

4Ws MONEY: GOOD OR EVIL?

EXPERIENCE TRUE FINANCIAL FREEDOM

JUNE 5, 2022

WORSHIP

Great Things, All Hail the
Power of Jesus' Name,
Can't Stop Singing, Turn
Your Eyes Upon Jesus,
10,000 Reasons

WELCOME

Looking at your current
situation, would you say
that you are financially free?

WORD

1 CHRONICLES 29:10-16

¹⁰ So David blessed the Lord in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. ¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name. ¹⁴ "But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You. ¹⁵ For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, it is from Your hand, and all is Yours.

What does it mean to have FINANCIAL FREEDOM? Based on secular definition, financial freedom means we are free from debt, free to quit our jobs, free to retire, free to be able to provide comfortable living to our families. But TRUE FINANCIAL FREEDOM is really more than that. For most people, FREEDOM is defined as the ability to do what we want to do – not realizing that it eventually leads to slavery. True Freedom is the ability to do the right thing and to say no to the wrong thing. It is the ability to say YES to God and say NO to sin. Many people are enslaved to themselves – to addiction, depression, anger, and are not truly free. Financial freedom is the ability to joyfully do what God wants you to do with the money He has entrusted to you for His purpose and glory. True financial freedom gives us freedom from worry, freedom from comparison, and freedom from covetousness (**Ephesians 5:5**). If our faith is genuine, our lives will be impacted by it. Our moral standards will align with God, and we will instead have peace, joy, be happy for others, and even being free to give to bless others.

How do we really experience TRUE FINANCIAL FREEDOM?

1. PROPER VIEW OF GOD

A.W. Tozer said that the most important thing about any person is what one thinks about GOD. **John 17:3** tells us what eternal life is – that we know (Gk. Ginosko – intimate knowledge) God with an experiential knowledge. We can serve God and do all these things faithfully, knowing ABOUT God, but not really knowing Him personally. How can one know God? By obeying and abiding in His Word (**John 8:31-32**). This means we give time to study His Word, like when a baby hungers for food! The more you don't feel like studying, the more you should study the Bible. It also says in **v.32** that the "truth" will set us free! You will never know the truth until you encounter Jesus (**2 Peter 3:18**). In **Hosea 4:6**, it says that a lack and rejection of knowledge is detrimental to our lives!

Take a look at the life and example of David. In **1 Chronicles 29:10-13**, David understood and recognized who God is – His qualities and ultimate power over all, that even riches and honor come from Him – this is the proper view of God. If you sincerely believe who God is, will you still worry? Jesus once explained to His disciples not to worry, because their Heavenly Father knows what they need (**Matthew 6:31-34**). The root problem is not that we lack faith, but that we do not really know the object of our faith.

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David was able to trust God so much because of his experience with Him – His faithfulness in all the things he went through, from being a simple shepherd boy to being the king (**1 Samuel 16:11-13**), from hardships faced to victories enjoyed (**1 Samuel 17:45-47**), from trials faced to good things received (read further about his life in **1 Samuel**). Our security must always lie in God's hand, even if we face our own "Goliaths" and "Sauls" in our lives!

2. PROPER VIEW OF SELF

How did David see himself? Because he recognized God's authority (**Psalm 75:5-7**), David also believed that he will never lack as he seeks the Lord (**Psalm 34:10**). Because David put God first in his life, he was not really in want of any good thing.

David in his prayer shows how he views himself in light of God (**1 Chronicles 29:14-15**) – he acknowledged that he is a steward, not an owner of whatever he owns. He acknowledged that he is a sojourner – and we all are. We are travelling, walking in this impermanent world which should not be our home – we are just passing through. David had a proper view of himself.

Psalm 39:4-6 is a good prayer from David, acknowledging how transient he was. Until we understand that God owns everything, we will never have this kind of peace. We see this in the way David worshipped God. Another example is Job, who after losing everything, still chose to worship God (**Job 1**). If you know God and you have a proper view of God, you will be able to do as David did. When you are not covetous, you will be protected from quick and easy money schemes, wrong promises and wrong business strategies. The way to riches is to work hard for it.

In **1 Chronicles 29:16**, after giving everything in big amounts for the construction of the temple, David acknowledged that it was FROM GOD'S HAND, and all of it belonged to God. David gave an amount equivalent to billions of dollars today! This is because he understood that he was a merely a conduit/distributor, and had always sought to glorify and worship God in everything he did. May we all be like King David, and enjoy reaping the benefits of TRUE FINANCIAL FREEDOM!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Share an instance in your life when you have been worried about money (or something else). Why were you worried?

2. Setting It Right.

How will knowing God help you overcome worry and comparison with others?

3. Living It Out.

What will you do to better know God (proper view of God) so you can trust Him completely for all your financial needs?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to experience true financial freedom by having a renewed and proper view of God and of themselves. Look for opportunities to encourage them and share God's Word to them. Invest time this week to share the gospel to someone so they may experience true freedom in Christ, and eventually learn what true financial freedom is like as they live for Him!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of newly-elected and incumbent public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.

- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

1 CHRONICLES 29:14

But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You.