

Right Resources for Money Hard Work

***“17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.”
(Isaiah 48:17 KJV)***

The Word of God in the Bible teaches us the right way and the wrong way to gain money. We need to know the truth in order that we may abide by it and avoid the wrong way of dealing with money matters that brings problems and troubles into our lives. The right ways to collect money are listed below:

I. Hard work with our own hands: “28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” (Ephesians 4:28 KJV) God has given each and every person, hands and feet as well as talents. **So the admonition here is that each person should quit being lazy and resorting to stealing, find a job, and exercise his hands and talents to do what is useful so that he can spend on himself as well as save to share with others the blessing of God. Each and every person should stop being negative and considering himself a failure and move forward with positivity and be productive in his contribution to the people that the Lord has placed him amongst.** The Bible does not speak only about the power to get wealth but it also speaks about hard work and painful toil. God gave Adam the task to adorn the Garden of Eden and preserve it. ***“15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.” (Genesis 2:15 KJV)*** After Adam fell into sin God told him the following: ***“17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3:17-19 KJV)*** Man will eat from the hard toil of his hands. **We gain our money and income through hard work. As we follow Christ, obey His Word and submit to His will, even through all the hard work, we will experience joy and comfort.**

Some people may ask how it is possible to produce wealth with their meager income from a menial job and live well. **Let us just be reminded of what the Bible tells us about the people of God who had held menial jobs and earned a low income and how God had made them rich and enabled them to be great and do great things.** Abraham had been a shepherd, but God made him very rich. David started as a shepherd, but God made him a wealthy king. There are many rich people who had started from the bottom rung of the ladder of wealth and made their way up with the help of God. They had held humble positions earning a mere pittance. **Our profession, however humble it may be, will not hinder us from getting wealth. We need to follow God’s Word and His principles regarding finances to produce wealth.**

As we follow the Scriptures in the Bible, we can find that the people of God did different kinds of work.

Cain worked as a farmer, and Abel worked as a shepherd. ***“And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.” (Genesis 4:2 KJV)***

Noah after the flood became a husbandman. ***“20 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard.” (Genesis 9:20 KJV)***

Abraham and Lot kept cattle. ***“The herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle.” (Genesis 13:7 KJV)***

Ishmael worked as an archer. ***“20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.” (Genesis 21:20 KJV)***

Isaac worked as a farmer. ***“20 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.” (Genesis 26:12 KJV)***

Esau worked as a hunter. ***“and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field.” (Genesis 25:27 KJV)***

Rachel was a shepherdess. ***“Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep” (Genesis 29:6 KJV)***

Jacob worked as a shepherd. ***“38 This twenty years have I been with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten. 39 That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. 40 Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes. 41 Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times.” (Genesis 31:38-41 KJV)***

Jacob’s sons were shepherds. ***“2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.” (Genesis 37:2 KJV)***

Joseph, after he was sold by his brothers worked a servant in Potiphar house and then was promoted to being an overseer. ***“4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.” (Genesis 39:4 KJV)*** In the jail, Joseph was in charge of the prisoners. ***“22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.” (Genesis 39:22 KJV)*** Joseph continued to be in charge of the prisoners until he was released from jail and became the second in command in Egypt after Pharaoh. ***“39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: 40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.” (Genesis 41:39-40 KJV)***

At first, the Israelites in Egypt worked as shepherds. ***“6 The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my***

cattle.” (Genesis 47:6 KJV) Later on, they did construction work and built cities. “11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.” (Exodus 1:11 KJV)

Moses, after he had left Pharaoh, worked as a shepherd in Midian for his father-in-law until God called him to lead His people. ***“1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.” (Exodus 3:1 KJV)***

Ruth worked as a gleaner, and Boaz was a farmer and the owner of a field. ***“2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. 3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.” (Ruth 2:2-3 KJV)***

David was a shepherd. ***“And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.” (1 Samuel 16:11 KJV)***

Nehemiah was a cupbearer. ***“For I was the king's cupbearer.” (Nehemiah 1:11 KJV)***

Daniel was a president under Darius the king. ***“2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.” (Daniel 6:2 KJV)***

Amos was a herdsman and a gatherer of sycamore fruit. ***“14 Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit.” (Amos 7:14 KJV)***

Jesus was a carpenter. ***“3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.” (Mark 6:3 KJV)***

Simon Peter and Andrew his brother were fishers. ***“18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.” (Matthew 4:18 KJV)***

Matthew was a tax collector. ***“9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.” (Matthew 9:9 KJV)***

Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla were tentmakers. ***“1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; 2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. 3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.” (Acts 18:1-3 KJV) “34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to***

them that were with me.” (Acts 20:34 KJV) They worked and provided for the necessities of their ministries from God.

Luke was a physician. ***“14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.” (Colossians 4:14 KJV)***

Many people refuse to accept work that gives them a meager income or work that requires hard labor. There is the example of Jacob who worked tirelessly and faithfully despite being cheated and abused by his master.

Jacob started his work with nothing, but he toiled to raise a family as well as save something for himself. He worked over a span of twenty years. Jacob had been cheated ten times by his uncle and master Laban but God saw his misery and justified him and restored to him whatever was taken away from him.

“1 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory. 2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. 3 And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee. 4 And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, 5 And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me. 6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. 7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. 8 If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. 9 Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. 10 And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. 11 And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred. 14 And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? 15 Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. 16 For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do. 17 Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels; 18 And he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padanaram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan.” (Genesis 31:1-18 KJV)

Laban followed Jacob, but God saved Jacob and rescued him from Laban and his sons and gave him the upper hand and justified him before them.

“36 And Jacob was wroth, and chode with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What is my trespass? what is my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me? 37 Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set it here

before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both. 38 This twenty years have I been with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten. 39 That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. 40 Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes. 41 Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times. 42 Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight.” (Genesis 31:36-42 KJV)

We can learn the following truths from the example of Jacob and the reason why God blessed him:

A. Jacob worked with all his power: “6 *And ye know that with all my power I have served your father.” (Genesis 31:6 KJV)* Jacob served Laban with all his strength. God saw the magnitude to which Jacob spent in his service toward Laban. Therefore, the God of justice took from Laban and gave to Jacob. When we serve with all our power, God will value that and reward us according to the extent of our labor in service. God gave Jacob based on the work of his hands. If Jacob had not worked hard, then from where could God have given him? God would not have taken the fruit of other people’s labor and given it to Jacob. *Therefore, for God to act on our behalf, we need to work and serve with all our power. Even though people may cheat us, abuse us or take advantage of us, we need to strive for and endure in our work. Then God will take the blessings from our unreasonable cheaters and give it to us.*

B. Jacob was honest and he did not cheat: Even though he was cheated by Laban and was working under hard circumstances, he did not cheat. He kept his integrity and bore all the losses patiently. What Jacob sowed, he reaped. He was honest and he reaped abundant blessings. Laban was a cheater and therefore, God took from him and gave to Jacob. “7 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (Galatians 6:7-8 KJV)* *Therefore, for God to act on our behalf, we should always be honest and not cheat even if people cheat us, in obedience to God’s Word and instruction. “9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” (Titus 2:9-10 KJV)*

C. Jacob kept his covenant with God who appeared unto him at Bethel: “13 *I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.” (Genesis 31:13 KJV)* Jacob covenanted with God by surrendering his life to Him, acknowledging Bethel as the house of God and offering Him his tithes. “20 *And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” (Genesis 28:20-22 KJV)* *When we commit our lives to God in the same manner as Jacob, the Lord will aid us and support us in*

our work and He will deal with those who try to cheat us and abuse us. He will rescue us and give us their wealth.

D. Jacob persevered and kept the same level of commitment until the time God sent him back home: He worked for twenty years under Laban and he kept what he had committed himself to do. “9 *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Galatians 6:9 KJV)* *Therefore, we will receive the harvest of God and we will have plenty of wealth if we will not be weary in doing good and persevering till the end.*

My dear and beloved: * From the different kinds of professions mentioned in the message and from the example of Jacob we can conclude that whatever kind of work we do and whatever income we receive, we need to work faithfully putting our best foot forward and then God will certainly bless the work of our hands and will multiply our income. * It is not necessary that we need to hold big jobs and earn a high income in order to be comfortable financially. * But it depends on our obedience toward God’s command to work and labor faithfully and honestly in order to please Him. * It is God who blesses our income and the work of our hands; therefore, we need to put on the right attitude as we work and fully trust Him that He will bless us.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and the teaching that I received in this message. Lord thank you for the kind of work and the income that you had placed in my hand. Lord I thank you for the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message. Lord thank you for the example of Jacob and how he persevered in his work to obey you and to do your will.*

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your laziness, stealing, taking advantage of others, and your non willingness to do hard work. Confess and renounce your pride and your non willingness to do certain jobs. Confess and renounce being non honest and not faithful and trustworthy in your working place. Confess and renounce being not faithful to God in pertains to tithing and giving what is due to God. Confess your non willingness to go along His will and the plan that He had for you. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to serve Him. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins

Lord I commit myself to live and work according to the principles that we studied in this message. Lord I will be content with the type of job and the income that I have. Lord I commit myself to be honest, faithful and persevering in my job. Lord I commit myself to tithe my income to you. Lord help me to persevere in what I committed myself to do. Lord provide for me, sustain me and give me good health to do my job well.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and are willing to follow your Word and apply in their works and jobs that you placed them in to do. Lord help them in their work and use their lives to be a good testimony to others to follow you. Lord protect them and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to teach your Word and help your people to apply them in their lives. Lord help us to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, humility, faith, patience, self-control, and longsuffering. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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