

III. GOD IS RICH

It should not be necessary to prove that God is rich. But for the doubters we will quote several Scripture references:

Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

Psalms 50:10-12 "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof."

Haggai 2:8 "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."

1 Chronicles 29:12 "Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all."

Ecclesiastes 5:19 "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God."

Hosea 2:8 "For she did not know that I (God) gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal."

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Deuteronomy 8:18 "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."

Romans 8:32 "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Yes, we are faced with a real problem, that is, **NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO MEET OUR NEEDS**, in our homes or in our churches. Because of this problem both the husband and the wife are forced to work. The children are put in the care of a nursery school or baby sitter (yaya) and are deprived of their parents presence. Stress enters and often the result is a broken home. Some times the wife is in danger where she works around other men. The husband also starts to look at other women. Many fathers and even mothers feel they have to go abroad to earn dollars. This should not be. The children grow up not having the proper training. The home is not what it use to be. The two main reasons for a broken home are: Money and In-law problems.

REVIEW:

1. We lack money.
2. We should get money the right way.
3. God owns all the money.

Our next lesson deals with the question,

"WHY GOD WITHHOLDS PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN."

Be sure you and your family are here for our next lesson.

HOW TO GET MORE MONEY FROM GOD

#1



I. Most every one has this problem - NOT ENOUGH MONEY

Whether the economy is up or down, the family and the church still lack enough money to meet their needs from week to week. Yes, we do get our wages increased now and again but at the same time there is a rise in food, gasoline, clothing, rent and utilities. Not enough for a better doctor, dental work, or education. We never seem to get caught up on our bills and have a little left over. There must be an answer to this burdensome problem.

Many Pastors and Workers do not receive enough money to meet their needs. Many churches cannot send missionaries of their own because they do not have enough even for their local needs. Most churches in the Philippines have been built with dollars from America. Most of these churches are still being maintained by outside dollars. If the U.S. churches were to cut off their missionary support to the Philippines, a great number of churches could no longer operate. Our homes and churches are in a bad state of repair.

"The members are poor" is the often heard excuse. Yes, Christians are generally poor. It is because they often come from the lower strata of our society. People who are rich in the things of this world do not get converted very easily. The Lord said so in **Matthew 19:24** when He said, "And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

There might be several reasons why the church members are poor. Let me mention a few:

1. The members have not been taught about finances and stewardship from the Bible.
2. The average pastor is too shy and perhaps fearful to teach his people about money. He feels the people will think he is asking for money for himself.

3. The pastor's mentality may be, "My members are too poor to give."
Many pastors are going to the U.S. to raise money for their churches.
This should not be.
4. The pastor may be ignorant about the subject of money. It is very possible for a man to complete his Bible College training and never be taught about money and stewardship.

I have been guilty of all the above reasons since entering the ministry some 30 years ago. The best way for a pastor to keep his people poor is for him not to teach his members how to give. The pastor not only keeps his members poor but he also keeps great blessings from coming their way. The real reason why church members are poor is, the pastor has not taught his people properly about money and stewardship.

Let's not forget that genuine Christians are the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

Gal. 3:26 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

They are born again into the family of God after they have repented of their sins and have received Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord. With a rich God as Father, the children ought not to remain in poverty all the days of their earthly lives.

Does not the Word of God say,

Romans 8:32 "He (God) that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him (Jesus) up for us all: how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

God is therefore willing to give His children "all things" freely, which includes material things. No one will doubt the fact that God is withholding "all things" from His people today. Why is this true? God must have a good and sufficient reason for His actions.

II. RICHES BY RIGHT MEANS

As a general principle, however, God wants every believer to gain riches fairly.

Jeremiah 17:10-11 says, "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As a partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he

that getteth riches, and not by right (means), shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool."

James warns the rich men about their riches.

James 5:1-5 "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."

Riches must be gotten by the right means.

God said in **Exodus 20:15,17** "Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

It is not one's right to take or steal what rightly belongs to others. That is why gambling is stealing; the same principle is practised in both. It is desiring to have the money of someone else against his will. To gain riches this way is wrong. It is contrary to the divine principle relative to possession of earthly riches.

What about false weights and scales?

Deuteronomy 25:15 "But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Leviticus 19:36 "Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt."

Proverbs 13:11 "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished (decreased): but he that gathereth by labour shall increase." (Dishonest money dwindles away)