

The Problem with the Prosperity Gospel

Trading Eternal Treasure for Temporary Trinkets

The Prosperity Gospel has a grip on modern Christianity—and if we're honest, it's not hard to see why. It offers a compelling message: God wants you to be healthy, wealthy, and successful. And who wouldn't want that to be true? A God who not only saves your soul but also guarantees a fat bank account, a clean bill of health, and favor in every earthly venture? That's the kind of message that fills arenas and sells books.

But here's the tension: it's *not* the Gospel. And more than that—it's dangerous.

Let me be clear from the jump: I absolutely believe God blesses His people. He provides. He heals. He opens doors no man can shut. I've seen miracles. I've experienced divine provision. I've walked through answered prayers that made no earthly sense. So, this isn't a rejection of God's goodness or generosity. Far from it.

But the Prosperity Gospel distorts that truth. It takes God's *ability* to bless and twists it into a *guarantee* of material success. It treats faith like a formula: if you just believe hard enough, sow enough seed, or declare enough victory—you'll unlock the life of your dreams. And if it doesn't happen? Well, that must be your fault. You didn't have enough faith. That's not just false. It's *cruel*.

Jesus didn't die so we could get rich. He died so we could be *redeemed*. And that's a far greater prosperity than anything this world can offer. The real Gospel isn't about cash and comfort—it's about reconciliation with God, peace in the midst of pain, and hope that outlasts the grave.

Just look at Scripture. Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament, often did so from prison. He was beaten, shipwrecked, and impoverished—not exactly a life of luxury. Job lost everything and still remained faithful. Jesus had *nowhere to lay His head*. Are we really going to suggest that they were missing out on some deeper blessing because they didn't drive chariots with chrome wheels?

The true prosperity God offers is *eternal*, not always *temporal*. It's the kind of peace that surpasses understanding. It's the joy that doesn't depend on circumstances. It's knowing your name is written in the Book of Life even if your bank account is in the red.

So here's a simple diagnostic: If your theology only works in a wealthy Western context—it's not the Gospel. If it can't hold up in the slums of Nairobi, the underground church in China, or a prison cell in Iran—it's not the good news Jesus preached.

💡 **Here's a tip: Want to test whether your view of prosperity is biblical? Ask yourself, "Would this still be true for a believer with nothing but Jesus?"** Because if Jesus isn't enough by Himself, we've lost sight of what it means to be rich.

God is not a vending machine. He's not a genie. And He's not obligated to fund your vision board.

But He *is* good. And the greatest prosperity He offers isn't found in dollars—it's found in the empty tomb.

So, let's preach *that* Gospel.

The one that works in suffering.

The one that carries weight in hardship.

The one that makes Jesus—not money—the prize.





THE TATTOOED APOLOGIST