

The Lord Makes Poor & Makes Rich
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There have always been poverty stricken areas – throughout ancient cultures up to the present time. Many people have questioned why, if God is so merciful, doesn't He provide for His people? Why must some suffer while others are so prosperous? But, in truth, are not those poor in material possessions often richer in spiritual knowledge and insight?

The Lord makes poor, and makes rich; He brings low, and lifts up. He raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifts up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's and He has set the world upon them.

1 Samuel 2:7-8

It seems that wealthy people often get too hung-up with the idea of making money that they forget everything else. Money and status are first and foremost in their lives; and these two factors take up so much of their time and attention that they seldom have time for anything else. One might argue, however, that the rich give so much to their favorite charities and foundations. But, what are their reasons? For the most part their donation is not because of a sincere and genuine concern for their unfortunate neighbors, but rather, for a tax deduction and for the "good feeling" of magnanimity. They want to show their generosity. They want a sticker to put on their front door: "We Gave." It's true, they do give money. But, do they really get involved? Where does their energy go?

In reality, the poor are necessary fundamentals to the flourishing existence of some kind of religious ideals. They are God's building blocks. Christ being the cornerstone. The poor have to struggle for their very meals, unlike the wealthy who take life for granted. In other words, the efforts of the poor are directed to matters of the utmost concern to their health and well-being; whereas those of the upper class concentrate the majority of their energies on ridiculous and unimportant prattle.

The poor, more so than the well-to-do, have it within their beings to somehow understand God. In many cases the poor come closer to God because of their struggling and suffering. He can give them hope and even a spiritual contentment in their situation. His word, as a seed, can more easily grow and expand in these people. Do you recall the story of the poor woman who gave her last coins to the temple? The people before her gave bags of gold. But, Christ said that she truly gave more than they because she gave *all she had* to God and for His glory. These people have a genuine and steadfast love of God. Their faith is immovable, providing strong pillars for God's throne.

Christ Himself was poor, but He gave His goodly gifts – miraculous healings and great faith – to those poorer still. Jesus Christ despite His lack of material wealth, God

glorified Jesus Christ before all the world. The saints, also, were favored by God – for He is not interested in one's riches, but in one's attempts to learn and live by His word.