God cripples the flesh before He gives a blessing.
Terry Hedden

Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance
Prayer Study 553G
Lesson Seven
WHO ARE WE FIGHTING? Part C

Part 3A: The Holy Ghost and Mrs. Garrison

Mary Garrison was born in 1952 in the foothills of Alabama. She started a ministry called *Christ Camp Ministries* in Florida and Alabama. Now she has retired and is living in Florida. Her daughter, Elaine Gentry, became the head of Christ Camp Ministries. Mrs. Garrison, in missionary work, felt that she was not only called to preach the Gospel, but also to heal the sick and cast out demons. (***"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."*** Matthew 10:7-8)

As she ministered deliverance to people who came, she said, "As certain people were being ministered to, spirits would get stirred up and begin to manifest themselves. When the demon was asked to identify himself, out of the person's own mouth the demon would tell me what he did [not who he was]. For instance, demons would reply, 'Hate, murder, suicide,' etc., which are all manifestations, and not names or spirits. At that time I did not know with whom I was dealing. For example, because of ignorance I would say, 'You, spirit of suicide, I cast you out.' In spite

of this ignorance, many people were set free by the Spirit of the Lord in me."

Again, quoting Mrs. Garrison, "The first work was to go to the Bible, then researching to determine that they were actually spirit beings. These spirits are emissaries sent from Satan, having personalities, which are expressed through the bodies of humans. They have all the characteristics that make up an intelligent being. They walk, hear, speak, see, obey, seek, think, know and dwell in the body, accomplishing their evil purposes." (Matthew 12:43-45: ***"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then eh goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."*** Mark1:23-24: *Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are-the Holy One of God!"* Mark 3:11: *And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God."*)

I have been inspired by Mary Garrison's books, which have included *How to Try a Spirit, The Holy Ghost and Mrs. Garrison, How to Conduct Spiritual Warfare, Keys to the Kingdom: Binding, Loosing and Knowledge,* and *How to Keep the Ten Commandments.* Her approach to deliverance is unique, and perhaps not for everybody,

although she seemingly has had great success in the area of deliverance. I, myself, have sat under several deliverance ministers, and each one has his or her unique approach to deliverance. Garrison sees the demonic manifestations or symptoms as bad fruit in a person's life. But she believes that these symptoms are destroyed by casting out the strongman, who is manifesting these symptoms and who is the particular name, not manifestation, of that demon. She classified twelve strongmen in the Bible with a list of the manifestations of each one. (Later she divided the Spirit of Divination from the Familiar Spirit.)

Another way to look at this is: she separates the disease from its symptoms. For example, one may have pneumonia and be admitted to a hospital to treat that disease. The symptoms of pneumonia might be congestion in the lungs, fever, aches and chills, difficulty breathing, etc. The demon might be the Spirit of Fear. The symptoms would be trembling, dread, fright, etc.

These spirits and their manifestations are taken from her book, *How to Try a Spirit,* published in 1976. I certainly don't think that Mary Garrison's approach is the only right one, but it is scriptural and interesting to consider as we look at deliverance.

SPIRIT OF BONDAGE

"For ye have not received the Spirit of Bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption whereby we cry, 'Abba, Father.' Romans 8:15

Manifestations

Anguish of the human spirit (Exodus 6:9)

Bitterness (Exodus 1:14)

Satanic Captivity, Imprisonment, Slavery (2nd Timothy 2:26)
The Spiritually Blind (Matthew 4:16, John 1:4)
The Broken in Heart, Mind, Soul and Body (Luke 4:18)
The Oppressed (Acts 10:38)
Compulsory Sin and Control (Peter 5:22, John 8:34)
Servant of Sin (Romans 6:16)
Bound, Inability to Break Free (Romans 6:16)
Under the Power and Dominion of Sin (Romans 7:23)

SPIRIT OF FEAR

"For God hath not given us the Spirit of Fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2nd Timothy 1:7

Manifestations
Fright (Psalm 55:5 AMP)
Torment (1st John 4:18)
Trembling (Job 4:14-15; Psalm 55:5)
Horror (Psalm 55:5)
Dread (Exodus 15:16)
Faithless (Matthew 8:26, Revelation 21:8)
Fear of Death (Hebrews 2:14-15; Psalm 55:4)
Heart Attacks (Luke 21:26)
Fear of man and Public Opinion (Proverbs 29:25)
(Five types of people with this spirit: hypercritical, Introvert, perfectionist, Hermit, Recluse)

DUMB AND DEAF SPIRIT

"When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, 'Thou Dumb

and Deaf Spirit, I charge thee, come out of him and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried and rent him sore and came out of him…" Mark 9:25-26

Manifestations

Dumbness (Matthew 9:25)
Epilepsy (Mark 9:20)
Seizures (Matthew 9:18)
Gritting of Teeth (Mark 9:18)
Suicidal Tendencies (Mark 9:22)
Crying (Mark 9:26)
Insanity (Mark 9:17-29)
Blindness (Matthew 12:22)

SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS

"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the Spirit of Heaviness…" Isaiah 61:3

Manifestations

Mourning (Isaiah 61:3)
Sorrow or sadness (Romans 9:2; Proverbs 15:13)
Bruised (Luke 4:18)
Self-pity (Psalm 69:20)

SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY

"And behold, there was a woman who had a Spirit of Infirmity eighteen years and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up." Luke 13:11

Manifestations

Hunchback (Luke 13:11)
A lingering, deep-seated disorder (John 5:5)

Fever (Luke 4:39)
Bloody flux (Acts 28:8)

SPIRIT OF JEALOUSY

If the Spirit of Jealousy comes upon him and he becomes jealous of his wife, who has defiled herself; or if the Spirit of Jealousy comes upon him, and he becomes jealous of his wife, although she has not defiled herself, then the man shall bring his wife to the priest… Numbers 5:14-15a

Manifestations

Murder (Genesis 4:8)
Anger (Genesis 4:5-6)
Rage (Proverbs 6:34)
Wrath (Genesis 4:5)
Revenge (Proverbs 6:34)
Hate (Genesis 37:3)
Cruelty (Song of Solomon 8:6)
Competition (Genesis 4:4-5)

PERVERSE SPIRIT

"The LORD has mingled a perverse spirit in her midst; and they have caused Egypt to err in all her work, as a drunken man staggers in his vomit." Isaiah 19:14

Manifestations

Wounded Spirit (Proverbs 15:4)
Snare (Proverbs 17:20)
Error (Isaiah 19:14)
Fool (Proverbs 19:1
Despised by others (Proverbs 12:8)
Lust (Proverbs 23:33) and all the sexual perversions

Pervert or twist the Word to Satan's advantage (2nd Peter 3:16-17)
Child of the Devil (Acts 13:10)
Self-lovers (2nd Timothy 3:2)
False Teacher (2nd Peter 2)

SPIRIT OF DIVINATION AND FAMILIAR SPIRIT

Then said Saul unto his servants, "Seek me a woman that hath a Familiar Spirit, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold there is a woman that hath a Familiar Spirit at Endor." And Saul disguised himself and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, "I pray thee, divine unto me by the Familiar Spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee." 1st Samuel 28:7-8

<u>Manifestations</u>

Divination, soothsayer (almanac, horoscopes), Magician, Witch or Wizard, Hypnotist (charmer), Medium, Necromancer, (Deuteronomy 18:9-12)
Star Gazer or Astrologer (Isaiah 47:13)
Water Witching (Hosea 4:12)
Belomancy (divination by arrows) Ezekiel 21:21
Spanchonomancy (divination by inspection of entrails) Ezekiel 21:21)
Teraphim (images consulted for advice) Jude 17:5
Mutterer (Isaiah 8:19)
Ventriloquist (Isaiah 29:4 & 8:19)

SPIRIT OF WHOREDOMS

"My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them; for the Spirit of Whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God." Hosea 4:12

Manifestations

Whoredom-consorting with the devil, unfaithful to Christ, gives love to another, unchaste, leaves God's covering, backslider (Ezekiel 16:15)
Prostitution (Ezekiel 16:28)
Idolatry (Matthew 6:21)
Love of the World (2nd Timothy 4:10)
Love of position and social standing (Matthew 23:6)
Love of Money (1st Timothy 6:10)
Love of Food (Romans 16:18; 1st Corinthians 6:13-16; Philippians 3:19)

SPIRIT OF HAUGHTINESS

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud. Proverbs 16:18-19

Manifestation

Prideful (Isaiah 16:6)
Scornful (Proverbs 3:34)
Bragging & Boastful (1st Peter 5:5 AMP
Stubborn and Stiff-necked (Proverbs 29:1)
Wrathful (Proverbs 21:24; Isaiah 16:6)
Gossip (Proverbs 21:23-24)
Contention (Proverbs 13:10)
Arrogant (1st Peter 5:3 & 5)
Superiority and Self-Assertion (Proverbs 3:32)

LYING SPIRIT

"Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you." 2nd Chronicles 18:22

Manifestations

Belief of a Lie, Strong Delusion, Counterfeit (2nd Thessalonians 2:11)
Flatteries (Ezekiel 12:24)
Excessive Talking and Gossip (Matthew 12:35-37
Profanity (1st Timothy 4:7; 2nd Timothy 2:16)
Old Wives' Fables (1st Timothy 4:7)
Vain Imagination (Jeremiah 23:15-17)

ANTICHRIST SPIRIT

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that Spirit of Antichrist, wherefore ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is it in the world." 1st John 4:3

Manifestations

Spirit that tries to seduce believers into religious error (1st Timothy 4:1-4
Deceiver and False Teacher (2nd John 7-11)

The Apostle John wrote in 1st John 4:1-3: *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the*

spirit of Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

To deal with spirits, we must learn to recognize them and must *try* or *test* them to see if they are from the Kingdom of Light or the kingdom of darkness. We test them in three ways: First, according to 1st John 7-11 quoted above, we test them to see if they confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Secondly, we examine their fruit: Matthew 7:15-20-***"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."*** Finally, we pray for the Gift of Discerning of Spirits: 1st Corinthians 2:14: *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* 1st Corinthians 12:5-11: *There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit. to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of*

tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

THE SPIRITS OF GOD

Before you feel overwhelmed by all of these spirits, I want to point out that there are nine Spirits of God, which are far more powerful than demonic spirits.

The Spirit of Life-Romans 8:2

(*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*)

The Spirit of Adoption-Romans 8:15

(*For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*)

The Spirit of Truth-John 14:17

(***Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him; but you know Him; for He dwells with you and shall be in you.***)

The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation-Ephesians 1:15-17

(*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of your in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him…*)

The Spirit of Holiness-Romans 1:4
(*And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*)

The Spirit of Power, Love and a Sound Mind-2nd Timothy 1:7
(*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

The Spirit of Faith-2nd Corinthians 4:13
(*We, having the same Spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believe, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore speak.*)

The Spirit of Grace-Hebrews10:29
(*Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, insulted the Spirit of grace?*)

The Spirit of Glory-1st Peter 4:14
(*If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*)

Part 3B: Behemoth, Slumbering Spirit,

1. **Behemoth:** *Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hastened not; he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan*

into his mouth. Job 40:23 (For more description of this spirit, read Job chapters 15- 24.)

Behemoth means something of massive size and strength. Some think it is a bull, elephant, hippopotamus, or rhinoceros. Others think it is an animal that no longer lives. It represents any demonic system that can oppress large numbers of people. Behemoths are strongholds of the enemy that must be destroyed before millions come to know Jesus. The Israelites were under a Behemoth in Egypt. This demonic power was confronted by Moses. The Pharisaical religious system of that day was confronted by Jesus. Modern Behemoths include Communism, Islam, Humanism, Witchcraft, Materialism, Religion and Tradition, etc.

2. **The Slumbering Spirit:** Obviously this is a spirit that causes individuals or whole church bodies to be asleep and thus those with a slumbering spirit are the antithesis of the Tribe of Issachar(*And of the children of Issachar, who were men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do…*1st Chronicles 12:32). This is a common spirit and is often rooted in deep sorrow or depression as when the disciples could not stay awake in the garden (*And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping FOR SORROW*. Luke 22:45)

His watchmen are blind. All of them know nothing. All of them are dumb dogs unable to bark, dreamers lying down, who love to slumber. Isaiah 56:10

And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. Romans 13:11

Awake, awake. Clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion; clothe yourself in your beautiful garments. Isaiah 52:1-2

Therefore, be on the alert-for you do not know when the master of the house is coming…lest He come and find you asleep. Mark 13:35-36

You, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night, nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 1st Thessalonians 5:4-6

3. **The Spirit of Poverty and the Prosperity Gospel:** One of the most loathsome doctrines in the Church today to me is the Prosperity Gospel. I see nothing Christ-like in accumulating wealth and possessions while our brothers and sisters struggle to get by. We have exported the Prosperity Gospel to African countries where pastors take it to a hideous extreme, and in our own country we have a culture that spends more on dog food than missions; that glorifies athletes

and the Hollywood elites, many of which are involved in some kind of witchcraft or doctrines of demons or sexual perversion; and that propels megachurch pastors to millionaire, celebrity status with five car garages in gated communities. I just don't think this pleases the Lord.

Nevertheless, we have to look objectively at the Word of God. The great Apostle of love, John, wrote his Gospel and his epistles, most scholars believe, while he was banished to the Isle of Patmos, around 80 AD. In 3rd John 2: *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.* The Amplified helps us understand this verse better: *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers.* And the Message Bible puts it this way: *The Pastor, to my good friend Gaius: How truly I love you! We're the best of friends, and I pray for good fortune in every thing you do, and for your good health-that your everyday affairs prosper, as well as your soul.*

Gaius was a man of means, but he also was very generous and opened his home to members of the clergy who passed his way. Apparently, he had some health issues, and John is mainly addressing these issues when he says, "*I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, even as your soul keeps well and prospers.*

Let's look at both sides of the issue of the Prosperity Gospel:

FIRST, WHY WE DON'T PROSPER EVEN AS OUR SOUL PROSPERS

Causes of Poverty

1. **Impatience: Proverbs 21:5 KJV** *The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty, only to want.* **Living Bible** *Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.*
2. **Greed: Proverbs 22:16 KJV** *He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.* Living Bible *He that gains by oppressing the poor or by bribing the rich shall end in poverty.*
3. **Laziness: Proverbs 24:30-34 KJV** *I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw and considered it well; I looked upon it and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep; so shall thy poverty come like one that traveleth, and thy want like an armed man.* **Living Bible** *I walked by the field of a certain lazy fellow and saw that it was overgrown with thorns and covered with weeds; and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked, I learned this lesson; "A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a*

little folding of the hands to rest means that poverty will break in upon you suddenly like a robber and violently like a bandit.

4. **Transgressions and Disobedience**: **2nd Chronicles 24:20 KJV** *And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, the priest, who stood about the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God: "Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? Because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you."*
5. **Hiding One's Sin: Proverbs 28:13 KJV** *He who covers his sin will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*
6. **Distrust of the Lord and putting your trust in men: Jeremiah 2:36,37 NIV** *Why do you go about so much, changing your ways? You will be disappointed by Egypt as you were by Assyria. You will also leave that place with your hands on your head, for the Lord has rejected those you trust; you will not be helped by them.*
7. **Swearing falsely and stealing: Zechariah 5:1-4 NIV** *I looked again-and there before me was a flying scroll! He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll, thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide." And he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished. The Lord Almighty declares, "I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by*

my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones."

8. **Robbing God: Malachi 3:8-9 KJV** *Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, "In what way have we robbed You?" In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation."*
9. **Neglecting God's Work to bless yourself: Haggai 1:4-6 KJV** *Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins? Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little: You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes."*

Dake's 21 Blessings of Obeying God's Commandments-Deuteronomy 4

1. Long life.
2. Success
3. Mercy and justice
4. Wisdom and understanding
5. World wide reputation for wisdom, knowledge, and greatness
6. Nearness to God
7. Answers to prayer
8. Perfect code of laws
9. Good and lasting memory
10. The only true religion to teach to children

11. Learning the law of God, which is the beginning of wisdom
12. Preservation from corruption through idolatry
13. Being a special people
14. An inheritance
15. A covenant with Jehovah
16. Faithfulness of God
17. Manifestations of God
18. Proof that Jehovah is God
19. Victory over enemies
20. Prosperity
21. Blessings upon offering

A Few of Dake's Curses for Disobeying God's Commandments in Deuteronomy

1. Serve your enemies
2. Hunger
3. Thirst
4. Nakedness
5. Want of all things
6. Bondage
7. Destruction of lives
8. War with foreign nations
9. Unmerciful treatment from enemies
10. Destruction of cattle
11. Destruction of crops
12. Robbery of all possessions
13. Siege of cities
14. Destruction of cities and trusted defenses
15. Conquest of the whole land
16. Famine and distress

17. Great plagues and sicknesses of long endurance
18. All the diseases of Egypt
19. No peace
20. Fearful and trembling hearts
21. Eye failures
22. Sorrow of mind
23. Fretting and worry because of the constant dangers of life
24. Enemies will eat your crops.
25. Crops will be destroyed by locust.
26. Strangers will lend to you.

How to break at Spirit of Poverty!

1. **Give:** Luke 6:38 KJV- *Give and it shall be given unto you good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye measure it shall be measured to you again.* 2nd Corinthians 9:6-8- *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

   Specifically give the Tithe: Malachi 3:10-12 KJV- *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in mine house, and test me now herewith, said the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the*

windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for you sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

2. **Praise:** Psalm 35:27-28 AMP- *Let those who favor my righteous cause and have pleasure in my uprightness shout for joy and be glad and say continually, "Let the Lord be magnified," Who takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant. And my tongue shall talk of Your righteousness, rightness and justice and of my reason for Your praise all the day long.*
3. **Prophesy:** Ezekiel 37:4- *Again he saith unto me, Prophesy upon these bones and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.*
4. **Listen to God's Prophets:** Ezra 6:24a KJV *And the elders of the Jews built; and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai, the prophet, and Zechariah, the son of Iddo…*
5. **Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**: 2nd Corinthians 5:7- *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*
6. **Obey the Word**: All of Deuteronomy 28, & Joshua 1:8 KJV- *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good*

success, & Leviticus 26:3-5 KJV- *If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land safely.*

7. **Resist the Enemy**: James 4:7- *Submit yourselves, therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*
8. **Bless the Poor and the Orphans and Widows**: Proverbs 28:27 Contemporary English Version- *Giving to the poor will keep you from poverty, but if you close your eyes to their needs, everyone will curse you.*
9. **Seek First the Kingdom:** Matthew 6:33 KJV- *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.*
10. **Break off Any Generational Curses:** Exodus 20:5-*I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.)*-Isaiah 53:5-*He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.*
11. **Trust in God:** Nehemiah 2:19-20 KJV- *But when Sanballat, the Horonite, and Tobiah, the servant, the Ammonite and Geshem, the Arabian,*

heard it, they laughed us to scorn and despised us, and said, "What is the thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?" Then I answered them, and said unto them, "The God of heaven will prosper us; therefore we, His servants, will arise and build; but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem."

12. **Being Content with What We Have:** 1st Timothy 6:7-10- *...we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grieves.*

THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL? YOU DECIDE!

The Prosperity Gospel, emphasized by most faith teachers, is a teaching that God desires material prosperity for those He favors. Prosperity theology promotes the idea that God wants Christians to be "abundantly" successful in every way, especially financially. Here are some verses to support this theology:

Scriptures used in support

Deuteronomy 8:18-*But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to*

make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. NAS

Malachi 3:10-*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test 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 a blessing until it overflows.* NAS

John 10:10-*The thief cometh not, but to steal and to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* KJV

3rd John 2-4-*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.* KJV

Luke 6:38-*Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.* KJV

Scriptures used to oppose

Those who oppose the Prosperity Gospel teach that this teaching is actually a teaching of materialism masquerading as theology in spite of no valid biblical support. The opponents cite the following scriptures:

1st Timothy 6:7-10-*For ye brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and harmful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 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.*

Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 16:13-*Do not store for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven…For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Money.* KJV

Luke 18:22-25-*…it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to center the kingdom of God.* KJV

1st John 2:15-*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* KJV

1st Timothy 6:3-5-*If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our*

Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. KJV

Matthew 19:21-*Jesus said to him, If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.* KJV

Proverbs 22:16-*He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth, and he who gives gifts to the rich-both come to poverty.*

Matthew 6:19-20-*But lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.*

Revelation 2:9-*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods and have need of nothing, and knowest that thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.*

Proverbs 28:22-*He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.*

Acts 8:20-*But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.*

Proverbs 3:17-*There is he that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is he that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.*

Other criticisms (quotes taken from Wikipedia):

Anthony K. Thigpen and David W. Austin: *Money has always been mankind's greatest temptation. People wrestle against the truth everyday. The kingdom of God is not the American Dream-one is spiritual and the other is physical.*

David Jeremiah: *Any gospel that cannot be preached in a third world country is not the True Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Mahatma Gandhi: *I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ. The materialism of affluent Christian countries appears to contradict the claims of Jesus Christ that says it's not possible to worship both Mammon and God at the same time.*

Anthony K. Thigpen and David W. Austin: *The prosperity theology defines quality of life based on quantity of possessions. This deceptive movement teaches that financial lack is based on limited faith and minimal giving. The theme of Christianity is not money. How to get rich and have everything you ever wanted is Satan's message modernized. Money is a mere illusion. God gave His only Son that life would become more meaningful, namely spiritual. Money does not make life valuable, God does.*

We at First Love Ministries believe that we can have different opinions and still worship in unity under a big umbrella. We ask only that you be a Berean when you disagree with one another here. Personal opinions or church traditions don't mean much if they are not backed up with scripture. We love the Church, but we are finding more and more that scripture does not always back-up what we have been taught. We believe the Word is inerrant and the final answer. Our interpretations of scripture may be different, and all of us walk in different levels of revelation, and in this case there are scriptures that seemingly support both viewpoints, but I don't think they are contradictory. I think the Lord wants us to prosper spiritually and to live abundant lives and to have all our needs met. I also believe He will prosper us financially when we see our money and possessions as Kingdom money and Kingdom possessions used to bring others to the Kingdom and to glorify Him on this earth. Perhaps

my own bias is showing through in this teaching, and I do want to say that I highly respect some of the pastors and teachers who teach the Prosperity Gospel, but I have trouble reconciling this gospel with the Gospel life of the Pattern Son, Jesus, who had little of this world's goods when He walked on the earth. And I must admit that I am turned off by those pastors who have several rings on their fingers, a Rolex watch, big houses, several expensive cars, body guards, etc., and who make 6 figure salaries and go on frequent and exotic vacations. I believe that America is under judgment because of the wrong emphasis on material wealth and love of money in the Church that He died to redeem. How can we wear several diamonds on our fingers when our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world are dying for lack of food? I wonder how many Bibles those rings might buy to share the Gospel throughout the world or how many missionaries we could send out to preach the Gospel. We are a nation that reportedly spends more money on dog food than we do to feed the world's hungry. We have brothers and sisters in other parts of the world that struggle to stay alive because of lack of food. I do believe in praying for financial blessings-and I call it forth from the NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, and WEST but only to be used for the Kingdom or to supply our needs so we can be free of the fear of financial lack and bounced checks and can concentrate fully on being a representative of Christ on the earth. We don't solicit money here, and we don't charge for ministry. We rarely pay our speakers or our musicians because we

think that those who have freely received should freely give. We do know that the workman is worthy of his hire, and we do believe that ministers should be compensated well, when they are depending on giving from God's people to live. We appreciate so much those faithful ones who give to keep this ministry going and growing. The more people give, the more people we can reach, so we are not against money. There has to be a balance, however, and ministry should never be gone into as a means to get rich. Again, these are my personal feelings, and we invite differences of opinions, as we know that we ALL have on blinders and see through a glass dimly. None of us have the full revelation yet, and no ministry that stands on Bible principles that I have attended is without TRUTH and none is without some degree of ERROR, including here.

LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT

by Kittie J. Suffield
(1924)

In the harvest field now ripened
There's work for all to do;
Hark! The voice of God is calling
To the harvest calling you.

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.

Are you laid aside from service,
Body worn from toil and care?
You can still be in the battle,
In the sacred place of prayer.

When the conflict here is ended
And our race on earth is run
He will say, if we are faithful,
"Welcome home, my child, well done."

CHORUS
Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown, and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' Name.