

**“You cannot serve God and mammon” – Matthew 6:24 NKJV**

There is deception in the Western church today that most Christians are on the right side of this absolute truth. One deception goes something like: I am not a greedy person; I believe in Jesus; I tithe and give, so therefore I don't have this problem.

As a former Wall Street executive who loves Christ, I had unknowingly come under mammon's subtle influences. Greed was not the problem. It was fear and pride. Being a wealthy, generous person giving beyond the tithe, I never worried about money... until it ran out! Then I faced the pressure of unpaid bills and mounting debts while struggling to meet basic needs. It was a test. On the pride side, I had to lay-down self-reliance. Deuteronomy 8:17 thinking: “My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth” – or, in other words, the temptation, deception and guilt of the lie: “God helps those who help themselves”. Mammon had its foothold – as long as I had plenty, its influence was cloaked. BUT... thanks be to God that Jesus set me free by grace.

In a call to self examination, ask yourself:

1. Have I ever feared job or income loss?
2. Ever thought: “There is no financial problem that \$\_\_\_ wouldn't fix”?
3. Embarrassed or frustrated that you can't pay a bill: “How could this be God”?
4. Worried about losing necessities, such as housing, food and clothing?
5. Ever considered relocating primarily for economic reasons?
6. Taken a job that wasn't who God made you to be, but you needed the money?
7. Believe that after giving a tithe, the rest of the lump is yours?
8. “Give and it will be given unto you” understood as God always gives money?
9. Is money abundantly flowing such that: “I never worry about money”?

**“Man shall not live *and* be upheld *and* sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. – Matthew 4:4 AMP**

A euphemism for money is “bread”. Whenever money is the critical path to accomplishing something, we are likely trusting money instead of God (remember: it's not possible to serve both). When making a decision, do we first check and see if money affords? Have we rationalized: “If God wanted me to do something, I would have the money to do it”?

Or, perhaps we currently have such an income that we never have to think twice (or ask God) about spending money?

In many of these circumstances, we may have unknowingly bowed the knee to mammon.

**“For the love of money is a root of all evils” – 1 Timothy 6:10 AMP**

Money is an inert object. But, when money influences our decision making, it becomes animated. There is a spirit behind it. When we listen to or are influenced by the voice of money, are we not under the spell of Mammon? Jesus' definition of love is obedience (John 14:15). If we are obedient to the subtle influence (or pressures) of money, are we not loving money?

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other...” – Matthew 6:24 NKJV

In scripture, try to find one instance where Jesus depended on the money box to accomplish something. Or, ask yourself: did Jesus ever solicit man for financial support?

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

Let's pray.

Father, search my heart like you did David's. I repent of being influenced by the pressures of money. I know I cannot serve two masters. Help me understand myself. May I not rationalize away the truth. Show me how to walk out a lifestyle of serving You and You alone, even while walking through a world that seems to revolve around money.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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