

Desiring Worldly Wealth

by Sonya Cherici

“People often ponder questions in their hearts such as why do the children of God struggle while evil men prosper?”



Why do people who curse God’s name have everything they want, nice homes, nice cars, great vacations and lots of money; yet most Christians live day to day? Didn’t God say he will give us the desires of our heart? Some ministers even teach formulas on how to get wealth in this world, and center their message on getting blessings from God.

Let us consider God’s Word on the subject... According to 1 Timothy, “Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

It is written in Proverbs 23:4 (NIV) – “Do not wear your self out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.” You see, running after the riches of this world is like a child who was given a rare diamond, when he saw beautifully colored pebbles scattered on the ground he threw away the priceless diamond and picked up the colorful stones. Don’t throw away the gifts of God, which are priceless, to pursue the world’s possessions; only to find in the end that you cannot take anything with you.

As children of the Most High God, we are called to be rich in mercy, faith and good deeds; not in worldly possessions. Yet the world tells us to live for today and pursue the so called “pleasures” of life: the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul?” Matthew 16:26 (KJV)

The Lord said in the Book of Isaiah that He brings prosperity and creates disaster. Meaning God is in control. Throughout the Old Testament, you will find many examples where God prospered men who walked in obedience and placed their trust in him: men such as Abraham, David, Noah, Job, Joseph, Daniel and others. The key words are obedience and trust. These men lived God-centered lives. They are good examples of how we should desire and actively pursue a relationship with God, while trusting that He will provide for our needs.

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Desiring Worldly Wealth Continued.....

“Listen, my brothers’ James 2:5 (NIV) reads, ‘has not God chosen those poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?’” God’s kingdom is not of this world, but is a priceless gift prepared for those who are His for eternity. Thus, our focus should remain on God, and as a result, we will live a fruitful life. Imagine, Paul was torn between going to be with the Lord and remaining on earth. But he desired more to depart to be in the presence of Christ. Our time on earth is not for focusing on wealth and material gain, but for doing the will of the Father, as Christ demonstrated.

We know that life in this world is temporary. For what are 60, 70 or 80 years in comparison to eternity? They are nothing. Not even a minute, in comparison with all of eternity. What does the world offer that we can take with us into God’s kingdom? There is nothing. Not even the bodies of flesh in which we dwell.

In other words, the world has little to offer the children of God apart from serving and doing God’s will. In honoring God’s will, we can have inexpressible peace and joy. Although the world seeks this, the world will never experience it. How great is it to experience God’s peace and contentment on earth, even in the midst of trials, then to enjoy it for all of eternity.

“But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold, for I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.” (Psalm 73/NIV) It is human nature to get fearful when struggling or when unable to provide financially for one’s family. We are often tempted to change our circumstances in our own strength rather than trust God to supply. Trust Him. Don’t be fearful. Keep your eyes on God and allow Him to control your circumstance.

The Bible instructs us that God will give us the desires of our heart according to His perfect will; not as the world offers with emptiness and destruction. We cannot even imagine what gloriously awaits the children of obedience. This is not to say that we should live in a cave. We have friends, work, travel, attend school, buy houses and so forth. However, our desire above everything should be to put God first.

Our lives should reflect Christ so that the world recognizes its need of God’s saving grace. They should desire to be like God’s children, not the reverse.

When we are blessed with prosperity, we must remember that everything belongs to God; and we will be held accountable to him for the way we manage it. Not only will we be held accountable for the money we are blessed with, but our time, gifts, talents and His Word as well. If we honor God with our finances whether little or abundant, He will bless us. So, let us be wise stewards of what we have.

My prayer is that you stand firm holding on to the goal of eternity with our heavenly Father. I pray that you will not fall into the temptation of worldly wealth and pleasures, but see all things through God’s eyes, meditating on his Holy word day and night. To the glory and honor of His holy name. Amen.