

Spiritual Wisdom and Wealth

What characterizes the one who is wise?

What is spiritual wisdom?

**Spiritual wisdom is understanding and applying
God's perspective to life's situations.**

Prov 4:7 NIV

Wisdom in handling money or material wealth?

- **Wisdom is not about how much money you have or do not have because the rich and the poor alike can act very unwisely when money comes into their hands.**
- **4 ways you can identify a wise person when it comes to money**
 - By one's **attitude (how they relate)** toward money.
 - By their ability to **delay gratification**.
 - By the **way money is acquired**.
 - And by the **way money is used**.

Our attitude towards money

- ***Jesus gave a parable of the unjust servant in Luke 16:1-15***
- **Lessons:**
 - *Money and fame don't last forever...*
 - *Remember we are stewards of whatever we have...*
 - *Use what you have now to make room for yourself here on earth and make friends with God (**Luke 10:21**).*
 - *Don't let money become a god in your life...*
 - **1 Tim 6:17-19 NIV**

We all need
self-control
when handling
money

- One of the chief qualities of a person who has **self-control** is **delayed gratification**.
- **Delayed gratification** is the ability to wait in order to obtain something that one wants.
- **God wants us to be in control of our lives:**
 - Control over our appetites.
 - Control over our spirits.
 - Control over our financial decisions.
- **Prov 25:28; James 1:13-15; Prov 13:17**

God is intimately concerned with the way we earn a living or obtain money.

- **Prov. 10:2-** *“Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death.”*
- **Prov 20:17 NLT** – *“Stolen bread tastes sweet, but it turns to gravel in the mouth.”*
- **Prov 21:27** – *“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; How much more when he brings it with wicked intent!”*
- **Prov 11:1** says, *“Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but an accurate weight is His delight.”*
- **Amos 8:5...** *"You say, 'When will the New Moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may market wheat? We can reduce the **ephah**, increase the **shekel**, and cheat with dishonest **scales**.'"*

How we spend money matters to God

- We need to be wise on how we spend money because when **God blesses us**, he also gives us the **responsibility of** managing the resources well. **Prov 19:17**
- **When it comes to how we spend money, we have an obligation:**
 - To give to God. **Prov 3:9-10; 2 Cor 9:7**
 - To provide for the needs of our own household. **1 Tim 5:8**
 - To provide for the needs of the poor and needy around us. **1 John 3:17-18; Prov 3:27-28; 11:24-26**