



25 Errors of the Prosperity Gospel

1. **Ignores/dilutes the true Gospel:** The focus is on faith, healing and financial prosperity, thus diverting attention from the Great Commission and the mandate of Christ. *Matthew 28:18-20, Galatians 1:7-9, 2 Corinthians 11:1-4.*
2. **Faith in faith:** Faith itself is the goal, not faith in God. *Mark 11:22, John 6:29, Mark 9:23-25, 1 Corinthians 2:5, James 2:19, 1 Peter 1:21*
3. **Denies the sovereignty of God:** God virtually becomes the servant of a believing person, and must obey human commands. *Ephesians 1:11, Philippians 2:13, Exodus 4:11-12, Romans 9:19-21, Psalm 115:3, Proverbs 21:30, 16:4, 9, 33.*
4. **Engenders guilt, shame, and fear:** No one has perfect faith; therefore, any sickness or financial need means you have failed as a Christian. *Mark 9:23-25, Romans 8:1, John 3:17, 2 Timothy 1:7.*
5. **Focus on self, not others.** *Philippians 2:3, Romans 12:10, Galatians 5:13-14, Ephesians 5:21.*
6. **Encourages pride and arrogance:** If you are wealthy and healthy, it is because of your superior faith. *1 Timothy 6:17, Deuteronomy 8:13-14.*
7. **Discontent:** Instead of being satisfied with your needs being met and your status in life, you are taught to always want more. *1 Timothy 6:6-8, Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:11.*
8. **No theology of suffering:** There is no appropriate understanding of the reasons for suffering, and how God uses suffering. *Romans 8:17-18, 2 Corinthians 1:3-11, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Exodus 4:11-12.*
9. **Magical approach to faith.** The idea of the power of Positive Confession and how your faith creates your reality is not Christian. Rather, they are occultic in nature. *Deuteronomy 18:9-14, Galatians 5:20, Isaiah 8:19-20, Micah 5:12.*
10. **False reality:** People do not accept the reality of life in this fallen world. *Proverbs 14:12, 14:15, 12:11, 12:15, 26:24-26, 27:12, 28:4, 22:3, 14:15, 23.*
11. **Christianity is about giving, not getting.** Generosity should be a virtue, not a means to get more things. *Acts 20:35, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Matthew 10:8, Matthew 5:42, Luke 12:33, 1 Timothy 6:18, Proverbs 11:25, Proverbs 22:9.*
12. **Love for the world:** We are not to shun the values and beliefs of this world, nor indulge in them. *James 4:4, 1 John 2:15.*

13. **Peddling the Gospel.** Prosperity preachers use their “gospel” as a means to grow their own personal empires and acquire wealth. *2 Corinthians 2:17, 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 2:5, 2 Peter 2:3, 1 Timothy 6:5.*
14. **Exploits the poor.** It is often the most needy who give to support these ministries. *2 Peter 2:3, Proverbs 22:22, 14:31, 21:13.*
15. **No care provided for the poor.** Instead of alms and caring for the poor, the poor are encouraged to give to the Prosperity ministries. *Proverbs 21:13, 22:9, 28:27; 29:7, Ecclesiastes 5:17; Romans 12:13, Isaiah 58:7, Deuteronomy 15:7, Galatians 2:10.*
16. **Ignores the dangers of wealth.** The Bible has much to say about the corrupting power and seductive influence of riches. *1 Timothy 6:9-10, Luke 12:15-21, Micah 4:19, Deuteronomy 8:10-18, Psalm 15:27, Proverbs 28:20, James 5:1-6, Matthew 16:26.*
17. **Produces a false hope in riches.** Often, those who are wealthy put all their hope in their financial status, not in God. *Proverbs 11:4, 11:28, 23:4-5, 1 Timothy 6:17, Psalm 52:7.*
18. **Love of money:** We repeatedly commanded NOT to love money. *Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:10, 1 Timothy 3:3, Ecclesiastes 5:10, Matthew 6:24.*
19. **Fosters greed, covetousness and materialism.** *Exodus 20:17, Jeremiah 6:13, Micah 2:2, Colossians 3:5, Proverbs 15:27, Luke 12:15, Psalm 62:10, Luke 18:22-25, Matthew 6:19.*
20. **Focus on temporal blessings, not eternal.** *Colossians 3:2, Matthew 6:19-21, Matthew 19:21, 1 Timothy 6:19, 1 Peter 1:4.*
21. **Misunderstanding of the true wealth and success:** All Christians are blessed and rich, but in spiritual treasure, not material. *James 2:5, Revelation 2:9, 2 Corinthians 6:10, 1 Corinthians 1:4-5, 1 Corinthians 3:21-23, Ephesians 1:7, 18, Ephesians 2:7, Ephesians 3:8, Philippians 4:19, Colossians 2:2-3, Hebrews 11:6, Proverbs 13:7.*
23. **Diverts funds from ministry, missions, etc.** Money that goes to grow TV ministries, provide cars for megachurch pastors, or build extravagant houses for ministry leaders could be used to further the true Gospel. *1 Timothy 6:18-19, 1 Corinthians 4:2, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:12-13.*
24. **Deifies man.** E.W. Kenyon (“grandfather of Prosperity Gospel”) taught that Christians could become “supermen.” Many Prosperity preachers teach that we are little gods. *Genesis 3:5, Romans 1:25, Psalm 50:21, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Daniel 11:36, Ezekiel 28:2.*
25. **False view of Christ.** Some Prosperity preachers teach that Christ became a child of Satan and had to die spiritually in order to save us. They teach that Christ’s physical death on the cross was an insufficient sacrifice for full redemption. *1 Peter 1:9, Hebrews 9:14, Colossians 2:13-14, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 Peter 4:1, Hebrews 2:14-15, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.*