

Wrong Resources For 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 Timothy 6:6-10)

Money is only one of the blessings that God give to man so that he can use it to purchase and buy things he need for his life. God richly provides us with everything we need for our enjoyment. But Jesus also said; *‘A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’* The Lord Jesus Christ came from heaven to show us and to teach us the right way to live our lives. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life. The lord Jesus also said, *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)* God wants our hearts not to be fixed on money but fixed on loving Him. Our love should not be fixed on money but fixed on God. There are right ways that we can receive money and material blessings, and we should be aware that there are wrong ways also to collect money and we should avoid them. The following are devils ways that cause us destruction in taking money from wrong resources.

1- Stealing: *“You shall not steal.” (Deuteronomy 5:19) “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.” (Ephesians 4:28)* Stealing is to take something without permission. Stolen money finally will waste away and cause troubles to those who practice that. Stolen money resources are as the following: cheating in work, selling wrong products, failure to give the workers their wages they deserve, non-paying bills and try to run away, etc. All these can be considered examples of stolen money.

2- Barrowing without the intention to return: *“The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.” (Psalm 37:21)* Certain persons may go and borrow from different people and then all of the sudden you find that person disappear and all the people who gave money to him they will start to cry and complain that they have given their money to him. There is another way of barrowing and non-returning; this is by taking a big loan from a bank and then run away. Some they think that to take loan and run away is not sin because they are not stealing from people but from a bank but this is not right, still it is a sin.

3- Usury: Is to lend money but to be returned with an additional percentage for every period of time. Those who are in urgent need they are forced to give back the big interest for the money they had borrowed because they are in need. So you find them in every month they only give the interest but the capital that they borrowed is still there; they have not yet paid it back because they cannot offer.

Read the following: *“I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let the exacting of usury stop!” (Nehemiah 5:10)* Those who continue to practice usury will not enter the kingdom of God if they will not repent. *“Who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? Who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.” (Psalm 15:1, 5)*

4- Bribes: Is to give some money so that you can receive from people what you don’t deserve of things. You are taking the rights of other people with your money in doing bribe. Sometimes people they bribe you and they give you some money to get from you what is not due for them. Therefore, *“Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.” (Deuteronomy 16:19)*

5- Fraud: Is to use a faked document as original in order to gain a privilege. *“Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.” (Proverbs 20:17)* Faked documents or certificates may help you to get a Job or take a certain position. At the beginning you might enjoy certain profit of that but later on you have to bear the consequences of that sin. What you think as something good on the beginning later on would turn into bitterness in your life and month. Money can also be fraud and be made into big capitals but later on there will be much destructive consequences and no blessing remaining with such type of income.

6- Corrupted businesses: There are certain jobs and businesses they give income but they are not the way that God wants us to receive the money. Examples of such businesses are prostitution, drug traffics, running bars and night clubs, smuggle, under table profits, etc. The income that comes from such businesses is not from God but from the devil.

7- Gambling: Is to gain money and profits through playing certain games like cards, cock fighting, horse races, lottery, raffle, etc. God had commanded us to work hard in order for us to eat from our hands labour, *“For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10)* We cannot eat food because somebody loss his money in a game. This is not the God that we worship.

My Dear and Beloved: Abraham said to the king of Sodom who went out to meet him after he won the battle. He want to give the goods to Abraham and to take the people from Abraham, but Abraham answered him, *“I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, creator of heaven and earth and have taken an oath, “that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’” (Genesis 14: 22- 23)* What you learn from this incident that Satan sometimes may give you material blessings but these will be used as deceit to destroy you and cripple you. So be alert and self-controlled; refuse to accept money that does not come from God as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for you Word. Please Guide me, guard me from falling into the trap of the devil, and give me discernment so that I will not take any money that not comes from you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*