



Biblical Causes of Poverty

***Correcting the Foundations
of our life with
Scriptural Principles and
Godly Character***

By James Busie



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Introduction

Poverty is a spirit, a mind set, an attitude, a destructive mentality that works in our lives. It walks itself out in our choices, our actions, our habits, and our lifestyles.

There are three main avenues that I have found in my studies in which a spirit of Poverty is passed on to us.

1. Bloodline: our family, relatives
2. Heritage: how we were raised -
The instruction, habits, & teaching that is imparted to us by our families.
3. Culture: mentality given by our associations. Which include friends, school, society, country, city, etc.

Our choices, habits, actions, attitudes, and lifestyles, are stealing from us (like a thief) because we walk contrary to God's Principles which prosper our lives. I have found, that most of the time, we are totally unaware of *HOW* this "THIEF" is stealing from us. We are not aware of true Biblical principles that we are violating or breaking. God's principles work regardless of who we are and whether we know them or not!

This is a "Destructive Process" that works in our lives as a "Thief". In scripture this "Thief" is referred to as "The Armed Man", "The Devourer", or "The Terror".

When we walk in areas that are against God's principles, they create "Doors", or an "Entrance", or an "Opening" for this "Thief" to enter our lives and

steal from us, thus creating poverty or areas of lack in our life.

The following are scriptural principles and guidelines, that when violated will produce poverty or lack. When these principles are followed and walked out in our lives, they produce provision and prosperity - God's way!

These are Guidelines for a "Way" (God's way) of blessing and provision. These Guidelines can be applied for BOTH spiritual poverty AND natural poverty.

Remember: God's ways are not always the easiest
BUT, they are always the BEST!!



Cause #1 NOT GIVING THE TITHE

Giving the “Tithe” (1/10th) of our income or the “Firstfruits”, brings a blessing. To withhold the Tithe, or Firstfruits, removes this blessing from us. It affects our ability to prosper and increase. Note the scriptural verses below.

The Land (your possessions) and the Wine (your substance and strength) are affected - This is spiritual as well as natural.

Though some may argue that the “Tithe” is Old Testament or Old Covenant teaching, I would like to point out that The “Tithe” or “Firstfruits” was established with Adam and can be traced through the scriptures through Abraham and Jacob. This was *before* the “Law” or “Old Covenant” was established. Please read Matthew 23:23 and note Jesus’ teaching. Answer this question upon reading: “which did He say to leave undone??” (Answer: neither.!)

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the “First fruits” of all your increase. So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your vats shall overflow with new wine (NKJV)

Malachi 3:8-12 Will a man rob GOD? Yet you have robbed me! But you say, “In way have we robbed You?” In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even the whole

nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and PROVE 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 such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for you sakes so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field", says the Lord of hosts. And all the nations shall call you blessed!



Cause #2

The FAILURE TO SAVE

Overspending in the seasons and time of abundance, and not setting aside to prepare for lean seasons.

Example: In Genesis chapters 41 and 42. Joseph interpreted a dream (which came true) stating there would be seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. The seven years of plenty were to prepare for the seven years of famine. They were to set aside supplies and savings so that they would have plenty during the seven years of famine. This was not just an interpretation of a dream, but a spiritual principle. We have the tendency to spend more in times of prosperity or when we have plenty because we are making more. We don't often have the heart of wisdom to know we are to save and prepare for hard times and lean times - because they will certainly come!!

Proverbs 6:6-8 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise It has no commander, no overseer, or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. (NIV)



Cause #3

UNNECESSARY SLEEP OR OVERSLEEPING

In Psalms 127:2 it states:

The Lord giveth His beloved sleep

But, oversleeping and spending too much time sleeping eats up time that we can be productive with. Recent studies have proven that 6-8 hours of sleep per day is healthier and promotes longer life, compared to those who sleep in excess.

There are also those who can be in bondage to the mindset of needing a certain amount of sleep, or they just can't function.

Note the following scriptures: It states "A little sleep", "A little slumber", "A little folding of the hands".

Sounds similar to the statements we often make when we want to excuse ourselves for sleeping. It's "A little"!

Proverb 6:9-11 How long will you sleep, O 'sluggard? When will you arise out of your slumber? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall your poverty come as a robber, and your want as a armed man. (ASV)



Cause #4

PROCRASTINATION

Making a habit in life of constantly putting projects and jobs off until a later time. As the old saying goes “Putting off for tomorrow what can be done today”. We usually excuse ourselves with this, stating, “I didn’t have enough time to complete the project so I’m waiting for the right time to do it all at once!” There is a question that is always asked in business when a big project comes along. The question is: How do you eat an elephant?” The answer is: “One bite at a time!” It’s better to make the most of “bite-sized” opportunities instead of wasting time looking for large amounts of time, and never getting projects or work completed.

Proverbs 19:15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep slumber; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing. (KJV)

Proverbs 24:30-34 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all grown over with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I was there, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest (procrastination); So your poverty will come like a prowler, and your want like an armed man. (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:9

He who is slothful in his work, is brother to him who is a great destroyer (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 10:18

Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands (procrastination) the house leaks. (NKJV)



Cause #5

SLACKNESS IN OUR WORK

As a Christian in the Kingdom of God, our desire should always be to do the best and to be the best we can possibly be in our work place. We are to do so regardless of our position, place, or surroundings. To work with a "Slack Hand" is to be one who is not persistent, not consistent, nor caring to do the best we can. Our performance, at work, is up one day and down the next depending on how we feel or if we are angry or upset at the time.

We must always remember: We work in the Kingdom of God - for our Father God - and not for the one we are employed by. God is to us our Jehovah Jireh (our provider) and El Shadai (our all sufficient supply, our source for all that we need). The end result of this mentality of slackness and the actions that correspond with it, are always a loss of promotion. This affects your future finances as well as the present.

Proverbs 10:4

He who deals with a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes on rich. (NKJV)

Proverbs 13:4

The sluggard craves and receives nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied. (NIV)

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (ASV)

Colossians 3:22-24

Servants, always obey your earthly masters. Don't obey them only while you're being watched, as if you merely wanted to please people. Be sincere in your motives out of respect for your real master. Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly as though you were working for your real master and not merely for humans. You know that your real master will give you an inheritance as your reward. It is Christ, your real master, who you are serving. (GOD'S WORD)



Cause #6

DISHONESTY

Gaining wealth by dishonest practices.

This can come in the form of lying, cheating, being dishonest with employers or employees. This includes any activity we are involved in, or practice that we are performing, knowing it would cause us (or another) hurt or harm if found out. As we continue in this activity, because it gives us an extra edge to get ahead or to prosper (whether by gaining, or keeping a position, or adding to us financially, this is wealth gained by dishonesty and will not last.

Proverbs 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.
(NIV)



Cause #7

REBELLIOUSNESS

To be rebellious: refusing instruction and correction.
To ignore or despise the levels of authority that God has placed in our lives.

All authority is ordained by God. We are always to follow these levels of authority (except when it violates or goes against God's Word).

The Lord's authority comes through: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Elders, Father/Mother, Employers, Police, Government laws and leaders, etc.

Proverbs 1:24-27 (NKJV)

*Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,
Because you despised all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when your terror comes, When your terror comes like a storm,
And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.*

Proverbs 1:30-31 (NASU)

"They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof. "So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices.

Proverbs 13:18 (NKJV)

Poverty and shame will come to him who despises correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.



Cause #8

PASSIVITY

This is one who has no desire to improve their situation in life. It can be in the area of finances, physical health, or spiritually. This is one who believes “some are lucky and others are just unlucky” and they are one of the “Unlucky” ones.

When passivity controls their thinking, they have no desire or ambition to work or to improve their life or their surroundings. They also remain in poor conditions regardless of their financial status. Knowing we are in poverty and lack and doing nothing to change this condition is passivity. Note the following scripture: “the destruction of the poor IS their poverty”.

Proverbs 10:15

The rich man's wealth is his strong city; the destruction of the poor is their poverty (KJV)

Proverbs 10:15

The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor (NIV)

Proverbs 1:32

...and the complacency of fools will destroy them

Proverbs 21:25

The desire of the slothful kills him, for his hands refuse to labor (NKJV)



Cause #9

TRUSTING ONLY IN WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR HANDS

Afraid to give because we have a fear there will not be provision for tomorrow. This demonstrates a lack of faith and trust in our Father God. He is El-Shadai – our ALL sufficient source and supply of all we have need of, or will ever need. He is Jehovah Jireh – our provider.

When we only trust Him for what is in our hands (or bank accounts) this proves we do not know that God is the Lord of our tomorrow. He holds our future in His hands. Because we do not trust Him, we will not give. We think this is all I have and if I give it – then I will be hurting tomorrow! Or, “if I give what I have, how will I pay my bills?”

Proverbs. 11: 28 (ASV)

He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; But the righteous shall flourish as the green leaf.

See also Mark 10:17-30 –

The story of the rich young ruler.



Cause # 10
TOO MUCH TALKING

There is not much more that can be said concerning this principle. This also includes idle talk and gossip. The scripture does bring out the fact that this activity steals from us and can bring poverty.

There is an old saying “Loose lips-sink ships” this is also true with our lives.

Proverbs 13:3

He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly (reckless) will come to ruin. (NIV)

Proverbs 13:3

Whoever controls his mouth protects his own life. Whoever has a big mouth comes to ruin (GOD'S WORD)

Proverbs 14:23

In hard work there is always something gained, but idle talk leads only to poverty. (GOD'S WORD)

Proverbs 14:23

*In all labor there is profit,
But idle chatter leads only to poverty.
(NKJV)*



Cause #11

WITHHOLDING THAT WHICH WE ARE TO "SOW" OR GIVE

The character of our Father God is that of a giver.
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave..."

He is also at work in our hearts to change our character and attitude about giving, to have His heart and attitude about giving. As God works in us, He desires to change our thoughts to be "Givers" or those who "sow" of the substance He has given into our hands. As we walk with God, He will continually provide opportunities and reveal areas to sow and give into. Our Father God wants us to exercise our faith and trust in Him – and giving is a test and proof of our faith. This would include (but not limited to) giving or sowing in the following areas: To the poor, needy, the tithe, gifts, projects, needs of others, charitable organizations, etc.

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

*24 one man gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

*25 A generous man will prosper;
he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NLT)

*24 It is possible to give freely and become even more
wealthy, but those who are stingy will lose everything.*

*25 The generous prosper and are satisfied; those
who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.*



Cause #12

GREEDY & SELFISH AMBITION.

Trying to get ahead in life at the expense of seeing others get hurt. Or manipulating others to gain position.

Proverbs 1:17-10

*It does no good to spread a net within the sight of any bird But these people set an ambush for their own murder. They go into hiding only to lose their own lives This is what happens to everyone who is greedy of unjust gain. Greed takes away his life.
(GOD'S WORD)*

Proverbs 15:27

*He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house
(NKJV)*



Cause #13

WORKING TOO MUCH

Spending all of one's energy and time in the attempt to be rich and doing so at the risk of a marriage, family, health, etc.

Walking in the Kingdom of God is a continual lesson in walking a tightrope of balance. You can lean toward the side of being lazy, no ambition, not improving your place in life, and not working or you can be on the other side, which is working too many hours and spending too much time away from home and family, and not getting enough rest. This can be damaging to a family, a marriage, and to your health.

Proverbs 23:4

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. (NIV)

Proverbs 23:5

Riches can disappear in the blink of an eye; wealth sprouts wings and flies off into the wild blue yonder. (The Message)



Cause #14

NO GOALS - Lack of Planning

To sit in Idleness, to be Aimless, or passive.

To be in a place where we have no goals or plans for our life. To live one day after the next without vision and purpose. To attempt a project or to work without a plan, or plans.

Proverbs 20:13

The plans of the diligent lead to profit. (NIV)



Cause #15
LOVING SLEEP
(WHICH IS IN EXCESS)

In Cause #3 it is “Oversleeping or Unnecessary Sleep” but this cause of poverty deals with those who “love to sleep”. They would rather be sleeping than doing anything else. It is their “favorite” thing to do! If you sleep more than work - poverty is at work in your life, it is stealing from you. Get the sleep you need, but love to work, love to be active, and love to be productive & live!!

Proverbs 20:13

Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty, open your eyes, and you shall be satisfied with bread. (NKJV)



Cause #16

BEING HASTY OR TO ACT OR LIVE IN HASTE

To make choices in haste, or to be in a hurry.
To act without thought or without planning ahead.
To make choices without thinking them through.
To make choices for the moment - not for long term.

The old saying "Haste makes waste" applies here.
To be in a hurry while working or involved in activities. When you hurry to the point of not noticing or paying attention to your surroundings - which results in accidents, someone or yourself getting hurt, or damaging things around you.

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead to profit, as surely as haste leads to poverty. (NIV)



Cause #17

GETTING WEALTH OR ATTEMPTING TO GET WEALTH BY LYING OR BEING DECEITFUL

People lie in attempting to gain recognition or to feel more important. It starts when we are young - trying not to feel left out or making ourselves look important or “big” in someone else’s eyes. We often continue it in to our adult years.

We also learn to use it as a tool to promote ourselves and use lies and deceit to cut or hurt someone else.

Proverbs 20:17

Food gained dishonestly tastes sweet to a person but afterwards his mouth will be filled with gravel.

(WORD)

Proverbs 21:6

A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare. (NIV)

Proverbs 21:6

Those who gather wealth by lying are wasting time. They are looking for death

(THE WORD)

Please also read Job 31:5-8



Cause #18
TO BE A LOVER OF PLEASURE
(“PARTIES OR PARTYING”)

A good example is the story of the “Prodigal son” who took his inheritance and wasted it on parties with friends. I believe our common day action for this is the weekends or nights we spend at a club – not with our families or being productive, but filling our time with drinking, dancing, etc...Or constantly having to “hang out with the guys” and “drinking a cold one”. These activities are not productive - and we usually spend money which could have been used for more important things, or time spent with family, or other important goals.

Proverbs 21:17
Whoever loves pleasure will become poor.
(THE WORD)



Cause #19
TO BE A LOVER OF
WINE AND OIL

The word “Oil” which is used in the following scripture is the Hebrew word:” *Sha-men*” which means “Richness, fatness, or excess”. This has to do with overeating or drinking in excess – which is also unhealthy.

Wine, in excess, confuses your judgment (Please note Proverbs 21:1, it also dulls your conscience, and causes you to make poor decisions.

Proverbs 21:17(b)
He who loves Wine and Oil will not be rich
(NKJV)

Proverbs 21:17(b)
Whoever loves wine and expensive food in excess,
will not become rich,
(THE WORD)



Cause # 20

TO CO-SIGN FOR THE DEBT OF A FRIEND

Scripture uses the term “Surety for debts”.

This is a touchy one, for we live in a day of continual debts – and many of those debts are usually co-signed by another party. It is one thing to help a son or daughter in getting a step up in life – but, I cannot tell you of the many sad stories and hardships I have seen created by those who have signed a note (co-signed) for a friend or relative (each time thinking “we were just trying to help them”) . Just remember this one thought before co-signing with another “Can I add this amount I am signing for to my monthly bills?” “ Am I ready to pay this bill – and not be angry about it – or angry with the person who left me owing this bill?” If you can’t say YES to both of these questions - when it comes to co-signing, then do **NOT** co-sign! It is better to keep a friend and sleep peacefully at night, than to take a gamble and a risk!

*Proverbs 6:1-2 My son, if you guarantee a loan for a neighbor or pledge yourself for a stranger with a handshake, you are caught by the words of your own mouth, and trapped by your own promise.
(God’s Word)*



Cause #21

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SOMEONE WHO IS POOR OR UNEDUCATED

When a person oppresses the poor (in other words takes advantage of them) in order to increase their own personal wealth.

This is to take advantage of one who is poor because they either:

- 1) Do not have the education to deal wisely in business.
- 2) Do not have the wisdom or ability to deal wisely in business transactions.
- 3) Do not have the money to defend themselves. Thereby holding them back, keeping them down, taking advantage of them, or stealing from them by cruel and unjust authority, or shady activities.

Proverbs 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his own riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want (NKJV)



Cause #22

GIVING GIFTS TO THE RICH IN ORDER TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE FOR YOURSELF

The scripture in Proverbs 22:16 states “He who gives gifts to the rich...” this is done in order to gain an advantage for their own self. An example of this would be: giving to someone of wealth or of great position in order to gain recognition, advancement, attention, or to buy position or favor. This is often done in politics to gain favors of different sorts. This practice is often performed on a regular basis in most businesses. Giving is a God thing – but, giving in this manner is a selfish thing. It is purely for a reward for self, and is given with strings attached.

It does not come from a pure heart to give!

Proverbs 22:16 (b)

*... and he who gives gifts to the rich – both come to
poverty (NIV)*



Cause #23
ROBBING OR STEALING
FROM THE POOR

Robbing & stealing is wrong and you cannot prosper, no matter who you are stealing from. My father would often tell me, when I was growing up, that “what goes around comes around – and when it comes around it usually has gained momentum and is worse!” When you steal or take things from others that does not belong to you – you are just setting yourself up to be stolen from. When it comes around it will be something that has more value and will hurt you more! My father taught me this: If you’re tempted to steal something, stop and think about the one thing you own that you would not want stolen from you, because that very thing could be stolen from you (as a result or reaping what you sowed in stealing)!

Stealing from the poor usually takes place – because they are usually weak and unable to defend or help themselves – so they are taken advantage of (Stolen from)

Proverbs 22:22 – 23

*Do not rob the poor because they are poor or trample
on the rights of an oppressed person at the gate,
because the Lord will plead their case and will take
the lives of those who rob them*
(GOD’S WORD)



Cause #24

BEING A DRUNKARD

Alcohol, taken in excess or in an excessive manner – and used as a continual habit, dulls the senses and causes our judgment of life to be distorted. How many families, children, marriages, businesses, etc... have been ruined or hurt or destroyed because of the abuse of alcohol.

Alcohol itself is not the sin, neither is the use of it! It is the abuse and the bad habits that are developed, with the use of alcohol that is the sin. This abuse of alcohol brings hurt to individuals and families and also steals the potential from a person's life. Not to mention the lives that are lost and also the wounded lives and souls that come as a result of the abuse of alcohol. A drunkard is one who walks in this path of abuse and has these results left behind them in their path.

Proverbs 23:21

For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty (NKJV)



Cause #25

BEING A GLUTTON – OR OVEREATING AS A REGULAR HABIT OF LIFE

Being a glutton and overeating causes a great health risk. It brings a loss of years in life and many of life's activities are taken from an individual and their family. Not to mention all the things you are unable to enjoy because you have loss of breath, loss of energy, loss of strength, etc...

Proverbs 23:21

*For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to
poverty (NKLV)*



Cause #26
TO BE FULL OF PRIDE
OR HAUGHTY

The old saying “Pride goes before a fall” is not just an old saying, it comes as a principle from scripture. Pride comes in many forms: from bragging to “showing off” – to an attitude – or part of our character. “The Lord resisteth the proud – but gives grace to the humble” James 4:6

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:12

Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility

Proverbs 22:4

Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life (NIV)



Cause #27
TO ATTEMPT TO COVER
OR HIDE YOUR SINS

My mother's favorite verse to quote was "Be sure your sins will find you out!" I have found this verse to be true over and over again thru out my life, as I have grown older. As I have viewed life and choices made, in my life as well as by others, I have found this to be true! Any time we try and cover our sins we are usually lying to do so, or committing other transgressions in order to cover or hide them.

Proverbs 28:13
He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but he
who confesses and renounces them finds mercy
(NIV)



Cause #28

TO FOLLOW WORTHLESS PURSUITS (GOALS / DESIRES) TO FOLLOW OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORTHLESS GOALS AND DESIRES

This principle involves spending time in which we are following desires and activities that have no value or will not be beneficial to us for the long term. Also, when we are associating with, i.e. “Hanging out with”, people which are involved with activities which have no value, nor are beneficial for the long term.

Although these activities and goals may be satisfying for the moment, and they may just fill the time with fun for a season, these are not goals which are benefitting your life – nor are they helping to advance your future. These goals and pursuits are distractions and are taking you away from the things that are important and beneficial. It is sacrificing the future for the pleasure of the moment.

Proverbs 28:19

*He who works his land will have abundant food, but
the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of
poverty (NIV)*

Proverbs 28:19 (b

*) but he that follows after vain persons shall have
poverty (NKJV)*



Cause #29
TO HAVE AN "EVIL EYE"
"SELFISH", or
"SELF-CENTERED" EYE

An "Evil eye" comes from a selfish heart and mind. It comes from an attitude that is looking for others to fail and falter so that "I" can get ahead. It is one who has selfish motives when talking and dealing with others. It develops friendships and associates based on what "I" can get. It is a heart that is "Stingy" with possessions and money even to the point of convincing themselves that they are being conservative and "wise savers" of their monies, time, and possessions.

Proverbs 28:22

He that has an evil eye hasteth after riches, and knows not that want shall come upon him. (ASV)

Proverbs 28:22

*A stingy person is in a hurry to get rich, not realizing that poverty is about to overtake him
(GOD'S WORD)*



Cause #30
IGNORING THE NEEDS
OF THE POOR

This is an area that we need to learn to be sensitive in! The poor are not always those who just don't have money or do not have a job, etc.

The poor are sometimes those that need a helping hand because they are doing all they can do and yet they are still struggling.

We need to be especially sensitive and mindful of those around us in the Body of Christ. I believe the greatest strength we experience is to be part of a local body of Christ (a Church). Everyone experiences hard and difficult times! When these times come, the Body (the Church) needs to be there to surround that person with care, finances, or help, in whatever form is needed. We need to be sensitive to those outside of the Body of Christ, but especially those who are around us in the Church. This is what the community of Christ (the Church) is all about! If we shut our doors /hearts of compassion to these who have a need, this will only set us up for a time when we will need some help – only we will not receive it because we failed to sow into others in their time of need.

Proverbs 28:27

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses. (NIV)





Cause #31
WICKED DESIRES OR
TO ACT IN A WICKED MANNER

When a person purposely plans and schemes to do wrong, or treat someone wrong in a spiteful way, this is not just sin - it is wicked! This type of sin flows out of a "Dark Heart" that does not care what the Holy Spirit is saying, or what the Word of God states, nor are they listening to their conscience. They will do this deed regardless. It's not just thinking about it, or having the thought cross your mind. This is one who plans to do wrong, and acts upon it with no regard or thought to whom it may hurt or harm.

Proverbs 10:3

*The Lord will not allow the righteous person to starve,
but he intentionally ignores the desires of the wicked
(GOD'S WORD)*

Proverbs 13:25

*The righteous eat to their hearts content, but the
stomach of the wicked goes hungry. (NIV)*



Cause #32

TO ATTEMPT TO GAIN WEALTH BY CHARGING EXTREME INTEREST

Many fall prey to “Title Pawn” and “Quick Cash” outlets – but these make their money and operate on the principle of getting wealthy by charging extreme interest. They do so, by taking advantage of “High Risk” borrowers and those who have poor credit records. This may be harsh but they are actually “Legalized Loan Sharks”. The only difference is they won’t come and break your legs or kill a family member. But, they can ruin you and your family by burdening you and your family with high debts – for little return. Also, many credit card companies fall into this same category.

Proverbs 28:8

*He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest
amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor
(NIV)*



Cause #33

LACK OF JUDGMENT OR JUSTICE

The following verse gives the impression that there is a lot of potential that is the hands of one who is poor. But, because of a lack of judgment, which is the ability to make good decisions, there is waste or poverty. One can have a great amount of talent – and it can be wasted with poor decisions. You can have great health and it can be wasted by poor decisions in diet. You can be given the ability to make money - and it all be wasted by poor decisions / judgment. You can own quality property – and it can go to waste by poor decisions / judgment. The ability to make good decisions come by:

- 1) The ability to know we need God's GRACE (God's Ability) in every venture and activity in life. We are useless on our own to make good and wise choices – the sooner we learn this, the better life is!
- 2) Following and seeking out good counselors (in the multitude of counselors there is safety)
- 3) Having good Elders, and those who can have authority (given by us) to speak into our lives and give us good counsel and advice in making choices and decisions.

*Proverbs 13:23 Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, and for lack of Justice there is waste.
(NKLV)*



Cause #34

KEEPING COMPANY WITH, OR BEING A COMPANION WITH HARLOTS

It's easy to understand the significance of having a relationship with a harlot. We know this is adultery, fornication, sin. But I believe this goes much deeper. I believe it has to do with all relationships.

A harlot is one who takes an intimate act, and an intimate relationship, and distorts it and treats it as something cheap and meaningless.

God has given us relationships in life to be something of quality and intimate. These relationships are what will build the community of Christ (the Church). These relationships and friendships are to be intimate – and though public – are sacred and holy. The intimacy in these relationships is what builds us and bonds us together. They are built on trust and confidence. For someone to make these relationships cheap by disregarding our privacy, our secrets, and specially held conversations – i.e. taking our words and uncovering them/sharing them with everyone else – to me, makes that person a harlot. By uncovering our lives to others by way of gossip and idle talk, in my opinion, makes that person a harlot. They have taken something special and intimate and shared it with others. This is one subject I could dwell on for some time. I will leave it at this point. Hopefully, to open our eyes to realize how sacred our Father God considers

trust & confidence in relationships in the Body of Christ.

Proverbs 29:3

Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance (KJV)

Proverbs 5:7 – 10

Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn away from the door of her house. Lest you give your honor to others and your years to the cruel one. Lest aliens be filled with YOUR wealth, and YOUR labors go to the house of a foreigner. (NKJV)

Proverbs 6:26

For on account of a harlot, a man is reduced to a piece of bread; (ASV)



Cause #35
TO NOT HAVE A
"FEAR OF THE LORD"

To have the Fear of the Lord is NOT: being afraid of the Lord. It is a respect that knows the LORD is ALWAYS there, always aware, and always knows: what we are doing, what is happening, and what is going on.

A good example would be to use the relationship between my father and I. My father built such a respect and fear into my heart for him, that even though my father wasn't around – I was still concerned about doing wrong and concerned that he would find out what I was doing (not to mention what would happen if he did find out!!).

The LORD is ALWAYS watching and always knows everything at all times!! We are never out of His sight or away from His hearing!! When we do not embrace this truth and neglect this truth, it is to neglect the Fear of the Lord! To not have this in our mind and heart is to not have the Fear of the Lord in our mind and heart. When we disregard godly wisdom and counsel this also is to disregard the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 1:29

For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices (KJV)



Cause # 36

**To refuse or stay away from
the provisions of the Lord
in time of famine /lack /
need or want**

In hard times, famine, recessions, lack, or times of want or need, many stay away from the Lord and His provision, because they don't want to be viewed as one of those that "Run to the Lord when they have a need". This, of course, comes from a heart of one who does not know that our God is a Loving Father that is waiting and wanting to help and will answer our calls, and petitions. To stay away from Him, during these difficult times, only hurts us and causes us to miss out on His provisions for us. This is a heart of rebellion and self will that is inwardly saying "I can make it on my own". "I got myself into this situation; I'll get myself out this!" This person is not coming to the Lord, but relying upon their ability, not the grace of God!

Genesis 45:9 – 11

Hasten and go up to my father, and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph: " God has made me Lord of all Egypt, come down to me, do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me , you and your children, your flocks and your herds, and all that your have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty. (NKJV)



Cause # 37

NOT OBEYING THE VOICE OF GOD OR HIS COMMANDMENTS

This principle is not just speaking of the 10 Commandments (although not excluding them either). The Lord gives us His directions and commands through different sources. It may come through our Wives, Husbands, Mothers, Fathers, Elders, counselor, or through one of the Fivefold ministries i.e. Pastor, Teacher, Evangelist, Prophet, and Apostle. Disobedience always causes trouble and will always bring spiritual and natural poverty.

Deuteronomy 28:45

All these curses will come to you. They will pursue you and stay close to you until you are destroyed, because you didn't obey the Lord your God or follow His commands and laws given to you.

(God's Word)



Cause # 38

UNGRATEFUL – NOT THANKFUL TO THE LORD FOR HIS PROVISION

Everything we have and all that has been given to us has been provided by our Father God. One of His names is “Jehovah Jireh – God our Provider”.

When we have an attitude that is ungrateful or not thankful, this comes out of a heart that does not recognize how blessed we have been by the Lord. It is a heart that does not recognize His provision. To serve the Lord with joy and gladness is to walk in life continually thankful. This is a heart offering praise and worship. If you feel that you do not have any thing to be thankful for or give praise for – then begin taking one thing (or person) out of your life – you will soon realize you have plenty to be thankful for!

Deuteronomy 28:47 – 48

Because you did not serve the Lord your God joyfully and gladly in time of prosperity, therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He was destroyed you (NIV)



Cause # 39
TO WALK AWAY FROM OR IGNORE
GOD'S PRINCIPLES OR
DIRECTIONS

This is a form of what I call “Ignorance” – it is “Ignoring” God’s principles and directions. We may have heard them, learned them, and may even know them – but, we “Ignore” them. We do not feel God’s ways, principles, or directions are that important or have that great of a difference on our life. Perhaps we may actually feel as if it really doesn’t matter if we do them or not! It could be, we may know them – but, can’t (or won’t) discipline ourselves to walk them out. In any case - we will suffer the consequences of NOT walking in God’s ways.

Job 31:7-8

If my steps have left the proper path, or my heart has followed the desires of my eyes, or my hands are stained with sin, then let someone else eat what I have planted, and let my crops be uprooted.

(GOD’S WORD)

****READ ALSO: Proverbs 1:23 – 31**
Any Translation is very good!



Cause #40

TO WALK AND FOLLOW THE LUSTS OF THE EYES (LIVING WITH UNCONTROLLED PASSIONS AND DESIRES)

Everyone has desires and passions that are not right. Having the discipline and control to keep those passions and desires (lusts) in check - is wisdom, prudence, and understanding. Every decision we make in life and every choice we make has consequences, both for the good and the bad.

To run after a desire and passion without taking time to think, look ahead, and determine if that choice is going to bring problems or trouble is: FOOLISH (quoting a term used in Proverbs). To chase after a Lust and desire, knowing that the end result will bring us trouble or create problems, is even more Foolish!

1 John 2:16-17 (NIV)

16 For everything in the world-the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Job 31:7-8 (NKJV)

If my step has turned from the way, or my heart walked after my eyes, or if any spot adheres to my hands, then let me sow, and another eat; Yes, let my harvest be rooted out.



Cause #41
TO LUST AFTER OTHER WOMEN

I don't think this principle needs a lot of explaining!
I believe it speaks well enough on its own!

Job 31:9-12

If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbors door, then let my wife grind for another and let others bow down over her. For that would be wickedness; yes, it would be iniquity worthy of judgment. For that would be a fire that consumes to destruction, and root out all of my increase. (NKJV)

Job 31:9-12

9 "If my heart has been seduced by a woman, or if I have lusted for my neighbor's wife, 10 then may my wife belong to another man; may other men sleep with her. 11 For lust is a shameful sin, a crime that should be punished. 12 It is a devastating fire that destroys to hell. It would wipe out everything I own. (NLT)



Cause #42

BREAKING A COMMITMENT, PROMISE, OR NOT PAYING A VOW

Promises, commitments, and vows are very important. The number one reason would be: they have been expressed and made by the words of your mouth. The words of your mouth are powerful tools and weapons. Jesus said "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks". The words we say, the promises, commitments, vows we make - come from the character of your heart. They define who you really are!! If we make a vow, commitment, or promise and then do not keep them, it makes a statement about our character. We can't be trusted, we are not dependable, or we are a person that is not reliable.

It is better NOT to make a promise or vow than to make one and not fulfill or keep it!!

Our Father God takes the words that come out of our mouth very seriously!! Especially promises, commitments, and vows!

Ecclesiastes 5:4-6

When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed. It is better not to vow than to vow and not pay. Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? (GOD'S WORD)



Cause #43

WASTING YOUR INCOME WITH UNWISE AND WASTEFUL LIVING

The following scriptures used for this principle come from the story of the “Prodigal son”.

The story of the prodigal son illustrates what happens when we take an income given us, an inheritance, a gift, a bonus, or any other monies or opportunities and waste them with the thought that we will always have it and we will always have plenty.

This principle is usually broken by those who receive extra money and then go out and spend this money in an unwise fashion. Making a purchase they don't need or not taking care of more important needs and bills.

Luke 15:13-14

And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal (wasteful) living. But, when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in the land, and he began to be in want. (NKJV)



Cause #44
TO BE UNFAITHFUL WITH AND
NEGLECTING OUR TALENTS,
GIFTS, AND ABILITIES GIVEN
BY THE LORD

Our Father God gives us talents, gifts, and abilities as a gift and calling upon our lives and to be a strength and blessing to others. Through these talents we are given power to prosper in life. Not just financially but in every area of life.

When God gives us these abilities, gifts, and talents, He gives us the grace (His ability) to use them. They are a big part of our destiny and purpose in life. To abuse them, misuse them, or not to use them at all, (For whatever reason) will take us away from our true purpose and destiny. The very reason we were created and reason for living in this world. This brings poverty into our lives!

Matthew 25:25-26, 29

“And I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours”. But his lord answered and said to him, “You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed...For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

(NKJV)



Cause #45
TO BE UNFORGIVING
AND TO HOLD GRUDGES IN OUR
HEART

Un-forgiveness is a real thief in our life! It keeps us in bondage and in a prison - away from the full blessing of the Father's hand. The word "Forgive" means to "release", or to "let go". When we do not forgive we are holding on and holding back the hand of the Lord. In our hearts we are keeping the Father at a distance, by holding on to hatred, anger, and grudges against another, When we hold on to un-forgiveness and grudges in our hearts, we limit the hand of our Father God - because He gave His life to "Forgive". This is the character of the Lord! Our Father God desires this same characteristic in us!

Matthew 18:32-35

Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses!" (NKJV)

