



No.5

FINANCES IN THE BIBLE

We also need to use our love, gifts and authority in Christ like Peter:

Acts 3:6-9

“Then Peter said, silver and gold coins I do not have, but that which I have, this I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, start walking and keep on walking. And having firmly grasped his right hand, he raised him up. And instantly his feet and ankle bones were made strong. And leaping up he stood and went walking about. And he entered the temple with them, walking about, leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking about and praising God.”

The beggar was asking for money, not healing. He wanted cash. Peter, though, had something much better than cash! He offered him physical healing instead. It is interesting to realise Peter had no money in his pocket. He had something more precious and wonderful, healing through the love of Jesus.

God has given us much more than finances! We are called to share our inheritance in Christ with those in need and to also pray for them and share God’s love, wisdom, compassion, care, expertise, time and effort - actually, anything we can give - generously in the Name of Jesus.

Money can be the source of greed, pride, and also fear, worries, anxiety

We should be more concerned about our relationship with Jesus than about money and material things. Worrying about money is not believing that God is our provider. Unbelief will always hinder us from receiving the promises of God.

Lack of provision means lack of wisdom

If a believer lives in constant lack of the essentials for life, this indicates a constant lack of God’s wisdom, which means that believer is not considering or seeking to apply God’s Word, not only in the area of finances, but in other areas also... What kind of seeds are we planting? How are we treating other people? How are we managing our finances? Do we honour and respect God’s Word? God’s wisdom will always give us the proper answers to our dilemmas.

James 3:17

“But the wisdom which is from above is essentially pure, then peaceable, sweetly reasonable, satisfied with less than its due, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free from insincerity.”

2 Peter 1:3

“Seeing that all things to us His divine power has generously given, the things which pertain to life and godliness, through the experiential knowledge [which the believer has] of the One who called us [into salvation] by means of His own glory and virtue.”

2 Corinthians 9:8

“Moreover, God is powerful to make every grace superabound to you in order that, having always an all-sufficiency in all things, you may superabound to every good work.”

Ephesians 4:28

The one who is stealing, let him no longer be stealing, but rather let him be laboring, working with his own hands that which is good, in order that he may be having that wherewith to be sharing with the one who is having need.

Should Christians have debts?

In our modern times we need to have God's wisdom in order to keep our finances in perspective. God invites us to ask Him for wisdom:

James 1:5

"And if, as is the case, anyone of you [when undergoing these trials] is deficient in wisdom, let him keep on presenting his request in the presence of the giving God who gives to all with simplicity and without reserve."

God's wisdom will always protect us from making mistakes. The Holy Spirit will always lead us to God's Word.

Proverbs 22:7

**The rich rules over the poor,
And the borrower becomes the lender's slave.**

This Scripture shows us that in general, borrowing money is not God's advice, however, we need to be wise and He wants us to be good stewards.

A simple example: borrowing money to purchase a house instead of paying high rent represents a good decision. Having to pay rent is already a debt, so why not invest your money in a house? In the long term it will become cheaper and you will have an asset for you and your family. You might start with a smaller house and some time in the future be able to afford a bigger one.

The "Instant" society

The mistake many make is to borrow money for luxury, i.e. a very big house, an expensive car, a boat, an aeroplane, more houses, more possessions, etc. **Some people want everything "NOW".**

The "never enough" society

Some people are never satisfied with what they have. They are not content, because they look at other people around them who have more wealth than them. Contentment in our hearts is a much greater treasure than wealth and riches. The believer needs to be grateful to God for His provision. What is God's provision?

A believer has received eternal life, God's promises, the inheritance in Christ, health, peace, joy, wisdom, God the Holy Spirit. The believer is already a blessed person and has no need to seek more material things.

The preoccupation of having riches

It is not correct to assume that every rich person will find it hard to enter the kingdom of God. Some Christians are good stewards, but we can surely assess that the majority of rich people will be preoccupied with keeping and/or expanding their riches. This is the danger: where we put our focus. When a person accumulates riches with the wrong motivation, they are then forced to invest their energy and effort into maintaining it. Once a person has become rich, to then lose their wealth would feel like they have failed which causes them to be consumed with fear of failure.

Mark 10:23-25

And Jesus, having glanced swiftly around, says to His disciples, How with difficulty will those who keep on holding on to wealth enter the kingdom of God. And the disciples were astonished at His words. And Jesus again answering, says to them, Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the sewing needle than for a wealthy man to enter the kingdom of God.