

WHY TALK ABOUT MONEY?

July 19, 2025

- Jesus did 1/3 of His parables were about money and handling resources
- Money is something we deal with in daily life
- God wants us to master money
- Money can become an idol or master
- Debt enslaves families and nations
- There is abuse and misuse of money in the world and in the church
- It is the only area where God asks us to test His faithfulness
- Money is useful in spreading the good news of Jesus and His kingdom
- We will give account of how we used what God has given us.
- How we handle money is a test of our spiritual growth and aptitude

**'If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?.....you cannot serve God and money'. - Jesus
Luke 16:11, 13b**

Several years ago I designated one of my Bibles as my 'Money/Stewardship Bible'. I marked it from Genesis through Revelation with several special colors according to categories eg.

- God's property, purposes and promises about money and resources
- Dangers of money
- Making, receiving, spending, giving, investing, saving money and resources

Harold Hill wrote a book called 'The Money Book for King's Kids'. He used the word **GUSTO** to cover various areas on the subject. It comes between the words gush and gutter in the dictionary. I have enhanced some of what he shared to cover several topics. We will explore them more deeply in the coming weeks. Here is a partial summary.

- G** God owns all -Psalm 24:1, Guard against greed, Heb. 13:5, Give generously cheerfully - 2 Cor. 9:7
- U** Use wisely what you have / Unforgiveness hinders God's blessings
- S** Sow first into God's kingdom / Set aside for the poor and others / Save systematically
- T** Thank God for all you receive / Think on God's promises / Tithe regularly + more!
- O** Obey God in all things / Owe no person anything except love - Romans 13:8

Gush = a sudden plentiful outpouring of affection or enthusiasm.

Gutter = the lowest level or condition of human life

GUSTO = enthusiastic and vigorous enjoyment or appreciation; vitality marked by an overabundance of vigor and enthusiasm

God takes us from the gutter, for He gushed out His affection towards us through Jesus Christ, who has enabled us to live a superabundant life in Him.

'I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly' - John 10:10
(more abundantly in Greek = super abundantly)

God wants to be first in our life. Nothing else, including money, should supercede Him. In the right hands with a right heart motivation, money can be a tremendous blessing for good and for God's kingdom work around the world. God is great, good and generous. He wants us to live and give with gusto! Amen.

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