

Can We Pass The Money Test

STUDY GUIDE

And as we've seen up to this point, we are the object of His blessing.

Ephesians 3:20

While money is neither evil nor righteous in itself, it does take upon itself the personality or spirit of the person who has it.

Therefore, if you are not totally committed to righteousness, you will do wrong things with money. And in the end, that money will destroy you.

2 Kings 4

Can You Handle Being Rich?

Deuteronomy 8:18

There are two spectrums of money's; **First**, there is the power to get money.

Then, there is the power to handle money. The power to keep it.

Ephesians 3:20

As a born-again believer, we need the power of God — His anointing — constantly at work within us. For it is by His Spirit and the revelation of His Word that we handle the wealth and riches He permits us to steward, or manage. What we need, however, is to be developed in how to apply that power as a money manager.

Luke 16:1-13

Luke 16:2

Being a good steward, being a good money manager, does not mean buying cheap toiletries and turning out the lights all the time, though we all have a responsibility to not be wasteful.

John 6:12

The Lord was not wasteful.

Many are financially broke simply because we are wasteful with what we already have. We're not gathering up the fragments which could amount to a lot. Many of us have a lot of things lying around that we could turn into money and at least use as seed to sow for an even greater harvest.

Some people in the Church may think they're one of God's stewards, but they're really not. Actually, they're like this guy trying to "make it" on his own.

How about you? Do you really consider your job as your only hope?

A large part of the Church has been temporarily put out of stewardship because God cannot trust them to take care of His business.

They're not tithing. They're not giving offerings.

They're not taking care of their men of God—their ministers of the gospel—as they should

Who wants a thief for a manager?

A good sinner is crooked and knows how to work the system. He connives his way to the top, and even gains respect for it.

The bottom line is, the world does a far better job of working their system than we do ours.

Luke 16:13

Much of the Church has had the wrong idea about money because they have misinterpreted this verse.

Yes, it is saying that no man can serve two masters. But what people have heard in their religious minds is, God's telling me to leave this money thing alone.

God is not telling you to keep your hands off money. We've already established that wealth and riches are yours by covenant right. What God is telling you to do is to take authority over it.

Take authority over your money.

Luke 16:10-11

In other words, take the money test.

God will check you out with the least before He advances you to more. That means anyone can qualify right where you are in life. Just be willing to become more faithful with what you have now. Be quick to do what God tells you to do with it. **Don't let it control you. You control it.**

Money's Danger Zones

1 Timothy 6:10

It doesn't say money is the root of all evil, it says the **love of money** is the root of all evil.

Remember, money in itself is neither evil nor righteous. It's our attitude and behavior concerning money that either brings righteousness or evil onto the scene. That means you could have all the money in the world and still walk righteous and blameless in God's eyes.

1 Timothy 6:17-18

Yes, God "giveth us richly all things to enjoy." To enjoy those things, however, there are conditions.

First, Paul says to "be not highminded."

Did you know you can be broke and still be high-minded?

Check yourself.

Are you able to handle correction well? How about from your pastor? Or, your boss at work? Do you go behind my back and gossip about me or put me down?

Better, yet. How about people who are a little better off than you—a bigger house, a newer car, nicer clothes? If you see someone who is blessed and you have a hard time with what they have, that's a good indication that you are high-minded.

1 Peter 5:6

A **second** danger zone to avoid is trusting in uncertain riches.

It's that "stuff" that will call you away from God unless you use it for God.

Yes, get yourself the nicest car on the lot, but glorify God in it. Let people see and hear you glorify God over the things you have received from Him. Let them know that God is a good God and that it was He who got those things for you. That's how you can use your blessings for Him.

If you are not properly handling what you have right now, you're not hearing God and doing what He tells you to do with your money—then you are trusting in uncertain riches.

If you don't trust God enough to do what He tells you to do with what you have, then you are actually saying, "God, I trust the money I have in the bank more than I trust you."

Psalm 34:8-10

REMEMBER THESE COVENANT PROMISES

Deuteronomy 8:18

James 1:17

Psalms 23:1

Philippians 4:19

Two Sides to Receiving

1 Timothy 6:18

Luke 6:38 (spiritual law of exchange)

Philippians 4:19

What many of us do not understand, however, is that verse 19 does not work by itself. There was an exchange made before the Apostle Paul got to that verse.

Philippians 4:14-18

Notice the word **communicate** in verses 14 and 15. Paul explains that their communicating was all about giving — and — receiving. It was all about exchange.

Expectation is what you hold on to until you see a manifestation of your harvest.

Now, it's up to you to activate this spiritual law of exchange. And you activate it by giving.

You have to work both sides of the system — the giving. . . then receiving, the sowing. . . then reaping — not just try to cash in on part of it, the receiving part.

We must deposit into an account from which God can supply "all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. "

Just remember, take authority over every dollar you have — whether it's \$100, or \$10,000. Take your stand of authority and make Jesus the Lord over every dollar you handle. Then listen to Him and obey Him as to what you are to do with it.

If we have faith for financial abundance, if we have wisdom and understanding, if we are faithful — we will pass the money test. . . and we will step over into a realm of wealth and riches beyond our wildest dreams and imaginations.