

# 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)

<sup>10</sup> When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, *there is* jubilation. <sup>11</sup> 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

## 1 Timothy 6:6, 10, 17-19 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup>Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

<sup>10</sup>For 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.

<sup>17</sup>Command 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.

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

- Godliness – God in His fullness, His purposes living fully formed in and through me
- We either serve God or Money

When money is your decision maker to build a source of personal security it can become something that we trust and worship – Idol

## 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup>And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

- The same power that lived in Jesus is working in us and through us

## 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> 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)

<sup>11</sup> 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)

<sup>41</sup> Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much. <sup>42</sup> Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. <sup>43</sup> 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; <sup>44</sup> 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)

<sup>24</sup> 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)

<sup>4</sup> 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)

<sup>22</sup> “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)

<sup>18</sup> “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

### 1 Chronicles 29:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand *is* power and might; In Your hand *it is* to make great and to give strength to all.

- You can take great confidence in the fact that God, our Father is good, and His desire is to make us great!
- We need to stop thinking in ways that are limiting us

## THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON

Even though we may have a belief in God we may not have a full understanding of His ways

- The children of Israel knew God's acts but Moses knew God's ways – **Psalm 103:7**
- If we don't understand His ways we will unwittingly give the enemy dominion over certain areas of our lives
- Money has the power to direct our decisions and the authority to determine who we end up serving

### **Luke 16:10–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.

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

- Money is a divine testing ground
- When we rely on money to be the answer to all of our problems it can become the problem itself
- The way we handle money determines the level of true spiritual riches that God can trust us with
- Jesus said it, not me

Mammon is money that operates outside of the purposes of God  
It is a spirit that attaches itself to money when we don't surrender it firstly to God – Tithe

## John 12:5–6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” <sup>6</sup> This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

- Judas was a thief
- He also betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver
- It really wasn't about the money
- The spirit of mammon, controlled Judas' actions
- Ultimately lead him to destruction

The first recorded sin in the early church had to do with the deception and control of money – **Acts 5**

- Ananias and Sapphira sold a field like many other early believers

The bible says they brought the proceeds and laid them at the apostles feet to distribute to the needs of the poor

- They had a significant flaw in their integrity
- They wanted to appear to be “big givers” yet kept back some of the proceed for themselves
- Keeping some for themselves in itself wasn't the issue
- They lied about it

## Acts 5:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?

In both cases it was the “spirit” of mammon that controlled their thoughts and actions

### Luke 16:12–13 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

If you are faithful with what you have today, even if it seems insignificant, you will be trusted with more tomorrow

If you are unjust – if you deal with what you have today in a compromised way – then tomorrow will be compromised as well

- Money is a test to determine who your lord is
- It ultimately determines who you'll obey
- Unsurrendered money has the power to draw us away
- This is why money is such a contentious subject

Money is a testing ground to determine what eternal things we are ready for

- That is why the enemy fights it so hard

When we have a clear understanding about money, we will see more of the kingdom manifested

- Money has a divine assignment to advance the kingdom

When money touches our hands one of two spirits will seek to attach itself to it

Money that is not submitted to God has the spirit of mammon on it by default

- That is why people often try to control and manipulate through money
- Its why people think riches and wealth can produce happiness or fulfillment
- Mammon is basically the spirit of the world and that spirit is a liar

Mammon promises us those things that only God can truly give

- Security, significance, identity, independence, power, and freedom
- Money tells us it can insulate us from life's problems
- Money tells us it is the answer to all of life's problems

Mammon is nothing more than this worlds system that stands in sharp opposition to God and His ways

- Mammon says, Cheat and steal
  - God says, give and receive
- Mammon says take
  - God says give
- Mammon is selfish
  - God is generous

The spirit of mammon stands in direct opposition of the Spirit of God

The church of today is not great at giving:

- Tithers make up only 10-25 percent of a normal congregation.
- Only 5 percent of the U.S. tithes, with 80 percent of Americans only giving 2 percent of their income.
- Christians are only giving at 2.5 percent per capita, while during the Great Depression they gave at a 3.3 percent rate.

What would happen if believers were to increase their giving to a minimum of, let's say, 10 percent. There would be an additional \$165 billion for churches to use and distribute. The global impact would be phenomenal. Here's just a few things the Church could do with the kind of money:

- \$25 billion could relieve global hunger, starvation and deaths from preventable diseases in five years.
- \$12 billion could eliminate illiteracy in five years.
- \$15 billion could solve the world's water and sanitation issues, specifically at places in the world where 1 billion people live on less than \$1 per day.
- \$1 billion could fully fund all overseas mission work.
- \$100 – \$110 billion would still be left over for additional ministry expansion.