed they

have planted.

Loving God doesn't mean you have to be broke. Having money doesn't mean you're necessarily godly. Just ask the mafia.

Here's the deal with money—money is to the natural realm what the anointing is to the spiritual realm. It's just a way to get things done.

Guys, we have got to get this biblical view of money. It's a tool to accomplish kingdom purposes.

Money is a tool.

It is not a tool to get inflated with. It just means that you're able to be trusted with more resources for the King and his kingdom.

Let's be careful to do some thorough weeding in our beliefs so that the soil is prepared for the seeds God wants to help you plant.

If God can get money through you, He'll get money to you... with plenty left over.

***Jim Baker** is the Senior Leader and Pastor at Zion Christian Fellowship in Powell, Ohio. He was led by the Lord to go into finance in 2011 and has helped others utilize biblical principles to experience financial breakthrough in their lives. Baker is now committed to a movement of kingdom wealth-builders who understand that prosperity has a purpose.*

God's Hedge of Protection: Youth Group Escapes Burning Van

Two adults and 11 children, who belonged to the youth group of Anchor Church in Houston, Texas, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to God after narrowly escaping a van that burst into flames. The van was carrying them to a summer camp in Kerrville, Texas, when the incident occurred on I-610 at Wayside.

Jordin Williams, mother of two of the camp attendees, emphasized the role of faith in their miraculous escape: "We believed and fervently prayed for the safety of those kids," she revealed in an interview with KHOU 11.

The journey had just begun after the campers boarded the van at Deer Park High School when the fire erupted. The driver of the van was the church's youth pastor, accompanied by his mother, who had previously worked as a school bus driver. Williams disclosed that some church members had noticed an unfamiliar smell in the van shortly before the flames engulfed it. However, they were initially unaware that the smell originated from their own vehicle. Recounting the incident, Williams shared, "He mentioned that it smelled like barbecue or something burning. They never thought it could be their van."

Fortunately, all the occupants managed to evacuate the van unharmed, ensuring a safe outcome for everyone. Eventually, the campers were able to continue their journey and reach their destination without further incident.

The Houston Fire Department determined that the fire in the van resulted from an electrical issue. Officials also issued a

stern warning regarding the dangers of hot car deaths, particularly concerning children, during the summer months. They stress the importance of never leaving children unattended in parked vehicles.

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

5 Bible Principles for Discussing the Nephilim

In a recent conversation between Pastor Mike Signorelli and Apostle Alexander Pagani, the intriguing realm of mythology, demigods and the supernatural strength of the mysterious Nephilim were explored from a biblical perspective.

▪ Myth vs. Fable

The differentiation between myth and fable was a crucial starting point. While fables are regarded as embellished stories, mythology is seen as a vehicle for conveying exaggerated truths. By discerning the underlying truths within myths, believers can gain deeper insights into spiritual realities that transcend literal interpretations.

▪ Parallels Between Samson and Demigods

One intriguing parallel that emerged was between the Bible figure Samson and the demigods of Greek mythology. Samson, renowned for his supernatural strength, shares commonalities with these demigods. Some Christians view the Nephilim, the offspring of the “sons of God” and human women mentioned in the Bible, as akin to demigods. This perspective introduces the possibility of powerful beings with a divine-human

lineage, adding a unique dimension to the understanding of supernatural strength.

▪ **Advanced Construction Techniques and Supernatural Influence**

The remarkable construction techniques of ancient civilizations have long puzzled scholars and archaeologists. The construction of massive stone structures and intricate craftsmanship displayed a level of skill that seemed beyond human capabilities. Pagani and Signorelli put forth the idea that fallen sons of God or other supernatural entities imparted advanced knowledge to these ancient civilizations. The Anunnaki, often associated with divine or extraterrestrial beings, are occasionally referenced as potential sources of advanced technological insights.

▪ **Interpretive Principles: Laws of First Mentions and Only Mentions**

Pagani shared two interpretive principles that offer deeper understanding. The law of first mentions establishes a pattern for subsequent occurrences in Scripture. Samson's story serves as a template for comprehending similar accounts throughout the Bible. Additionally, the law of only mentions raises intriguing questions. Why is Samson's story the only one dedicated to a man endowed with such exceptional strength? By exploring these interpretive principles, patterns and nuances within the biblical narrative can be uncovered.

▪ **Fallen Angels and Influence on World Leaders**

In considering the influence of fallen angels, Pagani believes they manipulate and exert influence over world leaders and individuals in positions of authority. While caution is advised when approaching personal claims of possession by fallen angels, the focus is primarily on their engagement with individuals in positions of power rather than ordinary individuals. The Bible provides examples such as Satan

forcefully entering Judas, highlighting the potential influence of fallen angels on those in positions of authority.

These insights invite believers to seek a deeper understanding of spiritual truths and the interplay between supernatural beings and human affairs. By delving into these themes, believers engage in thought-provoking theological contemplation and gain a richer perspective on mythology, demigods and supernatural strength from a biblical point of view. It encourages a journey of exploration and reflection, inviting believers to expand their understanding of the unseen realm and its interaction with the human experience.

James Lasher is *Staff Writer for Charisma Media*.