

# The Centered Leader















These are the things you are to teach and insist on. If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing.



They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.



But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.



Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

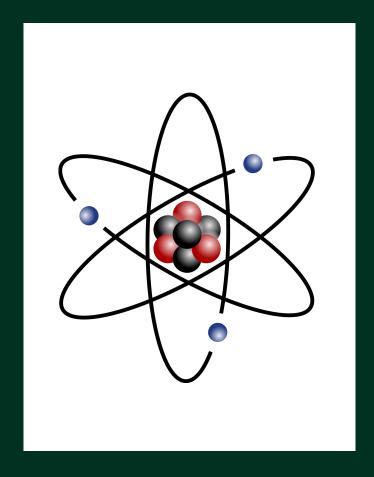


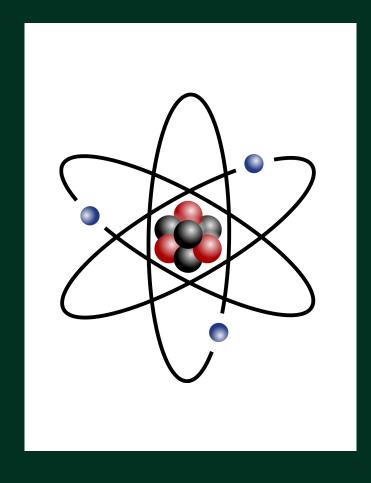


"When people choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing; they believe in anything."

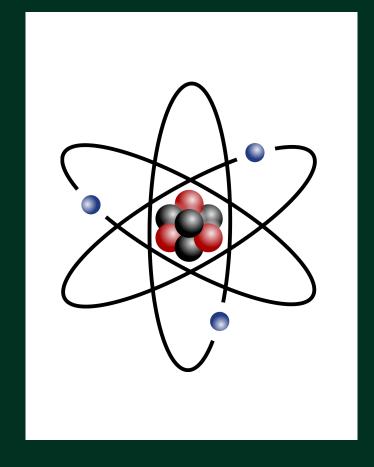
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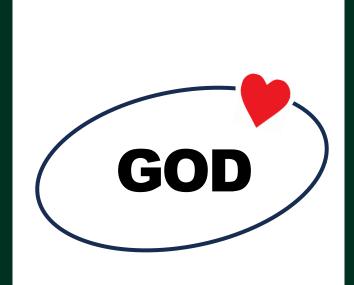












# FIND THE CENTER



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"the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and godly teaching"





"But godliness with contentment is great gain."



#### **Psalm 4:7**

You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.



#### **Psalm 16:11**

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.



#### **Psalm 37:4**

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.



#### Psalm 73:25-26

Whom have I in heaven but you?

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart

and my portion forever.





"For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it."



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**PRINCIPLE 1:** Live in accordance with the *fleeting nature* of this life and the *supreme value* of the next.



"At low levels, money improves well-being because it alleviates the problems of poverty. People can erase calorie deficits, educate their kids, and go to the doctor—in other words, they can lower their *un*happiness.

Arthur Brooks



"But once you earn a solid living, a billionaire is not likely to be any happier than you are, because beyond a certain income, there's no more material deprivation to relieve. For the most part, remediating the small size of your TV or the low horsepower of your car has no effect on your unhappiness whatsoever."

Arthur Brooks



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**PRINCIPLE 2:** *Discipline* your desires so that you distinguish between needs and wants.



#### **Matthew 6:31-33**

Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



#### 1 Peter 2:9-11

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light ... Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.



"Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap....For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."



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**PRINCIPLE 3** Keep yourself **free** by keeping yourself free from the love of money.



### **Luke 12:15**

"Watch out! Be on your guard against *all kinds* of greed; a man's life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."



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acquisitiveness workaholism lying gambling hoarding stinginess lack of generosity ingratitude self-indulgence over-spending **Envy** 



"Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap....For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

**PRINCIPLE 3** Keep yourself free by keeping yourself free from the love of money.



Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world...

WB Yeats



#### Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."



## Philippians 4:12-13

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through him who gives me strength.



#### 2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all *sufficiency* in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.



