



DEVOTION: February 5

Financial Freedom (Life Realities)
ROBERT SIMMS

True financial freedom is a balance of trust and planning in the context of biblical priorities.

As with most things, Christians need to have a balanced view of money. The Bible says on the one hand that wealth comes ultimately from God and that He uses it to bless us. On the other hand, Jesus called money “unrighteous mammon,” and urged us to be wary of its deceptiveness and power to corrupt. If the Christian is to achieve true financial freedom, he must learn what money is and isn’t, and how to have it and use it without falling in love with it.

A secular approach to financial freedom is to amass the most possible money in the shortest possible time, preferably with the least amount of effort, in order to have the most comfortable life, the most possible things and the earliest possible retirement. Variations exist, based on what an individual considers a comfortable living, though comfort is wildly relative.

A biblical approach to financial freedom, however, begins with a commitment to seek the righteousness and kingdom of God, and to do His will, no matter what. Based on that foundation, Jesus promised we could trust fully that God would provide for our needs. Within that commitment to serve God first, we should work responsibly, spend thriftily, invest shrewdly and plan wisely, so that we make the most of what we have and take advantage of the economic realities of the world.

If we neglect either side of this balanced formula, we invite disaster. Failing to make the most of our financial potential results in anything from disappointment to poverty. Omitting the service of God brings anything from emptiness to eternal loss.

Your attitude toward money and the use of it is one barometer of your relationship to God. Loving money displaces loving God. Yet depriving oneself of money doesn’t guarantee closeness to Him. The Bible’s answer is to discover God’s purpose for money in your life, to achieve it, and to seek nothing beyond it.

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 55:2, Matthew 6:33, 1 Timothy 6:10



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