

Money

In this series will learn how to build a foundation for financial freedom by discovering

- Why money has a hold on us
- A Biblical perspective on prosperity
- God-centered wisdom on money
- How to break the power of debt
- How to build a financial future
- 500 verses on Prayer and Faith each – 2,000 on Money
- 16 of 38 Jesus' Parables about money and possessions

It is the single greatest factor in what we will or will not accomplish in life

God Wants You Prosperous and Wealthy

Proverbs 11:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, *there is* jubilation. ¹¹ By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

- Blessing “*Prosperity*” or “*Liberal Pool*”
- If your life is a “*Liberal Pool*” you can become part of the answer, not part of the problem
- We either control our money or it will control and limit us
- Money is neither good or bad
- The way we handle money is an overflow of our heart and our belief about money

8 MONEY MYTHS

MYTH #1 – MONEY IS NOT SOMETHING WE SHOULD FOCUS ON

Proverbs 22:7 (NKJV)

⁷ The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender.

- Am I living in a place where I am hindered in making Kingdom-centered decisions?
- Our thinking must come in line with living a life of abundance and generosity

MYTH #2 – GOD’S BLESSINGS ARE NOT MATERIAL

John 10:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Abundant – (Zoe) – “*The perfect state of living, where you have need of nothing*” “*To be exceedingly beyond measure, superior and extraordinary, remarkable, eminent, and more excellent*”

3 John 2 (NKJV)

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

- When you develop a prosperous heart, everything about your life becomes prosperous

MYTH #3 – THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT MONEY IS EVIL

Who told you that?

- The power of money has the ability to destroy
- It also builds

1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- A fire does a lot of good in a fire place
- Outside the fireplace it will burn the house down

Also true with money

- It has the power to destroy
- When handled properly it can release God's purpose through us
- We say we want to change the world
- We can't do that without the resources needed

When money is your decision maker to build a source of personal security it can become evil

- It can become something that we trust and worship
- Money should never control us we should control and direct our money for good

1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV)

⁶Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

- Godliness – God in His fullness, His purposes living fully formed in and through me
- Some say money changes you, but does it?
- Money doesn't change, it un-masks the real you
- If your heart isn't fully committed to God at its core, it can bring you great damage
- However, Money isn't evil

“Do not value money for any more nor any less than it's worth; it is a good servant but a bad master” – Alexander Dumas

1 Timothy 6:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

- This is the heart of the Father
- God wants us to do good and because of Him we can believe for so much more

MYTH # 4 – JESUS MODELED SCARCITY

- Didn't Jesus live a very meager life?
- Wasn't the Gospel He presented one of a frugal lifestyle?
- What about great saints of old?
- Francis of Assisi, and Mother Teresa
- Isn't true holiness found in poverty, not wealth?

There is no doubt that God has special missions for certain people

- That doesn't mean that all of us are to live with nothing
- If all of us did, who would fund the work?

Mother Tereasa was never shy about her need for money to alleviate the suffering in Calcutta

- One time she accepted money from a hated Haitian Dictator accused of murdering thousands of his opponents
- She was accused of accepting blood money

Her answer was concise – “In charity, she said, everyone has a right to give. ‘I have no right to judge them. God alone has that right. . . I do not ask for money. But people have a right to give.’”

I think we can err on one side or the other if we assume that Jesus was poor or rich

- One thing for sure, Jesus was never in need
- He had a treasurer and often gave to the poor
- He wore beautiful garments, probably given to him by others

Jesus had financial supporters

Luke 8:3 (NKJV)

³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

The truth is, Jesus modeled a life having few human possessions, but I believe there was a reason for that

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

- Jesus became poor by heaven's standards
- The original language denotes not just spiritual riches but so much more

Though He had all of heaven at His disposal He left it to create a way we could experience a blessing in every part of our lives – spirit, soul and body

- Rich – “Abounding in material sources”
- “Abundantly supplied”
- That includes natural resources

2 Corinthians 9:8 *“you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”*

Whenever Jesus performed a miracle, He never did just enough

- What about feeding the 5,000?
- 12 basketfuls remaining

What about the disciples? – **Matthew 8:8-10**

- There were times He sent them out with nothing
- He was preparing them for ministry

There are times He will do the same for us to learn complete trust and reliance on Him – Faith

- His blessing is not a blanket guarantee that we will never have seasons of trial
- However we will never lack – **Luke 22:35-36**

The disciples left all to follow him – upon encountering a rich young ruler who wouldn't leave his riches and follow Jesus

Mark 10:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, ³⁰ who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

- Jesus was neither poor or rich, yet He never lacked
- He promised those who follow will experience blessings in this life

MYTH #5 – GOD’S KINGDOM DOESN’T NEED MONEY

While it is true that money should not rule over us, it is also true that the kingdom can be released through the correct use of it

- Your Kingdom come, on earth
- How’s that going to happen?
- How will that take place if we lack supply?

Most Christians are saying they are “*waiting for revival*”

- It’s as if we’re waiting for God to do something
- The Bible says that God has given us this world
- He has given us authority in Jesus name
- He has given us His Spirit and word

We are supposed to use our faith to see Him move powerfully

- Christianity is really a partnership with God
- I believe He’s waiting on us

Without God we have nothing, but it is money that allows us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and preach the Gospel to those who need to hear it

- I believe that if God gets the Church praying corporately and giving financially, we will see revival

1 Timothy 6:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

- Our giving is one way that we can “*lay hold*” on eternal life
- What kind of foundation is my giving laying?

MYTH #6 – MY MONEY RESPONSE IS A PRIVATE AFFAIR

Matthew 6:1–4 (NKJV)

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

- Jesus is talking about motive
- We should not be giving to receive the applause of men
- That’s what the Pharisees did
- Jesus called them empty tombs
- When we give with pure motives God sees and rewards us!

God uses money as a testing ground

Luke 16:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

I believe that the way we give of our finances is Faith 101

- We can say we want to do something BIG for God
 - God says, “*Show me*”
- God wants to see where our trust and security lies
- Faith is putting trust in God regardless of the natural circumstances
- It determines whether or not we are ready for something more

Its not about the amount, it’s about the level of sacrifice we are willing to give

Mark 12:41–44 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much. ⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³ So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

- Are we just tipping God or are we giving from our livelihood?
- Does my giving cost me?

Giving is not just a private matter, its an area where we need growth and accountability

MYTH #7 – IF I HAD MORE, I WOULD GIVE MORE

True Story:

A man who came to Peter Marshall, the Chaplain of the United States Senate in the late 1940s.

He was concerned with tithing, and he said to Dr Marshall,

“I’ve got a problem. I’ve been tithing for some time

When I was making \$20,000 a year and I could afford to give \$2,000. But, you see, I’m now making \$500,000 a year, and there’s just no way that I can afford a tithe of \$50,000.”

Dr Marshall offered no advice.

He simply said, *‘Yes, sir, I think you do have a problem. I think what we ought to do is pray right now. Would that be OK?’*

So Dr Marshall prayed with boldness and authority:

‘Dear Lord, this man has a problem. I pray that you help him, Lord. I pray that you reduce his salary back to the place where he can afford to tithe.’

Matthew 19:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

- There’s no better time to give than now
- Today’s response determines tomorrow’s outcomes
- A seed sown will always produce a harvest

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NKJV)

⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

MYTH #8 – I’M STUCK AND THERE’S NO WAY I CAN START TO GIVE

Genesis 8:22 (NKJV)

²² “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

- Regardless of where you are there is a time to sow and a time to reap
- God promises you will reap a harvest when you sow
– Galatians 6:7

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

- God empowers you to get wealth
- God’s desire is to establish His covenant – sufficiency in all things – 2 Corinthians 9:8

Jeremiah 17:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.