

TAMING THE MONEY MONSTER

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Money = wealth and possessions, not just dollar bills

Money is a monster when...

1. We have too little.
2. We have too much.

Give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.

Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the Lord?'

Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:8-9 (NIV)

3. When we're buried in debt. (especially if we dug our own grave!)
4. When we have no margin.
5. When it dominates our thoughts (& decisions).

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?'
or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and
your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his
kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you
as well. Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of
greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Luke 12:15 (NIV)

**Money is a monster when it wins the battle for
our attention, our affection, and our allegiance.**

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other,
or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

Quick financial quiz:

1. How much is enough? just a little bit more
2. How much is mine? none of it
3. How much will I leave? all of it

Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless. ...

¹⁵ Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,
and as everyone comes, so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil

that they can carry in their hands.

Ecclesiastes 5:10, 15 (NIV)

But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the
world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we
will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a
trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and
destruction. ¹⁰ 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 (NIV)

If I'm going to tame the money monster...

1. I need a new perspective: It all belongs to God. I just manage it.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and
the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. ...

¹⁴ Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your
hand. ... ¹⁶ Lord our God, all this abundance... comes from your hand, and all of it
belongs to you. 1 Chronicles 29:11-16 (NIV)

2. I need some new practices:

• **Gratitude** (which leads to contentment & peace)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you
need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace,
which exceeds anything we can understand. Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

• **Generosity** (which leads to freedom & joy)

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the
weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to
give than to receive." Acts 20:35 (NIV)

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put
their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who
richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do
good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this
way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming
age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

[Blanks: 1 little, 2 much, 3 debt, 4 margin, 5 thoughts, 1 a little bit more, 2 none, 3 all, 1 God]