

8. FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

The holy art of the child of God is so to possess the things that are seen, that he can truly say that nothing on earth delights him but his God. . . Never let it be said that he who has God and God alone has nothing but God, for he who has God, has in Him everything. —Abraham Kuyper, To Be Near Unto God

1. All wealth should be viewed as a gift from God.

** When God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. (Eccl. 5:19 NIV)*

** The blessing of the LORD makes a person rich. (Prov. 10:22 NLT)*

** The rich and the poor have this in common. The LORD made them both. (Prov. 22:2 NLT)*

2. Even in times of material scarcity, contentment should be a hallmark of our life in Christ.

** I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:11-13 NASB)*

** Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having good and clothing, with these we shall be content. (1 Tim. 6:6-8 NKJV)*

** Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have. (Heb. 13:5 NASB)*

** Beware! Don't be greedy for what you don't have. Real life is not measured by how much we own. (Lk. 12:15 NLT)*

3. Riches can become a source of pride and self-confidence, drawing us away from the Lord.

** This is what the LORD says, Let not the wise men boast in his wisdom, or the mighty man in his might, or the rich man in his riches Let them boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who is just and righteous, whose love is unending and that I delight in these things I the LORD have spoken. (Jerm. 9:23-24 NLT)*

** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Tim. 6:10 NIV)*

** How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. (Lk. 18:25 NIV)*

4. God's infinite resources and power are adequate to meet our daily needs in times of financial difficulty.

** Give us this day our daily bread. (Mt. 6:11)*

** My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19 NIV)*

** So 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, all these things will be given to you as well. (Mt. 6:31-33 NIV)*

5. It is impossible to give simultaneous allegiance to money and to the Lord.

** No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Lk. 16:13 NLT)*

6. Generosity shown to those in need represents an investment in eternity.

** Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money which will soon be gone. But their trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future is that they may take hold of real life. (1 Tim. 6:17-18 NLT)*

PRAYER

Lord, I need your perspective on all that is material. The world shouts at me that things make my life meaningful but I know better. Remind me that my real treasure is eternal. Root from my heart those things that I cherish more than I cherish you. Create in me a desire to share with those in need out of the abundance with which I have been blessed. Enable me in the lean years to trust you with my welfare and the welfare of my family. This I pray in the name of my Savior who was rich, yet for my sake became poor.

PROMISE

My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19 NIV)