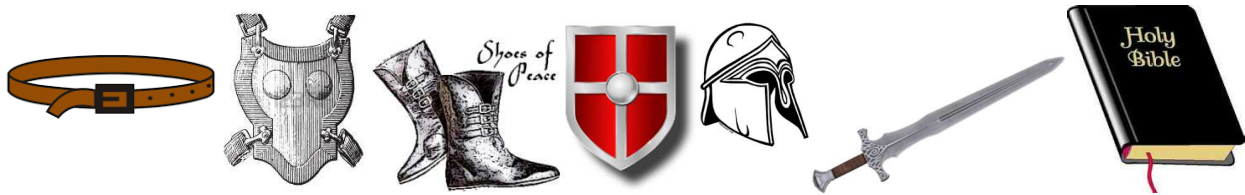


Spiritual Strategic Warfare



*”Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place” **Ephesians 6:14***

*”And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” **Ephesians 6:15***

*“above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts (arrows) of the wicked one” **Ephesians 6:16***

*”And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ...” **Ephesians 6:17.***

*“For the word of God is quick (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow (bone), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart...” **Hebrews 4.12.***

Bible verses Caring for the poor:

Biblical Duty To Be Of Service To Others, Especially The Poor!

What does God’s word the Bible have to say about helping needy people such as the poor, the orphans, and the widows? Are there Bible scriptures which say we are supposed to have compassion and to be giving to the less fortunate? Examples of biblical scriptures commanding our service to others from a Holy Righteous God!

Old Testament Scriptures!

*”Do not take advantage of a widow or an orphan.” **Exodus 22:22***

"Do not deny justice to your **poor people** in their lawsuits." *Exodus 23:6*

"During the seventh year, let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then **the poor among your people** may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what they leave. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove." *Exodus 23:11*

"Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for **the poor and the alien** (foreigner). I am the LORD your God." *Leviticus 19:10*

"Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to **the poor** or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly." *Leviticus 19:15*

"When you reap the harvest of your land, **do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien** (foreigner). I am the LORD your God." *Leviticus 23:22*

"If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold. . . . If one of your countrymen becomes **poor** and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would **an alien (foreigner)** or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. . . . If one of your countrymen **becomes poor** among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave." *Leviticus 25:25, 35, 39*

"If an alien (foreigner) or a temporary resident among you becomes rich and one of your countrymen becomes **poor** and sells himself to the alien living among you or to a member of the alien's clan, he retains the right of redemption." *Leviticus 25:47-48*

"He defends the cause of **the fatherless** and **the widow**, and loves the **alien** (foreigner), giving him food and clothing." *Deuteronomy 10:18*

"At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that **the Levites** (priest who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and **the aliens, the fatherless** and **the widows** who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied." *Deuteronomy 14:28-29*

"However, there should be **no poor** among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you." *Deuteronomy 15:4*

"If there is a **poor** man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward **your poor brother**." *Deuteronomy 15:7*

"Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: The seventh year, the year for **canceling debts**, is near, so that you do not show ill will toward your **needy brother** and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of **sin**." *Deuteronomy 15:9*

"**There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy** in your land." *Deuteronomy 15:11*

"**Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy**, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien (foreigner) living in one of your towns." *Deuteronomy 24:14*

"**Do not deprive the alien (foreigner) or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge**." *Deuteronomy 24:17*

"When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien (foreigner), the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien (foreigner), the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien (foreigner), the fatherless and the widow."

Deuteronomy 24:19-21

"'Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien (foreigner), the fatherless or the widow.' Then all the people shall say, Amen!(so be it)" *Deuteronomy 27:19*

"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor."

1 Samuel 2:8

"as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor." *Esther 9:22*

"When daylight is gone, the murderer rises up and kills the poor and needy; in the night he steals forth like a thief." *Job 24:14*

"because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist him." *Job 29:12*

"Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for **the poor**?" *Job 30:25*

"If I have denied the desires of **the poor** or let the eyes of **the widow** grow weary." *Job 31:16*

"The LORD is **a refuge** for **the oppressed**, **a stronghold** in times of trouble." *Psalm 9:9*

"But **the needy** will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of **the afflicted** ever perish." *Psalm 9:18*

" Because of the oppression of **the weak** and the groaning of **the needy**, I will now arise, says the LORD, I will protect them from those who malign them. " *Psalm 12:5*

"You evildoers frustrate the plans of **the poor**, but the LORD is their **refuge**." *Psalm 14:6*

"This **poor man** called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles." *Psalm 34:6*

"My whole being will exclaim, Who is like you, O LORD? You **rescue the poor** from those too strong for them, **the poor** and **needy** from those who rob them." *Psalm 35:10*

"The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down **the poor** and **needy**, to slay those whose ways are upright." *Psalm 37:14*

"Yet I am **poor** and **needy**; may the Lord think of me. **You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.**" *Psalm 40:17*

"**A father** to the **fatherless**, a **defender** of **widows**, is **God** in his **holy** dwelling." *Psalm 68:5*

"Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, O God, you provided for **the poor**." *Psalm 68:10*

"**The poor** will see and be glad-- you who seek God, may your hearts live! **The LORD** **hears the needy** and does not despise his captive people." *Psalm 69:32-33*

"Yet I am **poor** and **needy**; **come quickly to me**, O God. You are **my help** and **my deliverer**; O LORD, do not delay." *Psalm 70:5*

"**He will defend the afflicted among the people** and **save the children of the needy**; he will crush the oppressor." *Psalm 72:4*

"For he will **deliver the needy** who cry out, **the afflicted** who have no one to help. He will take pity on **the weak** and **the needy** and save the needy from death." *Psalm 72:12-13*

"**Do not let the oppressed** retreat in disgrace; may **the poor** and **needy** praise your name." *Psalm 74:21*

"**Defend the cause of the weak** and **fatherless**; maintain the rights of **the poor** and **oppressed**. **Rescue the weak** and **needy**; **deliver** them from the hand of the wicked." *Psalm 82:3-4*

"**But he lifted the needy** out of their affliction and increased their families like flocks." *Psalm 107:41*

"For he stands at the right hand of **the needy one**, to save his life from those who condemn him." *Psalm 109:31*

"He has scattered abroad his gifts to **the poor**, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor." *Psalm 112:9*

"He raises **the poor** from the dust and lifts **the needy** from the ash heap;" *Psalm 113:7*

"I will bless her with abundant provisions; her **poor** will I satisfy with food." *Psalm 132:15*

"I know that the LORD secures justice for **the poor** and upholds the cause of the needy." *Psalm 140:12*

"He upholds the cause of **the oppressed** and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free" *Psalm 146:7*

"The LORD watches over the alien (foreigner) and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked." *Psalm 146:9*

"I know that the LORD secures **justice** for **the poor** and upholds the cause of **the needy**." *Proverbs 13:23*

"He who despises his neighbor sins, but **blessed is he who is kind to the needy**." *Proverbs 14:21*

"He who **oppresses the poor** shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to **the needy** honors God." *Proverbs 14:31*

"The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps **the widow's** boundaries intact." *Proverbs 15:25*

"Better to be lowly in spirit and among **the oppressed** than to share plunder with the proud." *Proverbs 16:19*

"He who **mocks the poor** shows contempt for their Maker; whoever **gloats** over disaster will not go unpunished." *Proverbs 17:5*

"He who is **kind** to **the poor** lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done." *Proverbs 19:17*

"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of **the poor**, he too will cry out and not be answered." *Proverbs 21:13*

"A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with **the poor**." *Proverbs 22:9*

"He who **oppresses the poor** to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich -- both come to poverty." *Proverbs 22:16*

"Do not **exploit the poor** because they are poor and do not crush **the needy** in court." *Proverbs 22:22*

"A ruler who **oppresses the poor** is like a driving rain that leaves no crops." *Proverbs 28:3*

"He who **gives** to **the poor** will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses." *Proverbs 28:27*

"The righteous care about **justice** for **the poor**, but **the wicked** have no such concern." *Proverbs 29:7*

"those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour **the poor** from the earth, **the needy** from among mankind."
Proverbs 30:14

"Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of **the poor** and needy." *Proverbs 31:9*

"She opens her arms to **the poor** and extends her hands to **the needy**." *Proverbs 31:20*

"If you see **the poor oppressed** in a district, and **justice and rights denied**, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still."
Ecclesiastes 5:8

"Learn to do right! Seek **justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.**" *Isaiah 1:17*

"The LORD enters into judgment against the elders and leaders of his people: It is you who have ruined my vineyard; the plunder from **the poor** is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the faces of **the poor**?' declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty." *Isaiah 3:14-15*

"to **deprive the poor** of their **rights** and **withhold justice** from the oppressed of my people, making widows their **prey** and **robbing the fatherless.**" *Isaiah 10:2*

"With **righteousness** he will judge **the needy**; with **justice** he will give decisions for **the poor** of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay **the wicked.**"
Isaiah 11:4

"The poorest of **the poor** will find pasture, and **the needy** will lie down in safety. But your root I will destroy by famine; it will slay your survivors." *Isaiah 14:30*

"You have been **a refuge** for **the poor**, **a refuge** for **the needy in his distress**, **a shelter from the storm** and **a shade from the heat**. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall." *Isaiah 25:4*

"Once more **the humble will rejoice in the LORD** ; **the needy** will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel." *Isaiah 29:19*

"The **scoundrel's** methods are **wicked**, he makes up **evil schemes** to destroy **the poor** with **lies**, even when the plea of **the needy** is **just**." *Isaiah 32:7*

"**The poor** and **needy** search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. **But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.**" *Isaiah 41:17*

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set **the oppressed** free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide **the poor** wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" *Isaiah 58:6-7*

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of **the hungry** and satisfy the needs of **the oppressed**, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." *Isaiah 58:10*

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to **preach good news to the poor**. He has sent me to

bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim **freedom** for the captives and release from **darkness** for the prisoners." *Isaiah 61:1*

"On your clothes men find the lifeblood of **the innocent poor**, though you did not catch them breaking in. Yet in spite of all this you say I am innocent." *Jeremiah 2:34*

"I thought, These are only **the poor**; they are foolish, for they do not know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God." *Jeremiah 5:4*

"(They) have grown **fat** and **sleek**. Their **evil deeds** have no limit; they do not plead the case of the **fatherless** to win it, they do not defend the rights of **the poor**." *Jeremiah 5:28*

"if you do not **oppress the alien**, (foreigner) the **fatherless** or the **widow** and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm," *Jeremiah 7:6*

"This is what the LORD says: Do what is **just** and **right**. Rescue from the hand of his **oppressor** the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or **violence** to **the alien**, (foreigner) **the fatherless** or **the widow**, and do not shed innocent blood in this place." *Jeremiah 22:3*

"He defended the cause of **the poor** and **needy**, and so all went well. **Is that not what it means to know me?**" declares the LORD." *Jeremiah 22:16*

"Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He **rescues** the life of **the needy** from the hands of the **wicked**." *Jeremiah 20:13*

"Now this was the sin of your sister **Sodom**: She and her daughters were **arrogant, overfed** and **unconcerned**; they did not help **the poor and needy**." **Ezekiel 16:49**

"He does not oppress anyone, but returns what he took in pledge for a loan. He does not commit robbery but gives his food to **the hungry** and provides clothing for **the naked**." **Ezekiel 18:7**

"**The people of the land practice extortion** and commit **robbery**; they **oppress the poor and needy** and mistreat the alien (foreigner), denying them **justice**." **Ezekiel 22:29**

"This is what the LORD says: For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back [my wrath]. They sell **the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals**. They **trample** on the heads of **the poor** as upon the dust of the ground and **deny justice to the oppressed**. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name." **Amos 2:6-7**

"Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who **oppress the poor** and crush **the needy** and say to your husbands, Bring us some drinks!" **Amos 4:1**

"Hear this, you who trample **the needy** and do away with **the poor** of the land." **Amos 8:4**

"**Buying the poor with silver** and **the needy for a pair of sandals**, selling even the sweepings with the wheat." **Amos 8:6**

"Do not **oppress the widow** or **the fatherless, the alien (foreigner)** or **the poor**. In your hearts do not think **evil** of each other." **Zechariah 7:10**

" So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against **sorcerers, adulterers** and **perjurers**, against those who **defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless**, and **deprive aliens (foreigners) of justice**, but do not fear me,' says the LORD Almighty." **Malachi 3:5**

New Testament Scriptures!

"Jesus answered, If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to **the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." **Matthew 19:21**

"For **I was hungry** and you gave me something to eat, **I was thirsty** and you gave me something to drink, **I was a stranger** and you invited me in." **Matthew 25:35**

"**They devour widows' houses** and for a show make lengthy prayers. **Such men will be punished most severely.**" **Mark 12:40**

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to **preach good news to the poor**. He has sent me to **proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind**, to **release the oppressed.**" **Luke 4:18**

"So he replied to the messengers, Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and **the good news is preached to the poor.**" **Luke 7:22**

"Sell your possessions and give to **the poor**. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys." **Luke 12:33**

"But when you give a banquet, invite **the poor**, the crippled, the lame, the blind." *Luke 14:13*

"When Jesus heard this, he said to him, You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to **the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." *Luke 18:22*

"Beware of the teachers of the law . . . They **devour** your widows' houses . . . Such men will be punished severely." *Luke 20:46-47*

"'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to **the poor**? It was worth a year's wages.' He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it." *John 12:5*

"In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping **the poor**." *Acts 9:36*

"Cornelius stared at him in fear. What is it, Lord?' he asked. The angel answered, Your prayers and gifts to **the poor** have come up as a memorial offering before God." *Acts 10:4*

"After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for **the poor** and to present offerings." *Acts 24:17*

"On the contrary: **If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.** In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." *Romans 12:20*

"For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for **the poor** among the saints in Jerusalem." *Romans 15:26*

"All they asked was that we should continue to remember **the poor**, the very thing I was eager to do." **Galatians 2:10**

"Give proper recognition to **those widows who are really in need.**" **1 Timothy 5:3**

"**Pure religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:** to look after **orphans** and **widows** in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." **James 1:27**

"Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and **a poor man in shabby clothes** also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' **but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,'** have you not discriminated among yourselves and becomes judges with **evil** thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen **those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised those who love Him?** But you have **insulted the poor.** Is it not the rich who are **exploiting** you? Are they not the ones who are **dragging** you into court?" **James 2:2-6**

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." **1 John 3:17-18**

2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes **he became poor**, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the

nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on His left.

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite you in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

Then they themselves will also answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'

Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

There is lots of focus on the poor and needy in this scripture that is taken serious, but at the very least we can see that Jesus takes the issue of poverty personally. A church or a nation that ignores its poor or places

stumbling blocks in their way, whose supreme god is Money (mammon), is very far from God the Father, and his Son Jesus.

Words about Justice

The English word "**justice**" relates to several roots in Hebrew:

- **משפט** *mishpat*, the verb is **שפט** "rule", refers to "right rule" or to the state of rightness in society which results from a good ruler, and also to the instructions of such a ruler (esp. God), so at **Amos 5:15** God desires "**justice set up in the gate**"
- **צדקה** *sedakah* "righteousness", the verb is **צדק** "be upright", refers to rightness of life (was translated "justice" often in the KJV)
- **דין** *din* "judgement", the verb is **דין** "to judge a case", is the primary root when legal issues are in view
- **ריב** *rib* "contention" comes to mean "plead a case" **Amos 7:4** the focus is on the people involved with their interests and grievances

In general while **ריב** is fairly frequent in the prophets - though most frequently used in wisdom literature, **דין** is rare (only 7 occurrences of any form of the root). This gives a first hint that prophets are more concerned with **justice than law**. **The frequency of צדקה and משפט is much higher in the prophets than anywhere else in the Bible.** They are used as close synonyms - as word pairs in synonymous poetry, and together in the phrase "**justice and righteousness**" - **suggesting that they relate to one concept. So, even when using forensic language, the prophets seem primarily to have justice in the broadest sense in view.**

Justice and Righteousness

Justice and **righteousness** are considered a divine concept in **Psalm 33:5** – God is said to love **righteousness** and **justice**. “*Blessed are you, O Lord, the king who loves justice and righteousness*”. God is said to establish **justice, righteousness, and equity** in Jacob after he begins his reign and is exalted over all the people **Psalm 99:1-2**. The establishment of **equity, justice and righteousness** is followed by the decrees and laws given through Moses and Aaron. **Deuteronomy 4:8** “*And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?*”

In **Isaiah 16:5** the establishment of the Davidic covenant with **kindness** and **truth** is connected with the demand for **justice** and **righteousness**: “*A throne shall be established with kindness and on it shall sit in truth a ruler that seeks justice and is zealous for righteousness in the tent of David*”. In **Proverbs 20:28** a throne is said to be maintained with **kindness** while elsewhere the throne is established with **righteousness** **Proverbs 25:5, 16:12**

Kindness and **truth** and **mercy** are found often throughout the bible in conjunction with **justice** or **righteousness** **Psalm 33:5, 89:15, Jeremiah 9:23, Hosea 2:21, 12:7, Mic 6:8**.

Justice and not “social justice” mean a great deal to our heavenly Father The Most High. In the government of God he has specific concern for the **unjustly** oppressed, the **unjustly** imprisoned, the hungry and needy, those who are in **spiritual** and physical need, the foreigner, the widows and orphans, and all who cry out for **justice**. The purpose of God's social order is to relieve and restore people to their rightful estate. To treat the basic needs of the people as **holy**, something that Jesus Christ gave many examples! To be heirs of God's kingdom is made clear to the people of God to be of service for the people whether they are a stranger, the needy, and oppressed which is a requirement according to God's law. Social justice is based on the belief that evil and injustice are the products of

dominant groups who create systems and structures which marginalize others and promote their own interests. Ironically, this belief can be used to marginalize and dehumanize people who find themselves in a dominant cultural group, such as men, whites, and heterosexuals. without human dignity and equality, there is no justice.

Note: When the bible talks about helping and assisting the poor, it is talking about the people who are victimized by an economic system that has robbed or stole from them that is responsible for their economic circumstance. The bible mentions many examples of how people become poor through a system that is based on **fraud, extortion**, etc. The bible does not condone or support a person who is **lazy** and refuse to work. Such person is referred to as (**slothful**). **Proverbs 21:25** *"The desire of the **slothful** killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour."*

Proverbs 10:4 *"He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack (**lazy**) hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."*

Apostle Paul says in **2 Thessalonians 3:10** *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you: that if any would not work, neither should he eat."*

I will have another article to demonstrate the different examples of poverty that exist for a people of any nation according to the bible.

One example is based on what is called "**voluntary Poverty**" where one chooses to be poor, to renounce material comfort and luxury by doing **missionary work**, to be of service to the needy such as the widow, the orphan etc. Jesus lived such a life style. The second form of poverty is by an economic system that **defraud, steal**, and **rob** from the people through institutions put in place legally that make them poor, through political means of using **extortion**, and **high taxes**. Banks charging **excessive high interest**, and **swindle property** from the people. The

third is the **slothful** (**lazy**) person who refuse to work which allow poverty to manifest.