

Putting an End to the Prosperity Message

by Miki Hardy

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Description

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Transcript

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 "https://img.youtube.com/vi/Kmg2VB2cwX0/0.jpg" hasTranscript: true oneLinerSummary: "Miki Hardy critiques the prosperity message, emphasizing its dangers and calling for a return to true Christian values centered on spiritual growth and repentance." sermonType: "topical" topics: - name: "False Doctrine" slug: "false-doctrine" - name: "Spiritual Maturity" slug: "spiritual-maturity" bibleRefs: - text: "Jeremiah 15:19" bookId: "JER" chapter: "15" verse: "19" - text: "Matthew 6:24" bookId: "MAT" chapter: "6" verse: "24" - text: "Matthew 7:15" bookId: "MAT" chapter: "7" verse: "15" - text: "Acts 20:28-30" bookId: "ACT" chapter: "20" verse: "28" - text: "2 Corinthians 11:13-15" bookId: "2CO" chapter: "11" verse: "13" - text: "Galatians 1:10" bookId: "GAL" chapter: "1" verse: "10" - text: "1 Timothy 6:5" bookId: "1TI" chapter: "6" verse: "5" - text: "1 Timothy 6:10" bookId: "1TI" chapter: "6" verse: "10" - text: "2 Peter 2:3" bookId: "2PE" chapter: "2" verse: "3" - text: "1 John 4:1" bookId: "1JN" chapter: "4" verse: "1" outline: - heading: "I" points: - "Introduction to the dangers of false teachings" - "The impact of prosperity doctrine on the church" - "The need for discernment among Christians" - heading: "II" points: - "Historical context of the prosperity message" - "Characteristics of the prosperity doctrine" - "Consequences of embracing prosperity teachings" - heading: "III" points: - "The spiritual implications of materialism" - "The call for true revival and repentance" -

"Encouragement to seek a deeper relationship with God" - heading: "IV" points: - "The role of church leaders in perpetuating false doctrines" - "The emotional manipulation of congregants" - "The importance of returning to biblical truths" faq: - q: "What is the prosperity message?" a: "The prosperity message teaches that it is God's will for Christians to become wealthy and successful, often linking financial gain to faith." - q: "How has the prosperity doctrine affected the church?" a: "It has led many Christians to prioritize material wealth over spiritual growth, diluting the true message of the Gospel." - q: "What should Christians do in response to false teachings?" a: "Christians should seek discernment, return to biblical truths, and focus on spiritual maturity rather than material gain." - q: "Why is the prosperity message considered dangerous?" a: "It exploits the vulnerable, encourages greed, and distracts believers from the true purpose of their faith." - q: "What is the alternative to the prosperity message?" a: "The alternative is a focus on repentance, humility, and a genuine relationship with God that prioritizes spiritual over material wealth." quotes: - "The message of prosperity has spoiled the church in Africa." - "Revival comes through repentance, not through money." - "This message has diluted the offense that brings the cross of Jesus Christ." applicationPoints: - "Christians should critically evaluate the teachings they receive and seek biblical truth." - "Engage in prayer and study to deepen your relationship with God beyond material concerns." - "Support church leaders who prioritize spiritual growth over financial gain." keywords: - "prosperity doctrine" - "false teachings" - "spiritual maturity" - "materialism" - "discernment" - "revival" - "repentance" - "church leaders" ---

May the Lord help us. Let's read again chapter 15, verse 19 from Jeremiah. And it says, If therefore, thus says the Lord, if you return, then I will bring you back.

You shall stand before me. If you take out the precious from the vial, you shall be as my mouth. Let me say it again.

Please understand that I've got no criticism or judgment in my heart as I'm sharing that message with you. But I really believe that God wants to set his people free. Many Christians are in prison.

They suffer. They discourage. But Jesus is the good shepherd.

He wants to bring his people back towards the truth of the gospel. He wants his people to be able to feel his heart, his love. This is why the aim and my motivation is not with a heart that's bitter or angry, but I desire to see God's people well.

The word of God teaches us that in the last days, there shall be more and more false teachings and false ministries. So what we are living today in the church of Jesus Christ must happen because that has been prophesied much before that in the last days, there shall be a multiplication of false teachings, of false doctrines, of false servants of God. Unfortunately, it seems that the church of Jesus Christ is fast asleep.

There's no reaction towards all that's happening in the church, all the mistakes that are happening, all that is taught that is not of the Lord. This is why I want to encourage you to see the plan of God for the church, for his people, for whom he shed his blood and for whom he died, for a people that belong to him, that he cherishes, that he loves. With that motivation that I'm sharing with you tonight, let us first start by asking ourselves some questions.

The first question is, how did all these false doctrines and these perverse teachings entail the church? I believe, personally, that the church drifted in carnal desires, allowed itself to drift in carnal desires, and somewhere it has to do with the influence of the world. You know, there's much influence, there's much of

the system of the world in the church. The world lives in a certain way, and the devil is the prince of this world, and his aim is to bring in the church his ways and his systems.

That's what he wants to do. And if he can do that, he will have succeeded, but he will never get to the end of it, because the one who has the last word is the Lord. The Lord says, I'm building my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

This is why I've got faith in my heart that God will restore His church, that many Christians will find life again, the life of the Spirit, a real and true and deep Christianity, a true relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and not just live in a superficial way, and just accept some good things from Christianity. It's sad that the whole church has followed suit, has got into that flow. And today what is surprising is how come Christians they accept everything, they swallow everything without even checking that it's from the Lord.

That is another question that we could ask ourselves. I believe that the Christians have got a blind confidence in their leaders, blind trust. They've got so much trust that even though they could feel in their hearts that some things are not clear, they still accept it.

There is a kind of link that's not really pure and proper. And Christians have come to a place where they cannot take decisions. They feel things in their hearts, but they don't get to be able to be detached from these thoughts.

They stay there, they accept things. To me it's a complete mystery. I came to the conclusion that somehow they are controlled.

Or they are emotionally linked with the servants of God. They see if you think. There are things that they hear that they don't agree with, but there is no reaction.

To me it's a mystery. But that's the way it is. The third question that I'm asking myself is why do Christians run to churches in great numbers They go to hear and listen things that are not from the Spirit.

They run to those churches. They like their ears to be tickled. Today in churches it happens often that what is being preached which is in fact what Christians want to hear they preach what the Christians want to hear so as to keep them and not to lose them.

It becomes like a club. And the minute they want to share something which is a bit out of line and that's shaking a bit they go backwards. They withdraw.

For how long are we going How long will the church carry on in that type of game? Where is the fear of God in the lives of the servants of God as they feel totally free to preach anything to rob people? Where is the fear of God? How can we manipulate God's people? Ok, let's believe that some of them believe sincerely in what they're preaching but it's not the case of all of them. I think that some or many of them seek for their interest. They persevere in what they're preaching and they're seeking for their own gain.

You know today in the Church of Jesus Christ there are various interpretations of God's Word. You know the Word of God the Scriptures only says what God intended to say and nothing more. Only what God intended to say and nothing more.

And yet so many go as far as interpreting the Word of God to get the Bible to say what it doesn't say to suit them only what they want to hear the way they want to understand these things to support what they are

saying that is a dangerous thing. The Word of God has only one interpretation not two. I do not pretend knowing it all not at all but there are still some obvious things in the Church that we cannot miss that cannot not have a reaction in our hearts this is why I want to speak to you tonight of a message a deceitful message the deceit of the doctrine of prosperity in details.

What happened when that message started to enter the Church? Did anyone oppose himself to that? Very few. We heard the voice of very few people and very few Christians everybody else only followed and no one discerned the trap of the enemy Pastors welcomed that message with their arms wide open without discerning the trap of the enemy It was a system of the world that entered the Church I just said earlier on the world runs a race that's completely different to the race we are running but the influence of the world causes us the Church to run a race parallel to them It's very sad to see that the Church has lost so much ground the most widespread the most destructive the most dangerous that exists for the Church of Jesus Christ It's anchored in the Church It has destroyed millions of Christians It has deceived millions of Christians It is the most widespread message and it has caused great damage without 95% or more of the Church being aware of it It has been a ruse of the enemy It's been a ruse the enemy has been very cunning It was subtle It's a message that I never appreciated and I never believed in it I was very much challenged in my life concerning that message It's true that somehow I preached it a bit but in my heart there was like a break I remember about 25 years ago when I preached that message in the Church and after the Church I was with my wife and she told me but what did you talk about today?

What is this message that you are sharing? and I said it's my heart and I believe it it's my conviction That message was a bit against the flow of everything that is being preached in the Church about faith and prosperity and we had a big I wouldn't say fight but something like that and from the Church to the beach I never thought that the first person to oppose me would be my wife but that was the case but I stood firm well done What is this message of prosperity? What does it mean?

What is this doctrine of prosperity? I call it what I've heard what I've seen what I understand It's the will of God for every single Christian to become rich In some words this is about the definition of that message of prosperity That's a very attractive message you agree with me and what an opportunity for pastors to get richer too because you don't preach the message of prosperity unless you ask for money That is a condition It's very attractive for the Christians like in Africa because it's a new vision I'm going to church and there I'm going to learn all the methods and the principle how to get rich and get my money multiplied Pastors are happy because we keep asking money to the Christians Isn't that the aim behind it all?

Very attractive I'm going to say two things tonight The first one which has happened for the first time in the history of the church of Jesus Christ in the years 80 It's then that the first message of prosperity touched the church In the whole history of the church that message has never ever been there The second thing I would like you to note Never has there been any revival in the history of the church accompanied with money linked with money And I declare to you tonight that there will never be a revival in the church as long as the church is linked to money Go read the story of the church and you'll see Revival comes through repentance The revival comes through breaking of hearts with humility of heart Nothing to do with dollars euros rupees or whatever currency You're thinking revival?

Remove that message from your church You want revival? Remove that message of prosperity from your church It's destroying you Busy destroying God's people It's a message that exploits poor Christians And instead they're becoming more and poorer and poorer everyday I often testify the same thing The first years I was in Africa and I met African pastors They were about most of them or 90% were poor Africans

do you agree with that saying? Most of them were poor They were not preaching all kinds of false doctrines Yet there were quite a few things that needed to be straightened But They were ready to serve the Lord the way they were in their state Poor Poor Half poor Eating corn They were eating maize, corn everyday That didn't remove their joy They were happy to serve the Lord in their state Nothing would stop them Today The message of prosperity has spoilt the church in Africa It's no longer the same spirit that we can feel from the pastors in Africa They are engaged in a race to get richer The worst case is that they stay still poor I remember that day when I was in the church of Stephen There was a pastor that had stopped The pastor visited the church and kindly Brother Stephen told him go and say hello to the church And the brother came And he started preaching How God wants us to prosper to be rich to have lots of money At the end of the meeting he entered the office of Stephen And just before leaving he said Brother Stephen Can you give me 200 shillings so I can catch the bus and get back home The preacher of prosperity That's a heresy It's a testimony of heresy The message of prosperity turns away the hearts of Christians from spiritual things Triggers in them the desires of the flesh What God wants to kill What God wants to put to death is caused to come to live again by the message of prosperity What God wants to destroy Paul said Those who are in Christ crucify their flesh with their desires and their passions God wants to kill We want to feed the desires of the flesh And we wonder why the Church is reversing that there is no life of the spirit This message produces arrogant Christians Proud This is what this message produces It's a foreign fire This message has killed the spirit the life of the Church Christians who used to turn their hearts to seek help from the Lord for spiritual things now their hearts are turned to material things The emphasis is put on material things It has removed from Christians the desire to grow to maturity It has removed the desire for God to do a deep work in their hearts It has smothered all the spiritual aspects in their hearts And all the emphasis is to possess to claim to have to own for oneself That doctrine has diluted the offense that brings the cross of Jesus Christ I repeat This message has diluted the offense that causes the cross of Jesus Christ This message has diluted the very nature of the Gospel that brings a conviction in the heart of man What conviction is there in the Church today?

I'm asking myself is there even the conviction to repent? A conviction to strengthen our lives? A conviction in one's heart to forgive? To love those who don't love us? That message is getting rid of all the life of the spirit It's removing It kills And the Church is fast asleep Paul, in the book of Galatians in chapter 4 in chapter 5 chapter 5 And I, brethren if I still preach circumcision verse 11 why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased Paul was not persecuted because of circumcision He was persecuted because he preached the cross of Jesus Christ This is why the message of prosperity has killed the message of the cross of Jesus It's from the devil to smother the power of the cross of Jesus Not only for us to be saved but to bring us to maturity There's no more desire in the body of Christ today to grow spiritually There's no message that shows that anyway There's no message in the Church today that shows that the pastors and the leaders are seeking for God's people to come to maturity And yet Paul says I'm working I preach so as to bring every man perfect in Christ We only have messages of great promises So many things happening in the Church Today the sale of oil in the Church is a very prosperous market We sell handkerchiefs to the Church Pastors pray on the handkerchief He has anointed the handkerchief He has anointed the oil And then he sells it He sells it And he says to the Christian If you've got problems in your house If your husband has a problem just put that handkerchief under his pillow To me it looks a lot like witchcraft It looks like witchcraft to me When you go to the witch doctor he gives you things to do in your house If you've got a problem with your kids don't tell them anything just put a drop of oil on their clothes Or drop a drop on them while they're sleeping and they'll be anointed They don't know what to invent anymore to get money We don't know what they are going to do to get money They are cheating on God's people Because they are selling that oil It costs them two rupees

to put it in a little flask but they sell it 50 or 100 rupees 2500% of profit on the head of the poor brother And ask him to go and do witchcraft on his family I don't see anything like this in the Bible All that I can see is that when somebody is sick he calls for the elders and the elders will pray for him and the fervent prayer of the righteous will heal him That's what I see in the Word But I don't see that other practice in the Bible What are we going to invent next?

I don't know I just cannot understand those things These are dishonest means to gain money Some do telephone phone Straight on the phone they are told In the next 30 seconds if you give 1000 dollars you will get 5000 You robber thief You are a thief You are a harling You don't have the people of God at heart You are ready to take blood out of him to get money to his own will for his own gain And the phone goes In the 30 seconds There are 25 phones The 25 of them are just busy They are just busy Why? 1000 dollars Put my name Mickey Hardy 1000 dollars You forget about me You all get me on that one Unfortunately for the last past 10 years and more it's been the method that many servants of God are using And churches are opening their doors to that same system We can't invent anything today And we get there and say the Lord told me I must do this The Lord Rather the voice of the flesh This is why here Each give according to their own hearts There is no demand There is no obligation There is no law Each of them come They give what they want to give You want to give one rupee according to your heart May the Lord bless you That is a Christian walk I don't want anybody to put their hand in my pocket I want to take out of my pocket what my heart wants and desires And when I come I do it with all my heart And God will honor that offering that I've brought I'd rather do this I'd rather come and give so much percent But I really don't want to give but I have to Because if I don't give he's going to come and knock at my door tomorrow morning the pastor He's not interested in my life but he's interested in my envelope He never visits me to look after me He doesn't know how I'm doing He doesn't even know what's happening between me and my wife Where were you yesterday?

You were there but I didn't see your name and your envelope What is this? That is just robbing people I can't do what I want The Lord has set me free I'm a free Christian Let nobody manipulate me I do what my heart desires And as I want to serve him he will speak to me I want to serve him If he says to me to do this I hope that I will still obey all the time But he doesn't force me the Lord He says Are you okay for 1,000 rupees? Of course Lord With all my heart this is Christian life Do you agree?

Oh Lord 2 Peter 2.18 We'll get there We're going to destroy kill bury the deceitfulness of the message of prosperity We're going to have a funeral We're going to have a funeral Do you agree with me? We're going to have a funeral It's good, it's good 2 Peter 2.18 With discourses full of vanity They lust by the lust of the flesh Note this They lust by the lust of the flesh by the deregulations which barely escape the men who live in the garments The pastors Excuse me Forgive me The pastors play with the carnal nature of the Christian I will explain to you When I tell you if I give 50 rupees and I will get 5,000 Oh How beautiful life is I give 50 I will get 5,000 You play with my carnal nature Because my carnal nature loves that will not say no to that offer And therefore here are my 50 rupees Next week if you give 100 you get 10,000 I don't have another handkerchief here you know I like this I see a plan I see a vision I see something coming in front of me Mom, Dad We'll get a car soon Brand new car We need to give 5 more times like this Savings Our savings are gone Let's remove everything from our savings Let's take out everything from the savings We want that car I did this I've been just like a chicken that feathers have been removed I've been plucked And I'm still on my bicycle You see how false that is But this guy he's put everything in his pocket He has plucked me He's plucked me Oh Lord They cause us to sell our jewels Everything we have Land Just invest So So You must keep sowing sowing, sowing Up to where we're going like this What has it got to do

with the Gospel of Jesus Christ Week after week After week After week I'm sick and tired of that To hear that You even get promises to get jobs. You don't have a job.

You go into this church. Go. There's a door there.

They have made a door. The door of faith. The door of faith.

They have manufactured a door. And if you go through that door of faith, it's a real door. You've got to go through it.

It's not digital. It's real. There's a real door.

The door of faith. And you've got to go through. But before you go through, you must give some money.

And then you can go through the door. You can't go through that door without giving. You've got no faith.

But when you go through that door, there's power of faith. You don't have a job. You're going to get your job.

You want to be promoted? Go through the door. You've got a problem in your home? Go through the door. You've got a problem of relationship between you and your kids? Go through the door.

Go through the door. Just put your money there and go through. That is pure robbery.

That is true violence. We must not go in those churches. Stop being fooled.

It's false. It's a lie. Oh Lord.

Now, if he gives the pastor and the prophet, wow. That's the deal. Now, then everything's going to be well.

Everything goes well. You honor the prophet? I want to show you what kind of spirit that this is being done. It's not the spirit of Christ.

It's not the spirit of the gospel that we read. That is another spirit. It's another spirit.

It can go very far. Oh, you bring something to the prophet and you say everything will be fine. Everything will go well.

No more sin. What do you want? Come, come, come. You guys are too gullible and too innocent.

Innocent. Naive. Innocent.

In the sense that you don't know what's happening outside these doors. This is in that sense that I'm saying you are innocent. I'm going to give you an example.

My son-in-law has never heard any other gospel than the one he heard in that church. And at home, I live in my house. My son-in-law and my daughter live in a house 50 meters from my house.

We are connected to look at sports and we have to look at the same channel at the same time. Therefore, if I'm looking at Christian TV, he has to look the same. And one day I'm home and he phones me.

He says, have you seen? As it was. He says, you are on the Christian channel of the STV? I said, but I was not looking. He says, is that Christian? He says, you are looking at the Christian channel of the STV, it's not a film you're watching.

He says, look, look, look. He says, it's not possible. I can see robbers and thieves.

I knew already this guy, but he didn't know. First time he sees that. He says, it's not Christian, that thing.

He was totally cuckoo. He says, are they brothers? I said, yes. But they are brothers.

Do you agree with me that today in the churches money is the subject that is most spoken? I forgot to say that some pastors in churches in one meeting, they do 2, 3, 4 offerings. A normal offering, a second abnormal, a third one extra abnormal. But there's always a good reason to take up an offering.

Let me tell you, believe me, you are really blessed. 2, 3, 4 offerings in one meeting. It's to rob and to strip God's people on the account of prosperity.

Glory to the Lord. It's false. It's false.

2, 3, 4 offerings per day. How many of you agree that the spirit of the world has come into the church? That is what has come into the church, the spirit of the world. What reassures me, the first apostles in the early church, they ran another race.

They ran another race. They were not in the spirit that the church finds itself today. There's another spirit that animates the church today which is not the spirit of the gospel.

All kinds of false promises. Even some give prophecies to tell you how much you must give. And they say, you know, the Lord is telling me that you must give so much.

And he comes. He comes. He says, you, the Lord says 2,500.

And the guy comes. Why go to work? Let's open a church and let's just make money. It's so much simpler.

You can do nothing in life. You don't have a trade, a career. Open a church.

According to the rules of the old covenant, you will get 10% of everybody who comes to your church. If you've got 10 people in your church, you've got one salary. Got a vision? Let's open churches, guys.

It's simple. Vision. You know, some play with dates and figures.

1st January 2011. 11 January or 11 November. It comes on a Sunday.

Everybody is there. How are we going to use the figures? Let's see. Finally, to come and say that the Lord told me that on the 11th of November 2011, there's a promise of God.

We are going to spend all time on these stupid things. That's why I say to Christians, leave the churches where this kind of manipulation exists. You are harassed by preachers who ask you for money.

Take the door. There are Christians who visit us, who come to our house and talk to us about their experience. It's like vomiting.

It's so terrible to hear what we hear. We've been really robbed. We'll carry on tomorrow.

But tomorrow we'll start. Christians must start to see. We are going to use the Word of God to bring them to see.

The veil must be removed. The veil must be removed. We are going to use the Word of God to destroy the whole theory of the doctrine of prosperity.

And bring back the hearts of the Christians to Jesus. Towards the Lord. Not to the material things.

But towards Jesus. The Christian must have a new desire to grow. A new hope.

A new faith in Jesus. He doesn't need all these gimmicks, all these manipulations. To serve Jesus.

In fact it's not for his good. We must come back tomorrow. I can't keep going on.

But if you come back tomorrow, I promise you, you'll live here free. Through the last time you preach prosperity, that you submit yourself to that kind of manipulation. And that you stop believing in that doctrine.

I give you the assurance through the Word of God. So be connected tomorrow as well. We are going to kill.

Bury. The doctrine of prosperity. I will show to Christians what it is to love Jesus with all your heart.

And that money has nothing to do when it comes to our relationship with Jesus. The poor. The rich.

Must have the same relationship with Jesus. Be it white, black, rich, fat, whatever it is. Our relationship.

With Jesus. Are you going to come back and be connected again tomorrow? Maybe some will not come back at all. At least listen on the internet.

Let's stand, let's stand.

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