

James: Doing > Hearing
Called to Ultimate Wealth
James 1:9-12

Whether in want or in wealth, money issues can _____ our hearts from God.

In James' day, 90% of the Roman empire lived in poverty. 10% of the populous controlled the land, the power, and the wealth. There was no middle class. The gulf that separated the haves from the have-nots was enormous. By contrast, the poorest Americans today rank among the top 2% in the world.

THREE LIES OF WEALTH

Wealth defines my _____.

Wealth makes me _____.

Wealth protects my _____.

Jesus warned us of how dangerous material _____ can be to our spiritual _____.
He gave money a personal name and spoke of it as a rival god, insisting that we must make a choice to serve God or Money.

The trials of our faith are exceedingly helpful, because, whether poor or rich, they teach us the importance of pursuing _____ wealth, rather than being duped by the empty promises of _____ wealth.

THE POOR SHOULD EXULT (REJOICE/BOAST) IN THEIR HIGH POSITION (V. 9)

- Kingdom S_____ (Hebrews 12:22-24; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:17-20)
- Kingdom S_____ (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- Kingdom S_____ (John 14:1ff)

THE RICH SHOULD EXULT (REJOICE/BOAST) IN THEIR LOW POSITION (V. 10-11)

Trials teach the rich that...

...we are just as _____ by sin and dependent on God. (Matthew 5:3-5)

...we are just as needful of _____. (Matthew 5:7-9)

...we are just as vulnerable to _____. (v. 11; Matthew 6:19-34)

...we are even more vulnerable to _____ and _____. (Matthew 13:22; Mark 10:24; Revelation 3:17)

...we are even more responsible to serve _____, (Luke 12:48)

TWO DISCIPLINES OF THOSE WHO KNOW ULTIMATE WEALTH

_____ – James 2:14-17

_____ – James 5:17-18

Philippians 4:11-13 *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me*

John Wesley

- (younger) *"When I have any money, I get rid of it as quickly as possible, lest it finds a way into my heart."*
- (older) *"Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can."*

IRS Statistics of Income (2014)

| ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME | AVERAGE CHARITABLE DEDUCTION | % OF AGI |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Under \$25,000</i> | \$1,874 | 12.3% |
| <i>\$25,000-\$50,000</i> | \$2,594 | 6.8% |
| <i>\$50,000-\$75,000</i> | \$2,970 | 4.8% |
| <i>\$75,000-\$100,000</i> | \$3,356 | 3.8% |
| <i>\$100,000-\$200,000</i> | \$4,130 | 3% |
| <i>\$200,000-\$500,000</i> | \$7,424 | 2.6% |
| <i>\$500,000-\$1,000,000</i> | \$18,615 | 2.8% |
| <i>\$1,000,000-\$2,000,000</i> | \$43,944 | 3.2% |
| <i>\$2,000,000 or more</i> | \$382,953 | 5.6% |

Note: The overall average quoted here only refers to taxpayers who itemize.

Source: Matthew Frankel, CFP (TMFMathGuy) Nov 27, 2016

Trials are the great _____.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *Thus says Yahweh: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am Yahweh who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares Yahweh."*

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

"We often live as if we are the living on the way to the dying. But God's Word is clear; we are the dying on the way to the living." (Source Unknown)

Hebrews 11:25, 26 *Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasure of Egypt, because he was looking forward to his reward!*

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Whether in want or in wealth, money issues can **STEAL** our hearts from God.

In James' day, 90% of the Roman empire lived in poverty. 10% of the populous controlled the land, the power, and the wealth. There was no middle class. The gulf that separated the haves from the have-nots was enormous. By contrast, the poorest Americans today rank among the top 2% in the world.

THREE LIES OF WEALTH

Wealth defines my **WORTH**.

Wealth makes me **POWERFUL**.

Wealth protects my **FUTURE**.

Jesus warned us of how dangerous material **WEALTH** can be to our spiritual **HEALTH**. He gave money a personal name and spoke of it as a rival god, insisting that we must make a choice to serve God or Money.

The trials of our faith are exceedingly helpful, because, whether poor or rich, they teach us the importance of pursuing **ULTIMATE** wealth, rather than being duped by the empty promises of **EARTHLY** wealth.

THE POOR SHOULD EXULT (REJOICE/BOAST) IN THEIR HIGH POSITION (V. 9)

- Kingdom S**IGNIFICANCE** (Hebrews 12:22-24; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:17-20)
- Kingdom S**TRENGTH** (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- Kingdom S**ECURITY** (John 14:1ff)

THE RICH SHOULD EXULT (REJOICE/BOAST) IN THEIR LOW POSITION (V. 10-11)

Trials teach the rich that...

...we are just as **BROKEN** by sin and dependent on God. (Matthew 5:3-5)

...we are just as needful of **OTHERS**. (Matthew 5:7-9)

...we are just as vulnerable to **DEATH**. (v. 11, Matthew 6:19-34)

...we are even more vulnerable to **DECEPTION** and **DISTRACTION**. (Matthew 13:22; Mark 10:24; Revelation. 3:17)

...we are even more responsible to serve **HUMAN NEED**, (Luke 12:48)

TWO DISCIPLINES OF THOSE WHO KNOW ULTIMATE WEALTH

GIVING – James 2:14-17

PRAYER – James 5:17-18

Philippians 4:11-13 *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me*

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Trials are the great **EQUALIZERS**.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *Thus says Yahweh: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am Yahweh who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares Yahweh."*

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