

Finances and the Value of Wealth in Life and Ministry

“17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. 18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18 KJV)

Finances are one of the most crucial things in the life of individuals, families, and the church and ministry. There is a general opinion that God can work even without finances, and that is true in cases where the people involved know how to handle and deal with finances. But the view that God can work without finances will not come true if the individuals, families, or churches involved do not know how to commit their lives to God and handle their finances in the proper way. Those who know the Scripture and follow God's statutes pertaining to finances will know and experience that God will work with them even if they start from a very low capital or even no capital at all because they know how to apply the Word of God and they know how to climb the rings of the ladder of progress in their lives.

The Lord has given us the power and the ability to possess and to retain the blessings and the wealth that He has and will give us. There is no self-righteousness or boasting about that; all what we have has come from the Lord, whether it's finances, resources, strength, various kinds of abilities, and the wisdom from God's Word, including our repentance and our obedience to all His instructions. *“25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.” (Deuteronomy 6:25 KJV)* The point that I need to stress here is that we should not think that we have made ourselves wealthy, but the Lord in His grace and mercy has granted us wealth and all what we have is from Him.

There is a purpose for our lives; God has ordained us to live on earth for a certain period of time so that we might serve that purpose and that plan of God. There is a purpose why God has given us the power and the ability to have wealth and that is, in order to serve Him.

In this message I am not speaking about prosperity Gospel, neither am I saying we should put our trust on finances or wealth, *“17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.” (1 Timothy 6:17 KJV)* But the point here is that God wants us to be a blessing to others. God's will for us is to be good stewards of what He is giving to us so that we can be more effective in sharing the blessings and the Gospel with other people. Spiritual blessings, as well as material blessings, are required to promote the work of God and make His blessings available to others. God wants us to be more effective in using all that He is giving to us. God in His Word has principles that we must know, follow, and apply in our lives to accumulate wealth that will be used for His glory:

I am about 60 years old, and I have passed through various stages in my life with varying levels of income and I can testify that obedience to God's Word is crucial to maintain a balanced status of finances and to have wealth that will help us to serve God's purpose in our lives and in the lives of the people around us, even to the next generation.

I decided to pen down what God revealed to me so that it would be a good reminder to all my co-workers and disciples, to those who love the truth, and to the next generation after my decease. I decided to put down in writing what God has revealed to me in order to impart important instructions from God's Word about the value of finances in maintaining our mission on earth while we are waiting for Christ's coming: *“12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.” (2 Peter 1:12-15 KJV)*

There are noble people who lived in order to serve the purpose of God in their lives. They have pure hearts and have no greed or want for dishonest gain: *“21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.” (Exodus 18:21 KJV)* *“15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil.” (Isaiah 33:15 KJV)* Those with noble hearts will be established by God, and God will bless them with financial wealth so that they can continue to pursue and achieve God's plans.

On the other end of the spectrum, there are those who have wrong motives and use ministry for dishonest gain, or for personal gain, *“and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward.” (Jude 1:11 KJV)* *“29 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?” (1 Samuel 2:29 KJV)* *“5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.” (1 Timothy 6:5 KJV)*

We need to teach and expound these things to our disciples and discipline our workers so they might obtain perfect hearts with regard to finances so that their service and ministry would be acceptable to the Lord and they would be rewarded by Him. Fearing God and walking according to His Word and in His ways is the power to produce wealth that will provide us, our families, our churches, and ministries the sufficient finances to live for the glory of God and to serve Him.

God is Not Against Our Having Wealth: *“12 For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.” (Ecclesiastes 7:12 KJV)* *“19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.” (Ecclesiastes 10:19 KJV)*

God is not against having riches and wealth as some think. God has given His people wealth that they can use and spend when required. There are some who have the opinion that men of God or people of God should not have much wealth. But that is not what the Scripture shows, as well as there are times when we may need to mobilize large amounts of money to further the fulfillment of God's plan so that He can be honored and glorified as we can see in the following examples:

1. How could Abraham have been able to fulfill God's will and buy the field of Machpelah for burial if he hadn't any money?

"7 And Abraham stood up, and bowed himself to the people of the land, even to the children of Heth.8 And he communed with them, saying, If it be your mind that I should bury my dead out of my sight; hear me, and intreat for me to Ephron the son of Zohar,9 That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he hath, which is in the end of his field; for as much money as it is worth he shall give it me for a possession of a buryingplace amongst you.10 And Ephron dwelt among the children of Heth: and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the audience of the children of Heth, even of all that went in at the gate of his city, saying, 11 Nay, my lord, hear me: the field give I thee, and the cave that is therein, I give it thee; in the presence of the sons of my people give I it thee: bury thy dead.12 And Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land.13 And he spake unto Ephron in the audience of the people of the land, saying, But if thou wilt give it, I pray thee, hear me: I will give thee money for the field; take it of me, and I will bury my dead there.14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying unto him, 15 My lord, hearken unto me: the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver; what is that betwixt me and thee? bury therefore thy dead.16 And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant.17 And the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field, and the cave which was therein, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in all the borders round about, were made sure 18 Unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city." (Genesis 23:7-18 KJV) It wouldn't have been right for Abraham to take the land for free without paying for it. It would have been regarded as a favor from a non believer and Abraham would not have accepted that.

When we pay, we show integrity, and we honor God. In paying for what we need, glory will go to God who has provided us everything we need, including finances for life and Godliness.

2. How would Jacob have been able to buy food from Egypt for his family during the time of famine if he had had no money?

"1 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt." (Genesis 42:1-3 KJV) *"1 And the famine was sore in the land.2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food." (Genesis 43:1-2 KJV)*

3. How would the Israelites have been able to offer to God for the construction of the tabernacle at the time of Moses if they had not kept what God had given them before they left Egypt?

"2 Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver and jewels of gold. 3 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the

land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people." (Exodus 11:2-3 KJV)

"35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: 36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians." (Exodus 12:35-36 KJV)

"4 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying, 5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass, 6 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, 7 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, 8 And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense, 9 And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate." (Exodus 35:4-9 KJV)

4. How would Boaz have been able to buy Naomi's parcel of land and possess Ruth as his wife if he didn't have the money?

"9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi. 10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day." (Ruth 4:9-10 KJV)

My dear and beloved: Let us come now to God, realizing the value of finances that God had placed in our hands to deal with wisely and to manage them in good stewardship so they will be directed and at the right time to the purpose that God had ordained for those finances to be used for.

Come now to God and repent of your sins and be willing to cleanse your heart and mind from wrong motive and purposes for life and ministry. Come now to God and be a noble vessel to be used for God and for His glory and that your life will be a good example to others to follow, and in living in such a manner you are storing for yourself treasures in Heaven.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and the teaching that you gave to me to teach me the importance of finances and that I need to be a good steward to all what I received from you. Lord I thank you for all the material blessings that you give to me from job, skills, income and finances and for the spiritual blessings and the salvation of Jesus that I received from you.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your bad stewardship and wasting your resources in wrong directions and your mismanagement to your finances. Repent and renounce your wrong motive in God's service and ministry. Repent of your worldliness and your love for

material things, Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He had for you. Repent of your non willingness to commit yourself to do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins

Lord I commit myself to abide to the principles that I learned in this message about finances, to be a good steward of what I received from you and to live according to your purpose and your will in my life.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and had committed their lives to serve you with a noble heart and good motive, and to direct their finances and resources to the purpose of yours in their lives. Lord continue to guide them into the whole will of yours in their lives. Lord protect them and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord help us as a church and guide us with your Holy Spirit to continue to proclaim your Word and your will to the people. Lord lead us to people who are humble and willing to hear your Word and your will. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord prepare us for your coming that when you come we are ready to go with you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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