

SINGLES AND MONEY

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Single life is a time of preparation for the responsibilities and challenges of running an independent home. Your attitude to money during single life will be carried over to marital life.

Money plays an important role in the life of man. The Bible says,

"Money is the answer for all things." (Eccl. 10:19)

It is needed for the necessities of life. It is a medium of exchange for the things we need.

HOW IT COMES.

1. Money is a reward for service rendered.

You exchange your assets for money. To get money you must solve a problem for someone or render a service of some sort.

2. The diligent (hard worker) makes more money.

"All hard work brings profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." (Prov.14:23)

"He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty." (Prov. 28:19)

3. It takes a sharpened and polished skill to make money.

"If the axe is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success." (Eccl. 10:10)

"Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men." (Prov. 22:29)

You need to be a master in your field of endeavor. Don't play with your studies and your job. Be the best you can be. If you are not skilled, you will find it difficult to get a good job or even keep a job. Make sure you are upgrading, or you will soon become irrelevant.

4. The use of God-given ideas makes money available.

Don't play with the idea that God gives you. Everything you see in existence today started as an idea. When you tithe and give to God, God in return gives you ideas and wisdom to trade the ideas for money.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this', says the LORD Almighty,' and see if I will not throw open the flood gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it' " (Mal.3: 10). Read Genesis 30:37-43.

5. The application of biblical principles for prosperity will create wealth.

"For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him." (Eccl. 8:6)

ATTITUDE TOWARDS MONEY

1. Never idolize money. Don't love money.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 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. 6:6-11)

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matt. 6:24)

2. Don't allow money to determine your happiness.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4)

Money is not the source of joy for the Christian. Jesus Christ is. The presence of it or the absence of it should not affect your joy. Let your heart be in God who is our Saviour and King.

3. Learn to be content. Learn to abound in all circumstances.

"I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Phil. 4:10-13)

Many do not know how to be content with what they have received of the Lord their provider. If you do not know how to be thankful for what you have, how do you receive more? Contentment helps to keep greed away from the heart of man. God sees greed as idolatry. That does not mean you should not aspire for greater heights in life. As you aspire for more, be at peace with God for your present level.

4. Do not pursue money to the detriment of your soul.

"Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not

consist in the abundance of his possessions.' And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do. I will tear down the barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 'This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.' " (Luke 12:13-21)

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33)

5. Use your money to serve God.

You need to understand this:

- All you have comes from God. (Deut. 8:18)
- You are a steward of the resources of God.
- God gives money to his people to support and build his kingdom on earth.
- Practice tithing, giving, projects financing and kingdom investments.

6. Lay a foundation for tomorrow by giving regularly today.

- Givers don't lack.
- Sowers are reapers.
- He, who fails to sow now, will have nothing to harvest in the time of harvest.

HOW TO USE MONEY

1. Use it to glorify God. Use money for the things that honour God. Anything that is evil will not glorify God. Your God-given money is not meant for wasteful and riotous living. Use it wisely because you will give account to God later.
2. Use it to expand God's kingdom.
3. Use it to meet your needs and the needs of others that are less privileged or stranded.
4. Manage your money to make sure it is used properly.
5. Invest wisely to gain more money. Don't waste money. Sometimes God gives us surplus for the purpose of investing for more to come. Learn to invest because you don't know tomorrow. Don't miss the opportunity to invest when God creates one.
6. Do not be a waster. Don't buy everything that attracts your eyes.
7. Don't live above your income.
 - Don't compete with others.
 - There are levels in life. Wait for your next level. Wait for your turn and time.
 - A man's life is in phases, wait for your time. Live within your income. You will get to the top someday. Wait for that time.
8. Don't allow your income to make you proud. Remain humble as the Lord lifts you up