

● **WARM UP**

The dictionary describes money as any object or verifiable record that is generally accepted as payment for goods and services and repayment of debts. The main functions of money are distinguished as: a medium of exchange; a unit of account; a store of value.

So money was purposed as a tool and in itself there is nothing wrong with the concept or the tool. However the power that comes from accumulating money and using it to gain more aspects of control can be addictive, and money can become an object of desire and covetousness - it can become an idol. It can alienate you from God.



● **READ** 1 Timothy 6:10; Matthew 6:24

● **BACKGROUND**

The Apostle Paul says, *“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”*. This verse is often misquoted as saying, *“Money is the root of all evil.”* Notice how *“money”* is substituted for *“love of money”* and *“the root of all evil”* is substituted for *“a root of all kinds of evil.”* These changes, while subtle, have an enormous impact on the meaning of the verse.

The misquoted version makes money and wealth the source of all evil in the world. This is clearly false. The Bible makes it quite clear that *sin* is the root of all evil in the world. It is the *love* of money, not money itself, that is a source of all different kinds of trouble and evil. Wealth is morally neutral; there is nothing wrong with money in and of itself, or the possession of money. However, when money begins to control us, that’s when trouble starts.

● **QUESTIONS**

- 1 Read 1 John 3:17. What sort of situations motivate you to give and help others?
- 2 Read Hebrews 13:5. Are you content with what you have, or do you feel you need just a little bit more?

3 Read 2 Cor 9:7. How do you feel about giving? Would God regard you as a cheerful giver?

4 Read Matt 19:23-24. How do we protect ourselves from the love of money?

● **CONSIDER THIS**

Upon leaving university I set out with a goal to make a lot of money, but praise God, He was not finished with me yet. After being born again by the Spirit of God in my early working years, God’s first challenge for me after professing Him as Lord was with my love of money. I found that until I gave beyond a tithe (10% of my gross earnings) I could find no rest. The more I gave, and the continuance of a giving lifestyle, resulted in the power of money being broken over my life. Have you considered that your ability to earn money is based on your physical ability to work, the energy and integrity that you apply to that time, the use of your natural gifting and talents in that activity, and the training that you received along the way from family and society? In all these areas the hand of God was in the supply chain. So when you earn money, remember who enabled you to do so and give Him thanks. Honour God with your money.

What is God saying to me?

● **LET’S PRAY**

● **REAL LIFE STORIES OF GOD’S POWER**



About 1986 or so I had arthritis in my fingers and Bill Subritzky came to Kaitaia. He said that someone had arthritis in his hands. I prayed and as we lifted our hands, I felt a clicking in my fingers and there was no more pain. The Lord has left me with one slightly bent finger just to remind me of the healing. I just praise God and thank Him for that. Bernard

