



Life Principles Notes™

God's Viewpoint About Money

Summary:

People do all kinds of foolish things to become rich. They will rob, kill, kidnap, sacrifice their integrity, and prostitute themselves for money. Many destroy their families and ruin their health in pursuit of “just a little more.” All this—despite the fact that wealth can't guarantee lasting happiness, health, or security.

On the other hand, money is an essential part of our lives. Those who have little or none of it will face many hardships. So what is the proper way for

a Christian to view finances? Let's examine what God's Word says about money, and how we are to acquire, give, and spend it.

Key Passage: 1 Timothy 6:9-11

Supporting Scripture: *Psalm 24:1; 37:4; 50:10; Proverbs 13:11; 15:6; 19:17; 21:20; 23:4-5; 28:22; Ecclesiastes 5:19-20; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 6:21; 25:14-30; 28:19-20; Chapter 25; Luke 6:38; John 15:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Philippians 4:19*

Scriptural Principles:

1 God is the source and owner of all wealth.

Scripture says, “The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains” and “He owns the cattle on a thousand hills” (Ps. 24:1; 50:10). Although God blesses us with the health and ability to make money, we must never forget that He is the source and owner of all wealth.

2 Money is a major subject in Scripture.

There are more verses about wealth than there are about heaven, hell, or prayer. More than 2,000 scriptures mention money, and over half the parables have to do with monetary principles. Why did the Lord give us so much instruction about finances? Because it plays an important role in our lives. Understanding God's viewpoint on our possessions can prevent us from making costly mistakes.

3 The Word of God encourages us about financial provision.

Money is not evil in itself; it is simply a means of exchange. But we must learn to use it wisely (Matt. 25:14-30). Also, God desires for us to have the money we need (Luke 6:38). We won't necessarily be rich by the world's standards. But as we are generous, the Lord provides for us. He gives us money for food, clothing, and other basic needs. Best of all, God enables us to enjoy His blessings (Eccl. 5:19-20).

4 The Bible warns us about the misuse of finances.

Scripture definitely cautions us about our attitudes towards earthly treasure. Proverbs warns us not to wear ourselves out to become rich because wealth is often fleeting (23:4-5). First Timothy 6:10 says, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” Financial blessing can turn into a snare if we aren't careful (Prov. 15:6).

5 God shows us how to acquire wealth.

Working: The Lord provides for us primarily through our jobs. The apostle Paul wrote: “If anyone is not willing to work, he is not to eat, either” (2 Thess. 3:10).

Investing: Once we have a little money, we can grow it through investing (Matt. 25).

Giving: When you and I share our abundance with others, God blesses us with more: “Give and it will be given to you” (Luke 6:38).

Saving: Even a dollar a week adds up over time. Proverbs 21:20 says, “A wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.”

Gifts: Sometimes, God will use other people to provide for us. While I was growing up, the Lord often blessed my mother and me through the generosity of others. Look for opportunities to give to those in need and willingly receive when others seek to bless you financially.

6 The Lord guides us in how to use money.

To meet personal needs: Philippians 4:19 says, “My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory.” The Father also promises that if we delight ourselves in Him, He will give us the desires of our hearts (Ps. 37:4).

To carry on the Lord’s work: At least ten percent of the money that you earn should be returned to the Lord through tithes and offerings (Mal. 3:10). Financial gifts from believers support missions work around the world.

For God-given goals: For instance, you may set a goal to purchase a home, buy a more reliable car, get out of debt, or help your children attend college. While we shouldn’t be greedy, there is nothing wrong with seeking to improve our lives.

To provide for others: Follow the leading of the Spirit and generously assist those who are in genuine need.

7 God uses money to accomplish specific purposes.

To train us: The Bible promises that the Lord will supply. As we rely on Him for financial provision, God reveals His faithfulness to us. The Father also uses money as a tool to help us learn self-discipline. We need to learn to ask Him before making any purchase, rather than just making sure we can afford it.

To test us: *The Lord tests our faith.* He will withhold what we need until we turn from human resources and run to Him. *God tests our love for Him.* What we do with our money indicates what holds first place in our hearts (Matt. 6:21). *The Father tests our obedience.* For example, God instructs us to tithe (Mal. 3:10). How can you and I say we love the Lord if we are unwilling to obey His commands (John 15:14)?

For our testimony: Talk with others about how the Father miraculously provided for you. For example, share that tithing was a vital part of getting out of debt. When we testify about the Lord’s marvelous provision, the world listens and God is glorified.

To share the gospel: Jesus gave us the command to take the gospel to every creature (Matt. 28:19-20). The Lord wants us to experience the incredible joy of sharing the gift of eternal life with others. Giving is one way we participate in taking the Good News to the lost.

Conclusion:

Believers should evaluate the place money has in our lives. No matter how much money we have, you and I have a responsibility to discover God’s perspective on it. We should save, give, and tithe according to His instructions. If we simply use our finances to fulfill selfish desires, we are in rebellion against the Lord. But when we follow God’s commands in this area, He blesses us and provides for us in exciting ways.

From the Lord’s viewpoint, the issue is not how much money you have. The important thing is to be obedient in handling it.

This week, I challenge you to apply these scriptural principles regarding finances. If you aren’t already giving ten percent to the Lord, I encourage you to start there. God will be sure to honor your obedience. ✝

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