

Avoiding Spiritual Poverty

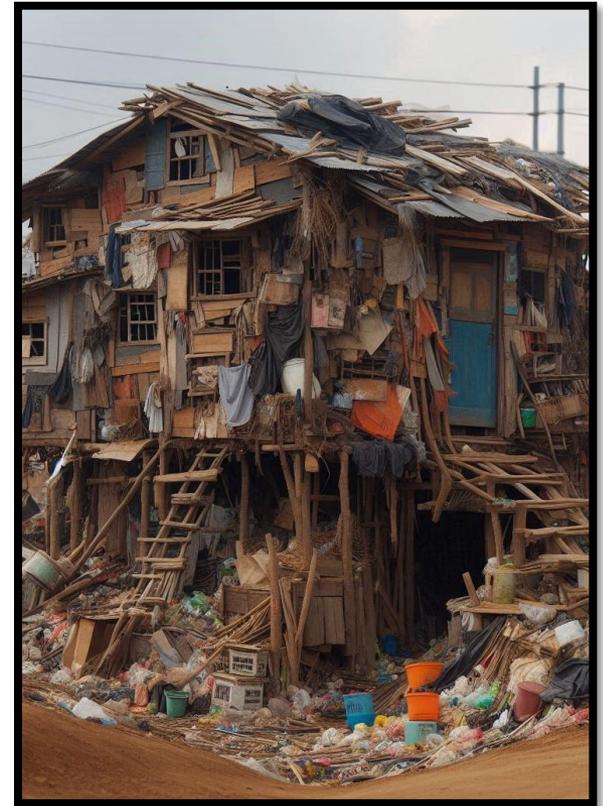
Colossians 1:9-12

Part 3



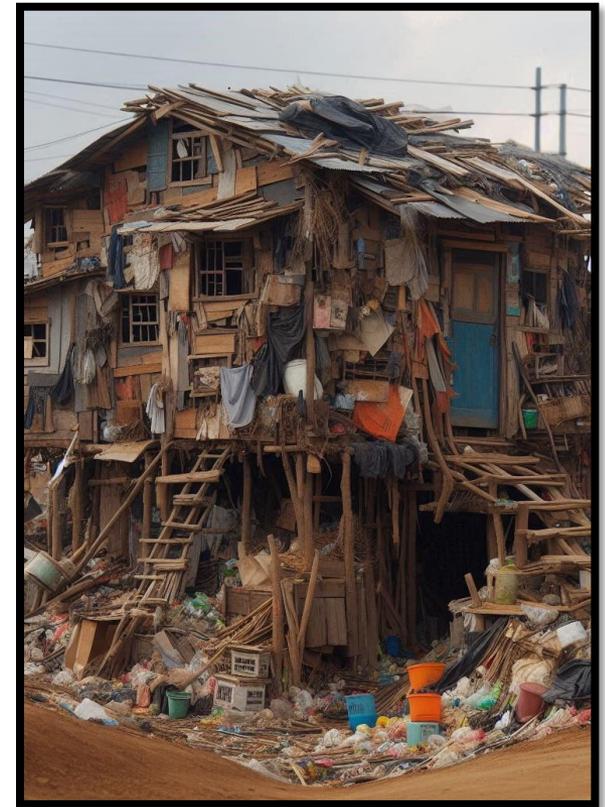
Previously...

- In the second part of this lesson, we looked at several results of spiritual poverty.
 - No spiritual goals or direction.
 - Ungodliness & unrighteousness.
 - Vulnerabilities to temptations and evil influences.
 - Broken homes.
 - Broken churches.



Previously...

- In the third part of this lesson, we will look at how we can avoid spiritual poverty in our own lives.



**How do we avoid
spiritual poverty?**



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Partake of the God's Word.
 - The words of Jesus.
 - The Living Water. ***John 4:10-14***
 - The Bread of life. ***John 6:35, 47-51***
 - Grow in the knowledge of Jesus. ***2 Pet 3:17-18***



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Partake of the God's Word.
 - Study God's Word.
 - Grow in understanding. ***Tim 2:14-16; 3:14-17***
 - Grow in the “incorruptible” word. ***1 Pet 1:22 – 2:3***
 - The local church helps in this growth process. ***Cf. Eph 4:11-16***



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Partake of the God's Word.
 - Write God's word on our hearts and our minds.
 - God said, *"...I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."* **Heb 8:10**



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Partake of the God's Word.
 - Write God's word on our hearts and our minds.
 - *“Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning...” 1 John 2:24-25*
 - We willingly make the choice to study and to grow in God's Word.



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Live by God's Word.
 - By every word. ***Matt 4:3-4***
 - God gave Israel manna. ***Deut 8:2-3***
 - God gave us Jesus. ***John 8:32-35***
 - When we live by every word of God, we will seek first the kingdom of God. ***Matt 6:31-34***
 - Helps us overcome temptations.



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Live by God's Word.
 - We will walk in fellowship with God. ***1 John 1:3, 5-7; 1 Cor 1:9***
 - Abide with the Father and the Son. ***1 John 2:24***
 - If we keep His commands, we abide in Him and He abides in us. ***1 John 3:24***



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Live by God's Word.
 - We will walk worthy.
 - Walk worthy of the calling.
Eph 4:1-3
 - Walk worthy of the Lord.
Col 1:9-11



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Avoid what is bad for us.
 - Things that distract us.
 - *We miss seeing stumbling blocks, greater problems, temptations, etc.*
 - *We lose our spiritual focus.*
 - *Consider Peter who looked away and Lot's wife who looked back.*



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Avoid what is bad for us.
 - Things that lead us astray.
 - *The wisdom of men.*
 - *Worldly influences.*
 - *Our own desires and discontentment.*



How Do We Avoid Spiritual Poverty?

- Avoid what is bad for us.
 - Things that poison our souls.
 - *Uncontrolled emotions, such as anger and jealousy.*
 - *Uncontrolled desires, such as sexual immorality.*
 - *Pride, arrogance, selfishness, covetousness, etc.*



Conclusion

- How do we avoid spiritual poverty?
 - Study God's word daily.
 - Write God's word on our hearts and our minds.
 - Live by God's word.
 - Pray for wisdom and understanding. ***Cf. James 1:5; Col 1:9-11***

