

YT Video: Super-Abundant Life in Christ

-By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 20 June 2020
All Bible quotes are from the MKJV or KJV

Text

Eph 3:14 For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Eph 3:15 of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named,
Eph 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man
Eph 3:1 that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
Eph 3:18 may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height,
Eph 3:19 and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.
Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,** according to the power that works in us,
Eph 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen.

I. The Prosperity Gospel: Key Leaders

Kenneth Hagin, Oral Roberts, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Benny Hinn, John Avanzini, Paul Yonggi Cho, Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, Robert Tilton, Pat Robertson, Kong Hee, Joseph Prince, Paula White, Joyce Mehar etc. They are multi-millionaires. Kenneth Copeland has close to US\$1 billion and several private jets.

II. The Apostle John & Prosperity

Many years ago, when I visited the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, S. Korea, I saw at the entrance this quote:

3Jn 1:2 Beloved, **in regard to all things I pray that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.**

This verse is commonly claimed by all prosperity preachers. However, they interpret “prosper” in terms of material welfare and ignore the condition “even as your soul prospers”! The unregenerate soul conforms to this world and ignores the will of God to do the will of men. The Greek word “euodoō” is translated as “prosper” which means “succeed in reaching”. In the context, it should be success in reaching our spiritual goals and not necessarily material success.

III. The Prosperity Gospel: Key Tenets

Prosperity preaching focuses on 4 areas: faith, health, wealth and victory. Poverty is depicted as a sin and a curse. Prayer is a means to force God to grant prosperity. According to such preachers, it is lacking in faith to preface prayers by “If it is your will,” They forget Yeshua’s agonizing prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane:

Mar 14:36 And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible to You. Take away this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.

a. Wealth of the wicked will flow to the righteous

Pro 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

1. “good” does not mean righteous
2. Inherited fortunes tend to get frittered away in a couple of generations
3. Preachers who quote this verse assume they are the “just” or “righteous” so that they would get the wealth of sinners

b. Wealth of the gentiles

*Isa 60:5 Then you shall fear and become bright, and your heart shall throb and swell for joy; because the abundance of the sea shall turn to you, **the wealth of the nations will come to you.***

Note: the context is Israel when Yeshua returns to restore the Kingdom of Israel and not preachers and Christians!

c. 100-fold increase

Gloria Copeland preached that believers who make a contribution of \$10 by faith could expect a return of \$1,000

Her husband, Kenneth Copeland, wrote that the return would be much greater than 100-fold because a seed planted grows into a tree that can bear thousands of fruits.

*Mar 10:28 Then Peter began to say to Him, Lo, **we have left all and have followed You.***

Mar 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Truly I say to you, There is no man that has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for my sake and the gospel's sake,

*Mar 10:30 but **he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands with persecutions, and in the world to come, eternal life.***

1. Isaac was blessed 100-fold [Gen 26:12]
2. Note: he planted seed at a time of famine
3. “The number 100 represents total completeness. If ten is a complete number, then ten times ten indicates completeness to the minutest detail.”

https://www.chabadwestside.org/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/224149/jewish/VaYeiztei.htm

4. Note that Isaac laid down his life on the altar his father Abraham prepared on the mountain. He was a man of prayer and great faith
5. No preacher of the gospel has ever reaped 100 houses, mothers, siblings, fathers or wives
6. What about the **persecution** Yeshua promised? Why don't the prosperity preachers mention this?
7. When we lay down our lives for the gospel, we become the seeds that die to become trees of plentiful fruit:

Joh 12:24 *Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit.*

8. Eternal life that is promised is worth more than all the wealth of the world
9. How much is your soul worth?

Mat 16:26 *For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

IV. The Prosperity Gospel: Faith in Faith/Positive Confession

Kenneth Hagin, the father of several prosperity teachers, wrote a book: **Having Faith in Your Faith**

- a. The doctrine that God created the world out of nothing by faith, and that
- b. He created men as "little gods" who should be able to exercise the same kind of faith.
- c. Faith therefore becomes a powerful force that gets results
- d. It is no longer having faith in God but faith in your own faith
- e. Christians who do not get rich or healing are told they lack faith
- f. What about the great men and women of faith in the Bible who suffered and died without receiving the promises of God [**Heb 11**]?

V. The Prosperity Gospel: Tragedies of Hyper-Faith

- a. **Many have died because they trusted the healing powers of the false teachers and did not seek medical attention in time: I saw some tragic cases**
- b. **Many poor and elderly people send their meagre savings to the false teachers and prophets who promised them debt rescues and multiplication. Nothing was received and the promised prayers were never said because the request cards ended up in the garbage cans:**

Mar 12:3 *And He said to them in His teaching, beware of the scribes, who love to walk about in robes, and love greetings in the markets,*

Mar 12:39 and the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost places at feasts
Mar 12:40 **who devour widows' houses, and as a pretense make long prayers.** These shall receive greater condemnation.

VI. The Prosperity Gospel: Visualizing Your Desires

Yonggi Cho of the largest church in the world taught that if we visualize whatever we wish to pray for we shall get it. There are at least 2 things wrong with this:

- a. Visualizing is occultic
- b. This is covetousness which the Bible says is idolatry

Col 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness (which is idolatry),**

- c. This violates the 10th Commandment
- d. Our desires must be sanctified or replaced with what God desires for us

Rom 8:5 For **they who are according to the flesh mind the things of flesh, but they who are according to the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**

Rom 8:6 For **to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace**

Rom 8:7 because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can it be.

- e. Since the Fall of Adam & Eve, the human race has become insecure, especially financially. We crave riches, health & power to secure our well-being. The unregenerate man cannot trust YAHWEH.
- f. Seek first His Kingdom & His Righteousness

Mat 6:33 But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.**

VII. The Prosperity Gospel: Abundance of Material Things

Joh 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. **I have come so that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

- a. In the context of this verse, Yeshua is the Good Shepherd and the door for the sheep into and out of the sheep-pen
- b. He provides security and good pastures for His sheep
- c. The Greek word “perissos” translated into “abundantly” really should be “super-abundantly”. See also:

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do **exceeding abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Eph 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen.

- d. **The super-abundant life in question is eternal life in Him and He nourishes us for it.**
- e. **Life does not consist of abundance of possessions:**

Luk 12:13 And one of the company said to Him, Master, speak to my brother to divide the inheritance with me.

Luk 12:14 And He said to him, Man, who made Me a judge or a divider over you?

*Luk 12:15 And He said to them, Watch and **keep yourselves from covetousness. For a man's life is not in the abundance of the things which he possesses.***

- f. **Labor not for the food that perishes**

Joh 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, You seek Me not because you saw the miracles, but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

*Joh 6:27 **Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for that food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you.** For God the Father sealed Him.*

- g. **Desire to be rich & love of money:**

*1Ti 6:9 But **they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.***

*1Ti 6:10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil:** which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

VIII. Prosperity Preachers: "Yeshua Was Rich"

A popular Prosperity preacher, **John Avanzini**, claimed that:

- a. Jesus had a nice big house [no proof!]:

Luk 9:57 And it happened as they were going in the way, one said to Him, Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.

*Luk 9:58 And Jesus said to him, **Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.***

- b. Jesus wore designer clothes because He had a seamless garment which only the rich could afford.

Luk 8:1 And it happened afterwards, He traveled in every city and village, proclaiming and announcing the gospel of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve were with Him,

Luk 8:2 and also certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities; Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven demons,

*Luk 8:3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, **who ministered to Him of their possessions.***

- c. Jesus was handling big money

This is a lie because Yehshua told Peter to go fishing and find a fish with a coin in its mouth, in order to pay His tax & Peter's

KJV Mat 17:24 *And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received **tribute money** came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?*

Mat 17:25 *He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?*

Mat 17:26 *Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, then are the children free.*

Mat 17:27 *Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.*

IX. The Prosperity Gospel: Blighted Continents

Africa, Latin American, Asia & Australia have all been blighted by the Prosperity Gospel.

"The prosperity gospel is an idolatrous perversion of the gospel according to which Jesus is a means to God's full blessings, primarily of wealth, health, and might, now available to those who trust and obey certain faith principles prescribed by a particular man of God."

"Africa needs cleansing from the foreign deities from the West, the land where health, wealth and might have become gods" Dieudonné Tamfu, Professor, Bethlehem College & Seminary in "The Gods of the Prosperity Gospel" Desiring God.org.

X. True Prosperity

- a. **Seek first His Kingdom & His righteousness: you are guaranteed food & clothing**
- b. **Be content:**

1Ti 6:6 *But **godliness with contentment is great gain.***

1Ti 6:7 *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

1Ti 6:8 *And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

- c. **Needs, not greed**

Php 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

- d. **More blessed to give than to receive**
- e. **Know how to abound and how to abase**

Php 4:11 *Not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

*Php 4:12 **I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound**: everywhere and in all things, I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

f. You cannot serve God & Mammon

Mat 6:24 *No one can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.***

g. Guard your soul:

1Pe 1:9 *obtaining the end of your faith, **the salvation of your souls.***

h. Finally:

Pro 28:6 *Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.*