



How to Pray Against...

THE LIE OF HAVING NOTHING



Most people living in poverty believe they cannot do anything to address their own needs or solve the problems in their community because they believe they have nothing. Whether they face food scarcity, water problems, or lack of infrastructure, they can't access the resources seemingly needed to address the problem—large sums of money, massive projects—so they are left to wait for outsiders to help. Sadly, those seeking to alleviate poverty often operate out of this same lie. With the best of intentions, donors and NGOs bring in food, build houses, and drill wells...all the while reinforcing the lie that the poor lack resources and are thus incapable of solving problems.

The truth is, God has not abandoned any of us, even if we are physically poor. He has surrounded even the poorest with resources—like relationships, creation, skills, creativity, and access to Himself—and commanded those resources be used for His glory (see the parable of the talents in Matthew 25). When churches in impoverished communities realize all that God has given them, they begin to show love to their neighbors using those resources. As they do, the lie of “we have nothing, so we can do nothing” is broken, they discover resources they didn't realise they had and they often see God multiply their efforts in incredible ways. Then, when resources show up through aid organizations or the government, His people rightly see it as God's blessing and answer to prayer. The result is transformed communities, strengthened churches, and glory to God.



Please pray with us...

- That all Christ-followers—wealthy and poor, from the West and Majority World—would know the truth that God has not abandoned the poor, but given them many resources. Pray that God would break the power of the lie that “the poor have nothing and can do nothing.”
- Pray for the thousands of Majority World Christians who are learning about stewarding the resources God has given. Pray for them to see what God has given them in their own communities. Pray that they would have courage to step out in faith and obedience, to try things they’ve never done, and to care for their families and love their neighbors using their own resources.
- Pray for givers and practitioners to have wisdom and spiritual discernment in how they seek to address poverty and relate with the poor. Pray that they would have courage to step out in faith and obedience, to try things considered radical, and to stand against this lie and the dependency it brings.
- Pray that—as His people act in faith and obedience to use the resources He has given—God would intervene on behalf of His people. Pray that resources would be multiplied, prayers would be answered dramatically, and that entire communities would give glory to God as the One who provides and brings change.

“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” His disciples answered.

“Bring them here to me,” Jesus said. And He directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:17-21



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