

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH HOUR

July 12, 2020

### Big Ten Series, Number 5: Finances

Have you ever struggled with finances? How often does the Bible discuss money and possessions relative to other topics? Why might that be?

**Psalm 50:10-12:** <sup>10</sup> For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. <sup>11</sup> I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. <sup>12</sup> “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

To whom does “our” money belong? How should this fact influence our finances?

**Deuteronomy 8:18:** <sup>18</sup> You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Based on this verse, what would you tell someone who says, “I have worked hard to earn what I have. God didn’t give me anything!”?

**Malachi 3:10:** <sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

What is a tithe? Do we have to tithe? Is the principle of the tithe law or gospel? Why? What does “put me to the test” mean? What is God’s promise?

**2 Chronicles 31:5:** <sup>5</sup> As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.

What are firstfruits? Why did God command that the firstfruits be brought to the temple and given to the Levites? What is the lesson for us today?

**Psalm 51:16-17:** <sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Does God need or want our money? What does contrite mean? What does God really want from us? (Hint: see Matthew 6:21; 22:37 and Hebrews 10:22)

**1 Timothy 6:9-10:** <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

What is a snare? Can you think of examples where the craving for or misuse of riches has not ended well?

**1 Timothy 6:6-8:** <sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

What is contentment? Why is godliness with contentment “great gain?”

**Philippians 4:11-13:** <sup>11</sup> Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

How do we learn to be content? Who gives us the strength to be content?

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8:** <sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> 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.

What is sowing and reaping? How can we be cheerful givers? Who is the source of our sufficiency?

**Hebrews 13:5-6:** <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

How do the following words relate to the text above? Greed, Envy, Worry, Anxiety, Contentment, Peace, Generosity, Cheerfulness.

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### Bonus Scriptures on Finances

**Matthew 6:24:** 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.

**Proverbs 23:4-5:** Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

**Proverbs 6:9-11:** <sup>9</sup> How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? <sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>11</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

**Luke 8:14:** And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

**Ecclesiastes 5:10:** He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

**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.

**Psalms 62:10b:** If riches increase, set not your heart on them.

**Luke 16:14-15:** The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him [Jesus]. And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

**Proverbs 3:27:** Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

**2 Corinthians 9:7:** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**Proverbs 22:9:** Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

**Matthew 6:2-5:** Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**Proverbs 13:11:** Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

**1 Corinthians 16:2:** On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

**Proverbs 13:7:** One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

**Romans 14:8:** For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

**Proverbs 11:28:** Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

**Proverbs 28:25:** A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched.

**Luke 12:15:** And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

**Proverbs 10:4:** A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

**Colossians 3:23-24:** <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

**Proverbs 14:23:** In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.

**Romans 13:8:** Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

**Proverbs 22:26-27:** Do not be among those who give pledges, among those who become guarantors for debts. If you have nothing with which to pay, why should he take your bed from under you?

**Matthew 6:33:** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Romans 8:32:** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

**Psalms 37:4:** Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**James 1:17:** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.