

SERMON STUDY NOTES

31st March 2019
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

The Power and Prosperity Tests (2 weeks needed for this study)

1. We're all created in the image of an all-powerful God, so a desire for power and authority can be a good thing... God looks for humble servants through whom He can channel his mighty power. We're blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. **Discuss**
2. Sometimes people change when they get into a position of power - *power can go to our head*. Discuss changes in people that you have observed.
3. **Proverbs 3:9** *Honour the LORD with your possessions and with the firstfruits of all your increase*. What does it mean to give the Lord the first fruits? How does this verse apply to our modern context?
4. **Malachi 3:8-11** The "devourer," is an adversary that drains away our energy, time and resources. What do these verses say that we need to do to enable God to *'rebuke the devourer'*?
5. Do you believe that if you tithe, then you will automatically be blessed in your finances? Discuss.

6. What other things that you may be doing in your life could be blocking God's blessing on your finances?
7. **Matthew 6:33** *Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you?* What are the *other things* that God is promising to give you here?
8. **Proverbs 28:20** tells us: *The trustworthy person will get a rich reward, but a person who wants quick riches will get into trouble.* What are some of the ways people try to get rich quickly these days?
9. Many people struggle financially throughout their working lives. One way in which people have been able to get ahead is by doing up an old house. What are your views on the proposed “Capital Gains tax”?
10. Many people today don't understand the principle of *'short-term pain for long-term gain'*. How can restraint and hard work now bring opportunities in the future?
11. **Proverbs 24:33-34** *A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.* Can you share some stories of how laziness keeps you poor? What is the best way of ensuring that you don't get lazy?
12. Young people are often prepared to go into debt for instant gratification. Discuss why their attitudes to money are often quite different to their grandparents and parents?

13. Explain how pride can lead to financial difficulty?
14. **Proverbs 24:27** '*Do your planning and prepare your fields before building your house*'. How does this verse apply to our modern day context?
15. **Proverbs 22:7**: *The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender*. Has this principle changed in our modern context? Discuss
16. Many people under-earn and overspend and wonder why they never have enough. A budget helps us to define the limits for our spending. Do you budget? Discuss some of the benefits of a budget?
17. God says we are to be content as long as we have food and clothing (**1 Tim 6:6-10**). Is that enough in our modern cash society?
18. '*People who are heavily in debt are amongst the most discouraged people in the world*'. Debt & financial pressure can keep us in bondage and hold us back from fulfilling God's purposes in our lives. Discuss
19. Share about your individual financial situations and pray for each other.