

Financial Basics.....

Finances are mentioned more in the Bible than nearly any subject.

Money- 140 times, Treasure-107 times, Wealth- 29 times, Rich-182 times, etc. Offerings are mentioned hundreds of times, plus a lot of references to usury, interest, etc.

Taken together, finances are mentioned more than heaven, hell, Satan and the second coming of Christ all put together-yet we hardly ever talk about it!!

Why is it that you want to be wealthy?

(1st Timothy 6:6-11) But Godliness with contentment is great gain. {7} for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we carry nothing out. {8} And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. {9} But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition, {10} For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith; and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. {11} But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness.

Financial freedom is not necessarily the same as having a lot of wealth. Having the wealth you need for the things you really need is sufficient! The real secret is in Contentment, not Covetousness! If a person is not content without riches, they will not be content with them! (V: 6,8,11) Verse 9 warns that those who "will be rich" are in danger if they have the wrong motive. Riches are not an end, they are a means! We should have three Biblical reasons for wanting wealth:

1) To be able to help others, we need money!

(Eccl 7:12) For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

(Eccl 10:19) A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: But money answereth all things. (Eph 4:28) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth (1st John 3:17-18) But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? {18} My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. Do things for others NOT expecting any repayment. The Lord Will re-pay.

2. To serve the Lord financially!

In the Old Testament, the tithe was the Lord's not ours!

(Lev 27:30) 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 unto the LORD.

Anyone can become wealthy if they are doing it with God's blessing and for the right reasons.
Remembering not rob from God what is his. (The First Fruit)

3. To care for our family and offspring.

We get in trouble if we desire wealth so we can be prideful, selfish, arrogant, or so that we no longer feel we have to seek the Lord.

The Basics.....

- **Using money properly and handling your finances the right way is harder than you think it is.**
- **It's like dieting, only with much slower results.**
- **You can not just buy whatever you wish.**
- **You don't ever need a NEW anything.**
- **If your Wife or Husband is not on your side it will be impossible.**
- **Don't make buying things your satisfaction in life.**
- **Make gifts, don't give gifts that you can't afford.**

