

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*”

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

⁸ 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.

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
- Money has a divine assignment from God

THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON

Money has the power to direct our decisions and the authority to determine who we end up serving

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

Luke 16:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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

John 12:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶ 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)

³ 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)

¹² And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ “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

Mammon wants to gain control of your life

- Mammon will deceive us
- When you are deceived, you don't know you're deceived

We can genuinely believe that we have a relationship with God and are called to be a part of His mission in the earth

- If we are chasing jobs, houses and riches and not surrendered in the area of finances we are deceived
- We think, *“Well once I get to this goal, then I can really start to serve God.”* – Really?

That is where the enemy keeps most Christians trapped

- Mammon whispers:

“Work a little harder, make your job and income paramount, keep it as the center of your life, then you'll be valued and successful.”

- Mammon is after your heart

Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Mammon's goal is worship

When money becomes the prime component in our decisions, we have begun to worship it, even if we are unaware

- Remember Satan fell because he desired to be worshipped like God
- He still wants to be worshipped today

The Temptation of Jesus – **Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus is tempted in the same way we are

- The Test of Provision
- The Test of Security
- The Test of Lordship

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*’ ”

Never allow your major decisions over jobs and futures to take precedence over what God is asking your to do or have

- Mammon wants to deceive and control your life – that's worship

Whenever money becomes something that you think about more than God your priorities have already begun to shift

- No one can be loyal to both God and mammon
– **Luke 16:13**
- It's a question of where our security lies
- It's a matter of trust

When we worship God with the tithe we are planting ourselves in the house and plan of God

- When we are planted in the plan of God we flourish

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.

- The basis of a blessed financial future is founded in the nature of God
- The nature of God is to bless us
- God creates a pathway in every wilderness
- He makes a way where there doesn't seem to be a way

The curse of mammon will lose its control once we understand how mammon works and surrender our first fruits to the Lord

Jeremiah 17:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, *I* test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

The Principle of The First

Exodus 23:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

- The first of your first fruits
- Not the last
- It's not the tenth portion
- It's the first tenth portion
- Bring it to the House of the Lord
- Not missions, TV or Radio Ministry
- It doesn't say to give your first fruits wherever you want
- The tithe comes to the house of the Lord
- The place where a community of believer's worship together
- A place of protection, discipline, care responsibility, partnership and so much more

Leviticus 27:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD.

Proverbs 3:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

- Here it is clear we are to honor the Lord with the first fruits of all our increase
- “Then”, He will fill our barns and vats
- We give the tithe which redeems the rest

The first portion has the power to redeem the rest

Romans 11:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches.

- The first portion carries the blessing
- That’s why you don’t want to give it to the mortgage company
- Many Christians fear the IRS and the mortgage company more than God
- Give to God first and watch Him bless the whole lump!
- If God is first in your life everything will come into order
- If God is not first, nothing will come into order
- Your marriage, health, family, finances, your job and career

Some say – “Well, tithing is under the law, so I don’t have to do it. We’re under grace now”

There are many things under the law that continue to be principles with God

- Is it now OK to commit adultery?
- Is it now OK to murder?
- Is it now OK to steal?

There are eternal principles with God tithing is one of them

Genesis 4:3–5 (NKJV)

³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Why did God respect Abel’s offering but reject Cain’s?

- Abel’s was the first born of the flock
- Cain brought an offering “in the process of time”
- NLT – *Some* of his crops
- Cain brought his offering when he got around to it
- God is looking at our hearts when we give
- When we give the first fruits God respects that offering
- The tithe is your first fruit
- The tithe must be first!

Malachi 3:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, *even* this whole nation.

It’s amazing how many people try to overlook this scripture or explain it away

- Well that’s Old Testament

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

⁶ “For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;

Some may say that because I’m under grace I don’t have to give a tithe

- Tithing is a principle that runs throughout scripture
- Before, during and after the law

Some may say that because I’m under grace I don’t have to give a tithe

Matthew 5:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out **so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.**

The number ten in the Bible represents *testing*

- 10 plagues to test Pharaoh
- 10 commandments
- God tested Israel in the desert 10 times
- God tested Jacob’s heart by changing his wages 10 times
- Daniel was tested 10 days in the first chapter of the book of Daniel
- **Matthew 25** Jesus tells a parable of 10 virgins having their preparedness tested
- 10 days of testing are mentioned in **Revelation 2:10**
- How many Disciples did Jesus have?
 - Just checking, He had 12

Malachi 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the LORD of hosts;

- When we obey, God rebukes the devourer on our behalf
- Tithing breaks the power of Mammon off