

THE "ULTRA-POOR"

We define wealth today as an abundance of money and material possessions. It is synonymous to being rich and the opposite of being poor. If you live in a very poor squatter area, you may be referred to as ultra-poor.

Do you know that the definition of "wealth" in Hebrew does not refer to money or possessions? The Hebrew word is chayil. It means physical strength and noble character. It also means a mighty army. I learned that strength is an important asset because strength can make money but money cannot buy strength. Having an army, or a group of workers, is a great advantage because this multiplies your ability to make money.

If wealth is about strength and character, then this means no one should be poor. As long as a person has strength to work then he has the ability to make wealth. An amazing example is Nick Vujicic. Though he has no hands and feet, he has the strength of character to inspire, to teach, to write, and even to build a family.

I have always believed that no one is poor. I believe people become poor only when they do not use their strength and resources to get out of their predicament. When the Bible says we should remember the poor, I believe it means we should tell them that there is a better way to live their lives. But the key to this is to know Jesus and to follow His ways. To follow Jesus does not only mean going to heaven. More importantly, it means to live the good life He intends for us to have. This also means that they have to work for six days and rest only for one day.

I believe the rich should help the poor, not to feed them, but to lend resources and to teach them how to do business. When the poor receive this help they should use their strength to make wealth so that they can live the life God wants them to have. This is why Jesus said in John 15:8 that His Father is glorified when His people bear fruits because this is the proof that they obey His ways.