

## Why Aren't You a Wealthy Christian?

Genesis 26:12-13: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him, <sup>13</sup>and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy.



God blessed Isaac and he became a wealthy man. God, through Elisha, blessed the woman whose husband died with enough to pay her debts and then some. God told Malachi to test His grace by bringing in the tithes so that God could open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing. God is giving His people blessing and abundance! God seems to like giving them abundance! So, what's wrong with us? Why aren't we wealthy children of God? Why haven't we been made rich like Isaac? What's wrong with this picture? Plenty! Stay with us for some biblical balancing...

First, a human and basically godless (but based in legitimacy) approach to wealth:

(2006) Gives you everything you want, "The Secret" movie

- Do you know this secret gives you everything you want - happiness, health and wealth. You can have, do or be anything you want.
- We can have whatever it is that we choose. I don't care how big it is. What kind of house do you want to live in?
- Do you want to be a millionaire?
- What kind of business do you want to have?
- Do you want more success?
- What do you really want?
- I've seen many miracles take place in people's lives. Financial miracles, miracles of physical healing, mental healing, healing of relationships.
- All of this happened because of knowing how to apply the secret.
- This is the great secret of life.

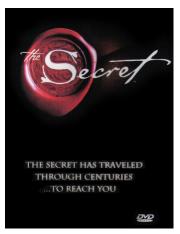


Over the last 2,000 years since Jesus, there have been many "great train robberies" against Christianity as it was originally delivered to his followers.



## These "train robberies" started almost at the beginning:

Jude 1:3-4: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. <sup>4</sup>For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.





Already by around AD 60 there was a feeling of entitlement and self-gain creeping into the body of Christ, stealing away the true understanding originally given by our Lord Jesus.

Today we will focus on one of these great heists: the stealing away of the true purpose of Christianity in exchange for worldly belief about riches, wealth and abundance. We will look at several Scriptures that are misused and how we should properly understand them. It is time to put the "Christian" back into our faith! A lot of brands of Christianity have fallen under the spell that God wants you to be healthy, happy, abundant and wealthy. Why would God *not* want this? Because if you are a Christian, your calling is for something different.

Are we saying that if someone is wealthy, they must be a bad Christian? Unequivocally not. But to seek wealth through the guise of Christianity is seeking something unchristian.

This next audio clip typifies the issue:

)) Eliminate lack - Genesis 2, Jerry Dirmann, Supernatural Increase

• Genesis chapter 26 please today. Genesis 26. A couple weeks ago, we began talking about eliminating poverty and financial lack. Eliminating! Eliminating! Let me underscore that, eliminating! We're not hugging poverty and financial lack. We're not just discussing poverty and financial lack. We're not just encouraging folks through it. God says "I am eliminating poverty and financial lack in your life. I am eliminating it."

He is talking about a sound principle - it would be good to focus on making sure you are not destitute, but *how* do you do that? The Christian's focus is to grow the fruit of the Spirit.

## Here are the parts of the text referred to in the audio clip:

Genesis 26:1,12-14: (NASB) Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. <sup>12</sup>Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him, <sup>13</sup>and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy; <sup>14</sup>for he had possessions of flocks and herds and a great household, so that the Philistines envied him.

So, in the midst of famine, there can be great abundance. This is a scriptural fact and that is what happened to Isaac. But here is how the text begins to be twisted:

Feel the prophetic words, Jerry Dirmann, Supernatural Increase

• And today there's a word from Genesis 26. These are not line upon line, precept upon precept studies. This is not the way it would be taught in a Bible college or a seminary. These are prophetic words of the Lord. We're not trying to take a subject of the Bible and say, "Well, let's see. We probably should start here and talk here and then go to this and then in sequence we should go to this next point." That's not what this is. These are prophetic words God is saying. "Set all that aside. Here's what I need to say to my people." And if we can receive the word of the Lord, it can set us free.



#### Here is the actual instruction from God to Isaac:

Genesis 26:2-5: (NASB) <sup>2</sup>The LORD appeared to him and said, Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. <sup>3</sup>Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. <sup>4</sup>I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; <sup>5</sup>because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.

God told Isaac to stay where he was, because this was the land God promised him.

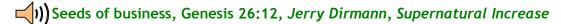




## Observations about God's blessing of Isaac:

- <u>Verse 2</u>: It was about a specific parcel of land, the land given to Abraham.
- Verse 3: It was about the promise God made to Abraham.
- <u>Verses 4-5</u>: It was about the blessing of all the families of the earth because Abraham was faithful.

With Isaac, God was working on what He already established with Abraham to eventually bless all the families of the earth and give them the land through inheritance.





And so he sows his seed into the ground and he reaps in the same year a hundred fold. That's a super-duper miracle! Hundred fold. Now, listen. Some people would just relate this sowing to tithing and offerings, and of course it relates to that, but how many of you know this is talking about business? This is talking about our livelihoods. This is talking about investments or things that the Lord wants us to do in our lives and some people have one kind of business and other people have another kind of business. I believe that the Lord is going to open our eyes, and I am talking about specifically the people that are listening to this message in this series. The Lord is going to open our eyes to businesses that other people can't see.

Business? This is a "train robbery" deluding Christians into following the idea that God will plant some miraculous business opportunity into your head that no one else will see and you will become wealthy because of it. The Genesis account talked about the wealth of the land.

### What Christian "land" do we inherit?

<u>John 14:1-2</u>: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

This is the "land" we should be focused on.



## The Christian's promise:

Romans 8:12-14: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - <sup>13</sup> for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

We are to rise above the flesh and live according to God's Spirit. We are to give up our own will to follow His will. Every day we fight against our own selfishness. This great train robbery of the Prosperity Gospel says we do not have to fight those things anymore - God wants you to have the things you want. That is a devious misleading of the teachings of Christ.

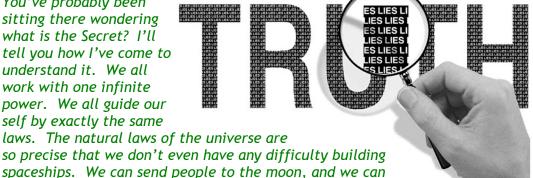
#### The Christian's role:

Romans 8:17: (NASB) and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

We are to *suffer* with Christ! That sure does not sound *physically* prosperous! Remember any good lie is based in truth. This applies to the "Secret," as well.

(2006) All working with one law, "The Secret" movie

You've probably been sitting there wondering what is the Secret? I'll tell you how I've come to understand it. We all work with one infinite power. We all guide our self by exactly the same



time the landing with a precision of a fraction of a second. I don't care if you're an Indian, if you are in Australia, New Zealand, Stockholm or London or Toronto or Montréal or New York. We're all working with one power, one law...it is attraction.

That is the "Secret," the Law of Attraction. Is it legitimate? The Bible indicates it is!



## This next text is after the Flood and shows the significance of man's power in the earth:

Genesis 11:1-8: (KJV) <sup>1</sup>And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. <sup>2</sup>And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. <sup>3</sup>And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. <sup>4</sup>And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. <sup>5</sup>And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have

all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. <sup>7</sup>Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language,



that they may not understand one another's speech. <sup>8</sup>So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

...nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do - The people were visualizing - attracting in their own minds, and they were able to accomplish it in a context of pride and evil. The Scriptures do verify the great power of our own minds.

Why was God so displeased with these efforts? They took the marvelous tool of the human mind and bent it towards a self-aggrandizing agenda and therefore away from a God-honoring life.

Thoughts become things, "The Secret" movie (2006)

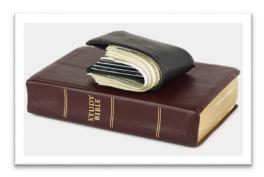
- Very basically put, the Law of Attraction says that "like attracts like," but we are really talking at a level of thought.
- Our job as humans is to hold on to the thoughts of what we want. Make it absolutely clear in our minds what we want, and from that we start to invoke one of the greatest laws in the universe and that is the Law of Attraction. You become what you think about most, but you also attract what you think about most.
- If you see it in here, you're going to hold here.
- And that principle can be summed up in three simple words: thoughts become things.

"Thoughts become things." This is a very powerful statement and there is truth in it, but there is great deception in its application within Christianity. This concept can be applied in ways never taught by Jesus.

<u>Philippians 4:8:</u> (KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Why are we instructed to think on those things? Because when we do, those things manifest themselves much more readily in our lives. Thoughts *do* become things. Our minds are powerful tools for good or evil - any good can be misapplied or over applied to that which is evil - the internet is a great example of this. It is an incredibly great tool but used to promote evil.

If we don't expect miracles from God, aren't we limiting His power in our lives?



What kinds of miracles are you expecting and who is the author of those miracles?

It's a basic rule of human nature that the promise of unexpected wealth short-circuits both intelligence and common sense.

Vikas Swarup



## (1))2 Kings 4, small stuff, Prayer for Financial Miracle, www.theadrianhines.com

• Here in this passage in 2 Kings the fourth chapter, Elisha said to the widow, "What do you have in your house?" and she said, "All I have is this." And a lot of times the reason why God can't use us the way He wants to is because we have that "all I have spirit" or that "all I have attitude," and we're like "God, this is all I have and surely you could use me with this." That's how they almost missed out on the greatest King in Israel. They forgot David in the field or some commentators not only think they forgot him, but that they left him out there on purpose because they didn't want him there, right? But guess what, God takes the small stuff and He uses it for His glory.

Actually, that wasn't a "mentality" of the woman - that was a fact - it was literally all she had.

Is this next account truly an example of God giving abundance to Christians? 2 Kings 4:1-7: (NASB) ¹Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.

This was truly a tragic event befalling the family of a very faithful Jew. (Some commentaries say her husband was Obadiah the prophet.)

<sup>2</sup>Elisha said to her, what shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house? And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.

#### There was almost no means for survival.

<sup>3</sup>Then he said, go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few. <sup>4</sup>And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full.

Elisha (a known worker of great miracles) used what already existed coupled with acts of faith based on strict instructions on the part of the widow.

<sup>5</sup>So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her and she poured. <sup>6</sup>When the vessels were full, she said to her son, bring me another vessel. And he said to her, there is not one vessel more. And the oil stopped. <sup>7</sup>Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest.

The widow is spared! But this does not tell us God will suddenly pour out monetary gain for us. She lived a life of faithfulness and was blessed as a result in a very specific way.

## Law of attraction is always working, "The Secret" movie (2006)

- The Law of Attraction is really obedient. When you think of the things that you want and you focus on them with all of your intention, the Law of Attraction will give you what you want every time. When you focus on the things that you don't want, "I don't want to be late, I don't want to be late," you are really calling that into existence. The Law of Attraction doesn't hear that you don't want it, so it's going to show up over and over and over again. The Law of Attraction is not biased to "wants" or "don't wants." It manifests the things that you think of.
- The Law of Attraction is always working.



When we focus on something with all of our intention, it tends to come our way because we change what we do to make it come our way. If you always put yourself down and expect bad things to happen, generally you get bad things. You set yourself up for failure. But if you encourage yourself and set up for success, you open the door to have the ability for you to change your own actions and be more successful. If you want not to be financially destitute, get a job. If you have one and it isn't enough, get a second job. Look harder. It comes down to self-application.

The last example was about a widow. What is the Christian instruction regarding widows? Are we supposed to tell the widows among us they should just tell God their checking account needs more zeros?

<u>1 Timothy 5:3-5</u>: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>Honor widows who are widows indeed; <sup>4</sup>but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. <sup>5</sup>Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day.

Care for widows for they can be the most helpless of our number (especially in biblical times); yet care for them in appropriate ways based upon their true needs, not their wants.

<u>James 1:27</u>: (NASB) Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

We are to put ourselves out and take care of them, not pray for and demand their prosperity. Work is the real secret!



A caller from Connecticut suggests eventually Solomon, who had everything, realized it was all vanity. The Apostle Paul made arrangements for the churches to be helped - there were not riches there. Jesus didn't have a place to be born. What God wants from us is to do His will.

Overflow, Prayer for Financial Miracle, www.theadrianhines.com

• Guys, we've got to get to the point where we stop missing these opportunities ...we've prayed for these opportunities, we've fasted for these opportunities and God brings them right in our path, but guess what? Because it doesn't seem like God, we're like "Nah, I'm good. Let me wait on the Lord and be of good cheer. He shall strengthen my heart." We've got to get out of this mindset of using these Scriptures as clichés when that's not how we really feel. I believe, this is just my belief, according to the Word of God we are to operate in overflow in every area of our life. In every area. I'm not just talking financially, but in every area of our life.

## The Scriptures support "overflow:"

<u>Psalms 23:4-6</u>: (NASB) <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; **My cup overflows**. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



## "Overflow" is about attitude and thanksgiving - not "stuff" and abundance:

<u>1 Timothy 6:6-8</u>: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. <sup>7</sup>For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. <sup>8</sup>If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

If back in the New Testament when people did not have these things, was everyone supposed to pray over them for a financial miracle? No. The church got together and helped those less fortunate with a hand up (not a hand out) to get them back on their feet. THAT is the abundance of the New Testament.

We will spend more time talking about how this concept of the Law of Attraction idea fits hand in hand with the Prosperity Gospel. It misapplies some basic truths of living, creating false expectations and false ideas of what God really wants for us.

Doesn't the New Testament tell us that our receiving is bigger than our giving?

Give a little, get a little. Give a lot, get a lot. But what and to whom? 2 Corinthians 9:6-15: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Some would have us believe that the whole point is for us to be magnified.

(cause you don't have any, Creflo Dollar

• Because as long as you keep doing the same thing, you're stuck in an insanity circle. You're insane 'cause nothing is going to change 'cause you keep doing the same thing. And when you can start giving because you have an affection for God and you want to give instead of feeling like "Well, bless God, every time I look around they're talking about money!" As soon as you get some we don't have to talk about it no more! I'll make a deal with you. Everybody in Madison Square Gardens, if you will become wealthy by next year, I won't talk about money. I'll shut my mouth and talk about Daniel in the lion's den.

## Where does the "sowing" in this text land? Is it in the hands of those running a church?

<sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; <sup>9</sup>as it is written, he scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, his righteousness endures forever.

The "sowing" is living your life for Christ, not giving your dollars to the church coffers in hopes to become rich yourself. It is all about the poor and our support for those of our number in difficulty!

<sup>10</sup>Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; <sup>11</sup>you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Aha! Enriched in EVERYTHING! This must include money...?



## The gift of feelings, "The Secret" movie (2006)

- It's impossible to monitor every thought we have. Researchers tell us that we have about 60,000 thoughts a day. Can you imagine how exhausted you'd feel trying to control all of those thoughts? Fortunately, there's an easier way and it's our feelings. Our feelings let us know what it is that we're thinking.
- So, your thoughts cause your feelings.
- The emotions are this incredible gift that we have to let us know what we are attracting.
- Think about it. You have good feelings and you have bad feelings and you know the difference between the two because one makes you feel good and the other makes you feel bad.

Feelings are largely based on imperfect reactions and the probability of misinterpreting things in our lives.

<sup>12</sup>For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, <sup>14</sup>while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

So the reward is not money back, it is the provoking of faithfulness and fellowship in the body of Christ. That is the true abundance and prosperity of living a Christ-like life.

(1) Money angels, Prayer Releases Miracle Money Angels, MrPastor77, youtube.com

• They're in agreement with me in this prayer for you to release miracle money angels. Now, Father God, we know from the Bible that you have certain angels created for certain purposes. Angel Michael was created to fight. Angel Gabriel was made as a messenger. We know that you have created angels to specifically handle all born again believer's money problems. We know that you've created some specifically and specifically for that purpose to deal with the finances of your people.

There simply is no Scripture about a "money angel." This is just wrong.

## Here is an appropriate Christian attitude towards earthly gain:

James 4:13-17: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>Come now, you who say, today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. <sup>14</sup>Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. <sup>15</sup>Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

It is great to have intentions to do things, but James is telling us unequivocally that rather than having a personal intention, we need to ask if the Lord wills such a thing. We are to look for God's guidance in all the things we do.

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## The universe manifests your feelings, "The Secret" movie (2006)

- Good days. Bad days. The rich get richer the poor gets poorer. It's all about what these people are predominantly and continually feeling.
- You can begin to right now to feel healthy. You can begin to feel prosperous.
  You can begin to feel the love that's surrounding you even if it's not there,
  and what will happen is the universe will correspond to the nature of your
  song. The universe will correspond to the nature of that inner feeling and
  manifest because that's the way you feel.

We can change the pathway we are on in life by doing things differently by the grace of God.

## How did the "universe" react to the feelings and emotions of Jesus? Did the universe give him what he wanted?

Mark 14:33-36: (NASB) <sup>33</sup>And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said to them, my soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch. <sup>35</sup>And he went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass him by. <sup>36</sup>And he was saying, Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what You will.

Jesus' emotions were telling him this was too much. Emotionally he was overwhelmed and was asking for the experience to be removed. He was about to be called a blasphemer, which would be heartbreaking since everything he did was for God. The "universe" did not respond to his deep emotion. Our lives are open for a destiny based on our actions and in doing things in accordance with the will of God and not what we want.

The abundance of God is in the development of our spiritual life. Our focus is to become more like Jesus.

What about the plainly expressed promise of God to shower blessings when tithes are given?

## The Prosperity Gospel focuses a lot on this:

Malachi 3:10: (NASB) 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.

The Prosperity Gospel says: *Tithes into the storehouse* (giving money to their church as the "storehouse") EQUALS unlimited blessing to you!



• I believe you're gonna open up the windows of heaven. I believe you're gonna rebuke the devourer. I believe you're gonna protect my stuff. I believe everything you said. Now even though it looks difficult, God said, "Let Me tell you something, we're in Las Vegas now, 'cause I want you to take a risk with me. It really ain't a risk. The only person who's sweating is you because you have let money possess you that you don't trust Me enough to give you more than you give Me."



How many thousands of people have they said this to and those people are left with less money?

If we want to use these Malachi Scriptures to try and extend necessary tithing to Christians (and we shouldn't) then it is important to know who is being reprimanded and for what. (We do not believe Christians are called upon to tithe. Christians should give as they can but it is not required.)

Malachi 1:6-10: (NIV) (Excerpts only) <sup>6</sup>A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due Me? If I am a master, where is the respect due Me? Says the LORD Almighty. It is you, O priests, who show contempt for My name... <sup>8</sup>When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong... <sup>10</sup>Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on My altar! I am not pleased with you, says the LORD Almighty, and I will accept no offering from your hands.

So, the priesthood was manipulating the system for their personal gain! This makes you wonder - who is in charge anyway? It reminds us of the various Christian leaders we have been listening to in the audio clips, manipulating the system for their personal gain.

Your wish is my command, "The Secret" movie (2006)

• Let's use this metaphor: if you think about Aladdin and his lamp, you've probably heard about that one. Aladdin picks up the lamp, he dusts it off and out pops the genie. The genie always says one thing, "Your wish is my command." If you trace the story back to its origins, we now think that there are three wishes, but if you trace the story back to its origins there's



absolutely no limit whatsoever to the wishes. Think about that one. Now, let's take this metaphor and blow it out and apply it to you and your life. Remember Aladdin is the one who always asks for what he wants and then you've got the universe at large which is this grand genie, and traditions have called it so many different things: your holy guardian angel, your higher self, I mean we could put any label on it - and you choose the one that works best for you - but every tradition has told us that there's something bigger than us. And the genie always says one thing, "Your wish is my command."

Who is in charge anyway?! We are, according to the Secret and according to the Prosperity Gospel! We have become "God" and God has become our genie! Is our wish really His command? (Yikes.)

## This happened way back in history to the detriment of all mankind!

<u>Isaiah 14:12-14</u>: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup>But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

This was speaking about Satan who wanted to replace the Almighty. He has usurped authority and not given unto God the reverence and honor God deserved.



By involving ourselves with this idea of money, wealth and earthly abundance, many of us who have called ourselves Christians have done the exact same thing - we have become the dictator making God the obedient miracle-giver.

This is in line with satanic thinking, meaning putting self above God. Be careful if you are involved in this kind of ministry! God is being mocked in that approach!



(1)) Work this week, Prayer Releases Miracle Money Angels, MrPastor77, youtube.com

• You want these angels to inspect your child's overall financial problem and then have them, Father God, to come back to you and report to you what they have seen. And Father God, after they have reported to you we want you to send them back down and these are the specific things that your child and I desires that the angels do and work on. Father God, see to it that these miracle money angels, anoint them, Father God, so that when they come down here back to your child in the earth, have them to touch your child's saved up money, have them touch whatever money that your child has on them and have this money to multiply by this week. Father God, just like Elisha and the widow (the Shunammite women) and the oil how she kept pouring and it just would not deplete, have your child's money, after the angels touch it and bless it, have their money flow through their hands.

Who is in charge here? MrPastor77, telling God what to do. Again, there is no such thing as a "money angel," nor any scriptural principle that implies there is. Now this is not one of those preachers in a \$1,000 suit. This is a humble man, humbly praying and he may completely believe what he is doing is right. But we maintain it is wrong for a Christian to be thinking in this way.

Here is God's anger towards the priesthood (the ones in charge) in Malachi:

Malachi 2:1-4: (NIV) ¹And now this admonition is for you, O priests. ²If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor My name, says the LORD Almighty, I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor Me. ³Because of you I will rebuke your descendants... ⁴And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that My covenant with Levi may continue, says the LORD Almighty.

So, their selfish arrogance has a ripple effect on the entire nation. They were the spiritual leaders given responsibility they did not live up to. They mocked God with their arrogance and as a result, things began to fall apart.

The Gospel of Prosperity is a mockery of God because it is arrogant and unscriptural.

Malachi 2:7-8: (NIV) <sup>7</sup>For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction--because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty. <sup>8</sup>But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi, says the LORD Almighty.



The lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge - remember when we started with the Scriptures in Jude...

<u>Jude 1:3-4</u>: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith **which was once for all handed down to the saints**. <sup>4</sup>For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Certain people crept in and changed the original message. That message was also mentioned in Malachi, basically: You ought to be preserving the message that was originally delivered! Don't change it! I am God, I know, you don't.

Interestingly, after the book of Malachi there was a 400-year silence from God before the Gospel begins. God was angry with the arrogance of the misuse of the Jewish Law. Should we not be angry with the misuse of Christian principles in the body of Christ?

What kind of consequence is there for those who treat God as their magic genie today?

## Who is doing the robbing in this next text?

<u>Malachi 3:8-10</u>: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, how have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup>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.

Prosperity Gospel teaches the *storehouse* is their church but the church is not a physical building. "The" church is the people, the flock, so we can become Christ-like. (Remember, too, that tithes in the Old Testament were never money.)

Where does the Bible say this? How does the Bible define the "church" in the New Testament?

Acts 20:28: (KJV) Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

So, if you want to take this Malachi text and "Christianize" it, it is the priesthood that is robbing God and the Christian storehouse is not some building, but is heaven! The basic principle of giving and receiving is good but that is as far as it goes.

)) Step one: Ask, "The Secret" movie (2006)

 There's a creative process, a three-step process, and it's been around for two thousand years. The first step is to ask. Make a command to the universe. Let the universe know what you want. The universe responds to your thoughts.

Notice what she *didn't* say. Who was on the scene 2,000 years ago? Jesus. What did Jesus say? Ask, seek and knock. They are taking the words of Jesus without giving him or God the credit and misapplying them to "the universe."



Deception takes something true and misapplies it to give a completely different end result.

The "universe" is not our genie, but it is a generous source of darkness:

Ephesians 6:10-12: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Rather than commanding the universe - let's be under the command of Jesus, our Captain!

))Step two: Believe, "The Secret" movie (2006)

- Step two is believe. Believe that it's already yours. Have what I love to call "unwavering faith." Believing in the unseen.
- Your wish is my command.
- And the universe will start to rearrange itself to make it happen for you.

If you are looking for an answer, this would be very enticing - prosperity is right around the corner and it is in your own hands! Sometimes people fall on hard times, and in our society especially, there are programs to help them get back on their feet and move forward. You ask God for help, strength, patience, and discernment, but you don't ask God for a \$1,000 check. We should ask God for things that require *our* response, *our* actions.

Let us place our unwavering faith in the righteousness of God!

#### This DEBUNKS the "Secret:"

James 4:1-4: (NASB) ¹What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ²You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

...Whom do you serve?

The Secret and Prosperity Gospel take our belief in Scripture and manipulates it to something based on what WE personally want, MY personal gain. Christianity has nothing to do with our personal gain.



- Step three and the final step in the process is to receive. Begin to feel wonderful about it. Feel the way you will feel once it arrives. Feel it now.
- And in this process, it's important to feel good, to be happy, because when
  you are feeling good you are putting yourself in the frequency of what it is
  that you are wanting.
- This is a "feeling universe," so if you just intellectually believe something but you have no corresponding feeling underneath that, you don't necessarily have enough power to manifest what you want in your life.



As we have come to expect, there is a kernel of truth in that. It is one thing to intellectually believe something and another to believe it in your heart. The Scriptures often talk about the difference between the heart and the mind. But the universe is not going to give you whatever your heart desires. As Christians, we should work through the steps of following after Jesus.

## Those are steps of humility:

James 4:6-10: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says: GOD is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. <sup>7</sup>Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. This is the antidote to all the misleadings we have been talking about on this program. You most likely will not be exalted right now. Was Jesus exalted on the earth? No, he was crucified for what he stood for. That is our lot in life.

We want to stress there are many of us who are going through hard times and difficulties, and we need an approach of humility. We need an accurate assessment of the situation and a willingness to fight the fight. We lean on the brotherhood and listen to their coaching of the scriptural principles they give us. We accept the charity we may need for a while in order to get to a point where we can get back on our feet and be a giver of that charity to others later.

We need scriptural principle in our everyday lives. God's grace will win in the end, not our emotions or our attempts to "get!" The Gospel is about self-sacrifice and honoring God!

So, why aren't you a wealthy Christian?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!



And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!

## Does God want our entrance into the kingdom to be hard and hampered or happy and hopeful?

<u>Mark 10:23-27</u>: (NASB) <sup>23</sup>And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, how hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>24</sup>The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. <sup>26</sup>They were even more astonished and said to him, then who can be saved? <sup>27</sup>Looking at them, Jesus said, with people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.



Some take this next text to mean that the seed (money) we sow to the church will yield an abundant harvest of what we have sown.

<u>Matthew 13:8</u>: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

# A view of the context reveals such thinking to be foreign to the actual text and meaning. The fruit bearing is our character and actions; the seed is God's word!

Matthew 13:18-23: (NASB) <sup>18</sup>Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. <sup>20</sup>The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

#### Next, Malachi in a fuller context:

Malachi 1:6-10: (NIV) <sup>6</sup>A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me? Says the LORD Almighty. It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. But you ask, how have we shown contempt for your name? <sup>7</sup>You place defiled food on my altar. But you ask, how have we defiled you? By saying that the Lord's Table is contemptible. <sup>8</sup>When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you? Says the LORD Almighty. <sup>9</sup>Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you? --Says the LORD Almighty. <sup>10</sup>Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you, says the LORD Almighty, and I will accept no offering from your hands.

<u>Malachi 2:1-4</u>: (NIV) ¹And now this admonition is for you, O priests. ²If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor My name says the LORD Almighty, I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor Me. ³Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it. ⁴And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that my covenant with Levi may continue, says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 2:7-8: (NIV) <sup>7</sup>For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction--because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty. <sup>8</sup>But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi, says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 3:2-3: (NIV) <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men, who will bring offerings in righteousness...



Malachi 3:8-12: (NASB) \*Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, how have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. \*You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! \*10Bring 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. \*11Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes, says the LORD of hosts. \*12All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land, says the LORD of hosts.

This text has NOTHING to do with Christians in regard to tithing. It is not even primarily meant to focus on the people of Israel at large, but to focus specifically on the Levites and particularly the Priesthood of Israel. The book of Malachi is written as a conversation between God and the Levites and it is meant to bring their accountability for the nation to the forefront.

Key points regarding Malachi: Addressed to the Priesthood of Israel to tell them of their sins:

- Showed contempt for God's name;
- Defiled God's altar with sick and crippled sacrifices;
- They are to be cursed as a result;
- They violated their covenant with Levi;
- They have been unfaithful;
- They need purification;
- They were robbing God; and
- They could change the pattern by bringing the WHOLE tithe into the storehouse.

The "church" could not possibly be the "storehouse" for there were NO buildings that Christianity owned for hundreds of years!

Also, here is the context of the "other" tithes that seem to be ignored by those who believe in Christian tithing:

The tithe - once every three years for:

- a. Levites in your hometown;
- b. Strangers in your hometown;
- c. Fatherless or orphans in your hometown; and
- d. Widows in your hometown.



## The same Levitical Law required all of these tithes!

Deuteronomy 14:22-29: (NIV) <sup>22</sup>Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. <sup>23</sup>Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place He will choose as a dwelling for His Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. <sup>24</sup>But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put His Name is so far away), <sup>25</sup>then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose. <sup>26</sup>Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice. <sup>27</sup>And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own. <sup>28</sup>At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, <sup>29</sup>so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.