

Financial Deception— If I Had More Money, I Would Be Happy

Many people believe the deception that money will bring happiness. Although additional income can relieve some financial pressures (if the individual or couple manage their money well), money in and of itself does not bring happiness. Money will definitely not provide joy and peace, which only comes from God.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 states, “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.”

Over the years, I’ve seen many couples with significant amounts of wealth who have *no* peace and joy. I think of one couple who started with nothing and accumulated about \$40 million worth of assets. However, their unhappiness was evident to anyone who knew them. They were always arguing with each other and with their kids and employees, and they appeared “stressed out” all the time. Certainly there was no “peace of God, which transcends all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

Only God, through his Holy Spirit, can bring true peace and happiness. Jesus said: “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.* Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:26, 27, emphasis added).

There are many people in North America who have significant amounts of wealth yet are frustrated, angry, weary, and unhappy. Frankly, some are even Christians who are not experiencing God’s joy and peace. Remember that “*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* Against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:22, 23, emphasis added).

Jesus provides an invitation to everyone who is weary and burdened: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and *I will give you rest.* Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. *For my yoke is easy and my burden is light*” (Matthew 11:28–30, emphasis added).

In summary, based upon God’s Word and 30 years’ experience of working with some very wealthy people, I’m convinced that the key to happiness is not more money but rather a *close* personal relationship with God. In the 15th chapter of John, Jesus called this “abiding,” which means to be connected to and in communication with God on an ongoing basis. For more information on “abiding in Christ,” I recommend the book titled *Secrets of the Vine* by Dr. Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah Publishers, 2001).