

Giv08 - **The Money Pit - 1 Tim 6:10**

This is our **8th Week** - talking about **GIVING UP**  
the **things** that **CONTROL US**

We **started talking** about **Giving Up** our **PRIDE** - that **controls** us  
We **talked** about **Giving Up** the Lordship of **SELF** - that **controls** us  
We **tlkd** abt **Giving Up** the Sin of **UNFORGIVENESS** - that **controls** us

**Today** - I'd like to **talk** about **1 more thing** -  
That **CONTROLS** So **Many** of us - **MORE** than we'd like to **admit**

I want to **talk** about **Giving Up** the **CONTROL**  
that **MONEY** has **OVER US**

There is **SO MUCH** in regard to our **MONEY**  
that we must learn to **GIVE UP, GIVE IN, & GIVE OVER**

In **Fact** - **just** me **saying** that - **causes** some of you  
to (**mentally**) **Hold On** to your money **TIGHTER** right now

**Which** (in just **1st min**) **already PROVES**  
The **significant CONTROL** - your **MONEY** - **has over you**

**Today** we want to **talk** about the **PIT**  
Of **being CONTROLLED** by our Money - **The Money Pit**

**And** - **we'll talk** about **HOW** to **get out** of that **PIT**

**Let's Pray**

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**So Often - MONEY is the LAST thing**  
a **Christian** will **Surrender Control** of to God

**Martin Luther** said there are **THREE Conversions** Necessary  
1) The **Heart**, 2) The **Mind**, 3) The **Wallet**

& the **Conversion** of the **WALLET**  
is **usually** the **LAST thing** we **Give Over** to God

**BECAUSE - MONEY** has So Much **CONTROL** over us

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Guys - We've **GOT** to **Learn** - to **SURRENDER** to **GOD**  
the **CONTROL** that **Money HAS** over **us**

Because our **LOVE for Money** - & the **CONTROL it has** over us

**Is What Makes the Difference**

Between a **Life of BONDAGE** to **Money**  
& the **Life of FREEDOM & JOY** in the area of **Money**

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We **THINK Money** is the **ANSWER** - But **SO OFTEN**  
**Money** is **Actually** the **Problem**

We've **all heard** the **HORROR Stories** of **Lottery Winners**  
& the **Rich & Famous** **Taking their own lives**  
Or **utterly Destroying** them

**But still - we think MONEY is the Answer**

We think **MONEY** will **FIX** our **PROBLEMS**

We think **MONEY** - Will **MAKE** things **RIGHT**

**BUT** - We are **SO WRONG**

## **The Bible's Warnings in this area - Are SO CLEAR**

But we are **So CONTROLLED by Money**

that We **refuse to hear** what **GOD** is **Shouting to us** in His Word

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**There** are about **500 Vs's** in the Bible - on **PRAYER**

**Fewer** than **500 Vs's** in the Bible - on **FAITH**

But **OVER 2,000 Vs's** on **MONEY & POSSESSIONS**

In fact - **approx 15%** of **everything Jesus taught** while on earth had to do with **MONEY & POSSESSIONS**

Jesus **taught MORE** on **MONEY**  
**than** He did on **HEAVEN** & **HELL** Combined

**& the BULK of Jesus' teaching on this subject**

Was on the **DANGER** of **MONEY**

& **WARNINGS** to **NOT Love** or **Be CONTROLLED** by it

**Warnings** - About the **MONEY PIT** - **Thru-Out** the **Bible** !

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**Now** - **Most** of us have **heard** - It's **NOT MONEY** in & of itself  
it's the **LOVE of Money** - that's **the problem**  
& ***That IS TRUE***

### **1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)**

***10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.***

***The LOVE of money is the root of all kinds of evil - & for the LOVE of Money - many have wandered from the faith and have pierced themselves thru with many sorrows***

& right about now - There are Many who would say -  
***SEE, SEE - It's the LOVE of MONEY - NOT Money itself***

& then they would quickly commit to WORK HARDER  
to not APPEAR to Love Money so much themselves

**Most of us have HEARD the Bible's WARNINGS about Money  
& we don't want to BLATANTLY IGNORE the Bible's Warnings  
& So instead - we SUBTLY IGNORE the Bible's Warnings**

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### **Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)**

***5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."***

***Keep your life free from love of money -  
be content with what you have -***

***Rest in God's Promise - He will never leave you nor forsake you -***

**Can we just be HONEST with OURSELVES for a minute**

I'm **NOT Asking** you to be **HONEST** with **ANYONE Else** right now  
Just be Honest with **YOURSELF** - & **GOD**

***Are you Keeping your life FREE from the LOVE of MONEY?  
Are you truly CONTENT with WHAT God has GIVEN you?***

Is His **PROMISE** - *to Never Leave you Nor Forsake you* -  
Truly a **Higher Priority** in your life - than **having MONEY** ?

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**God is Interested - in the Condition of our HEART  
Toward Money - - & *He KNOWS what it Truly is***

**But we So Easily Deceive OURSELVES in this Area**

**Because we're afraid of what we might have to do  
if we admit - to how we Truly Feel about Money**

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**Does Money have a HOLD on Us ?**

Do we honestly THINK - Money is the Answer . . . ?

Now - Obviously - A Good Christian  
we would never admit to that - *Not Out loud*

But remember - we're just being Honest  
with OURSELVES & GOD right now

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So - Here's a quick TEST:

**When you think about How to FIX things in your life  
is MORE MONEY Your FIRST answer?**

If so - There is a CHANCE - That you MIGHT BE  
Trusting in MONEY - More than Trusting in GOD

& Your Might Be - Looking to MONEY to Be your Answer  
Instead of Looking to GOD to be your answer

& in DOING SO  
You MIGHT Be SENDING your HEART

to a Place of BONDAGE & DESPAIR - Called - The MONEY PIT

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Let's Turn over to Matthew Ch 6

MAT 6 is a GREAT CH - for you to Meditate on

Of the FIVE Sections there - THREE are about MONEY

So 1st - Let's talk about

how THE CHOICES you Make w/ your MONEY

### DETERMINE WHERE

Your Heart will be GOING in the FUTURE

Jesus says - HOW we Handle our Money

Determines WHERE Our Heart - WILL BE

### Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV)

*19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,*

*20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

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

NOTICE - Jesus Doesn't Say -

*Where your treasure IS, that is where your Heart IS*

But He says - WHERE you're Treasure is TODAY

is WHERE Your Heart WILL BE - in the FUTURE

So - If you're saying - No, - It's just for NOW

I just need Money NOW, I just need to Focus on Money - NOW

Can I just tell you - Jesus says

*Where you CHOOSE to put your treasure TODAY  
is WHERE our heart will BE in the Future*

The **MORE** you **ARE Focused On**  
& **CONTROLLED** by Money **TODAY** . . .

The **MORE** you **WILL BE Focused On**  
& **CONTROLLED** by Money in **The FUTURE**

The **GOOD NEWS** is - the **MORE** you have the **Right Heart**  
about **Money TODAY**

Means the **More** you will have the **Right Heart**  
about **MONEY IN the FUTURE**

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**THAT** is what **MAT 6:21** says

& one of the **Best Known Warnings** about **MONEY**  
is **Just THREE Vs's** later in

**Matthew 6:24 (ESV)**

***24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.***

And **again** we Might Say - ***I'm Not Serving Money***  
***I just NEED Money - that's where I get my SECURITY***

***But THAT doesn't mean I'm SERVING Money***  
***or that it has CONTROL over me - - - Are you sure . . .?***

Because if **MONEY** is Your **ANSWER (& it's** you're **SECURITY)**  
& **it's What** you are **TRUSTING** in

You **MIGHT** Have a **DESPERATE need**  
to **SURRENDER** this **area** of your **life** - **to God**

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**WHY Not - Right now**

**While you're being honest with Just Yourself & God . . .**

Why not **Begin** to **GIVE UP** your **Trust in MONEY**

Why not **Begin** to **GIVE UP** your **Desire for MONEY**

**Why Not Begin to SURRENDER this to God**

**& TRUST Him** instead of **MONEY**

**& SEEK HIM** instead of **MONEY**

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We have **GOD'S WORD** - We Have **HIS PROMISE**

**& Cont'g** in **MAT Ch 6** - **IN** the **VERY** Next **VS**

**Jesus** begins to **explain** - **HOW** - **& WHY** - We **need** to  
**STOP Trusting In** **& Desiring Money** - **Instead of GOD**

You **should** really **spend** some **time** in **Mat 6:25-34**  
**Because** I **can't go** thru it all here - I can **only survey** it

**Jesus begins in Mat 6:25 by saying**

***Stop worrying about your everyday life - What you Eat, Drink,  
Wear - Isn't life more than these things?***

**& then Jesus goes to Great Lengths** -  
to **Explain How WELL God takes care** of all **that is HIS**

**& so - if WE are GOD'S**  
**Then** we can **absolutely TRUST GOD** to **take care** of **US**



**& then we read in Matthew 6:31–32 (NLT)**

***31 “So don’t worry about these (daily life) things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’***

***32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.***

**& You MIGHT Say**

Yeah But if I DON’T WORRY about ALL those things . . .

**HOW am I gonna GET all the Stuff I NEED?**

Again - V.32 - ***These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers***

***Yeah, But - Yeah But***

***These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers***

God has MADE a WAY - For us to THINK DIFFERENTLY,

& ACT Differently - than UNBELIEVERS

**& It is in Matthew 6:33 - Jesus says (NLT)**

***33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.***

**Jesus is talking about a Matter of Priority - Isn’t He?**

***Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and God will give you everything you need***

**It’s All about WHAT your HEART IS SET ON**

It’s about - WHAT you are FOCUSED On

It’s about - WHAT CONTROLS You

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& - As Christians - HOW are we supposed to Handle something that CONTROLS us?

The Bible Calls us to RELEASE that thing to God

To GIVE it OVER to Him

To SURRENDER it to Him

& When it comes to our Money having Control over us  
HOW are we supposed to do this?

What does it LOOK LIKE

when our Money No Longer has CONTROL over us ?

It LOOKS LIKE - Us starting to LIVE (in regard to our money)  
AS God has CALLED us to LIVE

We start actually PAYING ATTENTION  
to the 2,000 Vs's about Money in the Bible

Instead of Politely IGNORING them  
& Giving Lip Service to God (*which He hates*)

We start actually SURRENDERING CONTROL of our Money to God  
We start LIVING as He Calls us to LIVE  
We start GIVING as He Calls us to GIVE

& some of you are like - *“Oh man, I knew it, what a BUMMER, If I do this I'm gonna have to start giving up some of my money - great”*

Again - THAT would be an INDICATION - that you Might have  
an INCORRECT UNDERSTANDING of God's Economy

& when you Begin to have a  
CORRECT UNDERSTANDING of God's Economy

You'll begin to say - *Alright, I'm finally going to be **FREE** from my **BONDAGE** to money,*  
& finally begin to live a **JOY-FILLED LIFE** in my finances,  
& finally get to **EXPERIENCE GOD** meeting all my needs !

Guys - When we **FINALLY** start to **Surrender**  
this **Critical Area** of our lives

It **LOOKS LIKE FREEDOM** - From The **BONDAGE** - & **FEAR** -  
of **Being CONTROLLED** by **MONEY** - *THAT is what it looks like*

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& there are **Clear SIGNS** - that a **Christian** has **begun** to  
**SURRENDER** to God - & **TRUST** God - in this Area

*You know what a **TELL** is, Right?*

A **TELL** is an **Unknowing SIGN** a **Poker player** gives -  
as to **what cards** He's **REALLY** Holding

Here's your **TELL** in this Area - - **IT'S HOW YOU GIVE**

The way we **GIVE** is a **TELL** - It's a **Sure SIGN**  
of **WHAT** we **BELIEVE** - **About GOD** - & **Our MONEY**

**PLS** - Have **the courage** - to **SEE your GIVING** as a **TELL**

As a **SIGN** - of **Whether** you've **Surrendered CONTROL** of your  
**MONEY** to **GOD** - Or Whether **MONEY** Still has **CONTROL** of **YOU**

How we **GIVE** - is a **Clear Sign**  
of **where** are **Heart** is **Truly AT** - **Between GOD** - & **MONEY**

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So - Let's Close w/ a quick REVIEW of WHAT it LOOKS LIKE  
When we DO HAVE the Right Heart toward Money - & Giving

The Bible is FULL of Evidence & Examples - of what it looks like  
when our Money doesn't have a HOLD on us

But we only have time to look at ONE quick example

Turn over to 2Cor Ch 8 - I wish I could teach ALL of Ch's 8 & 9  
But Make a note pls - to Read 2Cor Ch's 8 & 9 (homework)

In 2Cor 8 & 9 - Paul is encouraging the Corinthians  
to Embrace GIVING as a Joy-Filled Part  
of their Relationship with the Lord

& he uses the churches in Macedonia as an EXAMPLE  
to explain this truth to us

I'm going to read just a bit here  
But PLEASE Read both Ch's yourself later

### 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (NLT)

*1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia.*

*2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor.  
But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. (troubled & poor - but still JOY, & GIVING)*

*3 For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.*

*4 They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.*

What an INCREDIBLE description of people who understand GIVING

Tho they were Tested by many Troubles - & very poor  
they were Also FILLED with ABUNDANT JOY

& it OVERFLOWED in RICH GENEROSITY !!

Warren Weirsbe

*No computer could analyze this amazing formula: great affliction  
and deep poverty plus grace = abundant joy and abounding  
giving!*

Paul cont's in 2Cor 8:5 (NLT)

*5 They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was  
to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted  
them to do.*

FIRST - they Gave THEMSELVES Completely to the Lord

Then - They saw themselves as STEWARDS - NOT Owners  
of ALL that God had GIVEN Them

& from THAT Point on - Giving became a JOY !!

& they entered a NEW level of their Relationship with the Lord

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I wish I could teach more about how GIVING is really the ANSWER  
to the BONDAGE that MONEY has so many of us in

We have THREE other good Msgs on Giving - So if God convicts you  
in this area - Just ask Pam at WBM for those

But ALL I'm Saying here is - You can LOOK at the WAY you FEEL  
about MONEY - & GIVING . . . & you can TELL - FOR SURE

Whether Money has you in it's CONTROLLING GRIP - Or Not

How **TIGHTLY** you **HOLD on to your money**  
How **DEEPLY** you **TRUST in your MOney**  
How **MUCH** you **feel** it is **the ANSWER** to your problems . . .  
**AND** . . . **How** you **GIVE** - or **NOT** - **to the Lord**

**These** are all **TELLS** - They are **CLEAR Signs**  
of **whether Money** has you in its **DANGEROUS GRIP**

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& **IF it does** - **God** has **the Answer** for you

**GIVE this area of your life - OVER to Him**  
**TRUST** Him  
**HONOR** Him

**BELIEVE** what God **SAYS** - About your **MONEY**  
Both the **Warnings** - & the **Promises**

**DON'T** Be afraid to **LOOK INTO** What God **says**  
About **HOW** we should **View**, & **Treat** - Our **MONEY**

For the **MOST PART** - Christians **REFUSE to LOOK INTO**  
**What God says** About **MONEY**

**Because** they're **AFRAID** it might **COST THEM** - *Some of theirs*

**If that** is **you** - I **say** - **AS GENTLY** as I possibly **can**

You **MAY** very well  
be **TOTALLY IGNORANT** of HOW **GOD'S ECONOMY** works

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**HERE** is how **God's Economy Works**

**Proverbs 3:9–10 (NLT)**

*9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.*

*10 Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.*

**DON'T BE** in **BONDAGE** to your **LOVE of MONEY**  
**BREAK** the **CONTROL** that **MONEY** has **over you**

**BE WILLING TO:**

**GIVE UP** your **Pride**

**GIVE IN** to the **Lordship of Jesus Christ**

**GIVE OVER** to God - **What you Can't HANDLE**

**INCLUDING** your **Love for Money**  
& **its CONTROL** over your **Life**

**Let's Pray**