

What is Prosperity?

Prosperity does not have to do with being flashy, better than, comfortable or rich. It does have to do with being fully equipped to fulfill God's plan for your particular life.

Prosperity—THE MONEY TRAPS THAT SUCK CHRISTIANS INTO FINANCIAL BONDAGE

Intro or examples from our experiences in Congo—
Whirlpool that sucked Braun's son into Congo River,
Hippos that killed Dr at Vanga on Kwilu River,
Both beautiful rivers that bring nourishment & livelihood to millions & enjoyment to man.

TRAP # 1—PLEASURES & LUXURIES (Living beyond your means)

TRAP #2—INTEREST & CREDIT PURCHASING

TRAP #3—POOR CHOICES, SINFUL HABITS, DESTRUCTIVE LIFESTYLES

Just coming to Christ & growing in Him often closes down Trap #3. This is why, even without seeking prosperity at all, many Christians are so much better off than they were before in material ways.

Yet, sometimes when one trap closes down, Satan strengthens the remaining traps. The emphasis in the church on prosperity & the assumption that we need to live the "King's Kid" lifestyle tends to strengthen traps #1 & 2, so that even without poor choices, sinful habits or destructive lifestyles, many Christians still end up in financial bondage.

In order to maintain financial freedom, we need to close all three traps and maintain a Biblical mentality and lifestyle in regard to work.

Jesus talked about the deceitfulness of riches (Matt. 13:22 ff) in the Parable of the Sower. The deceitfulness of riches chokes the good seed, the Word of God, so that it cannot be fruitful in the life.

(Does that phrase ring a bell? It sounds a lot like Hebrews 3:13, "lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Riches CAN BE deceitful; sin IS deceitful, and Satan Himself is the master deceiver. So who do you think is behind the trend of Christians being in financial bondage?)

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