

Obstacle Outlooks vs. God's perspective

Few things test a man's spirituality more accurately than the way he uses money

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Many people are resistant to following God's desires for how they spend money or to having a written spending plan. Both attitudes are results of wrong views of who God is and what He wants for their lives and of what the role of money is in providing pleasure, self-worth, significance, and security in life. Listed below are different outlooks which become obstacles to following the Lord in the area of finances.

Obstacle Outlook	God's perspective	Verses
I worked for this money, it's mine.	God owns it all. God is your creator who gives you the ability to earn money.	Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Psalm 24:1-2; 1 Chronicles 29:14,
It's up to me to meet all our financial needs.	God is our provider.	Psalm 23:1; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:19
God doesn't really care about my well being.	God comforts and cares for us.	Psalm 55:22; Matthew 6:25-26; Romans 15:13; 1 Peter 5:7; Hebrews 13:5
I can give 10% to the church and spend the rest however I want.	God wants to direct you on how to spend 100% of your income. We are stewards or managers of what He provides.	Matthew 25:14-30
I will seek out a shrewd business person, even if they aren't godly, for advice on my finances.	God warns us against seeking ungodly counsel. He wants us to seek godly counsel and have a teachable heart.	Proverbs 9:9, 14:7
Covetousness: inordinate desire for what belongs to someone else, <i>I see what others have and I want it</i> . This can result in spending too much or storing (saving) too much.	We are to be content with what we have at the time.	Exodus 20:17; Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11-12
Dishonesty about money or business practices with others in business or with your family at home.	We miss God's blessings when we lie or are deceitful. Dishonest gain doesn't last. I can trust God with the results of my honesty.	Proverbs 10:2,9; Proverbs 21:6
Envy: the desire to achieve based on observation of other people's successes. When we envy, we look at what someone else has and lust over it or become resentful or angry.	Envy destroys us. Envy is associated with evil and/or fleshly lifestyle.	Proverbs 14:30; Mathew 20:15; James 3:16; 1 Peter 2:1

Materialism: the theory or attitude that physical well-being and worldly possessions constitute the greatest good and highest value in life.

God wants us to value Him and our relationship to Him above all else. He wants us to be satisfied with Him, not what we have.

Psalm 49:16-17; Proverbs 11:28; Luke 9:25

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