> Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.
> *— 1 Chronicles 29:12*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Chronicles
Topics: money, Almighty, strength

Interpretation:
Those who seek wealth and glory often look for them in the wrong places. *1 Chronicles 29:12* reminds us that all wealth and glory that exists comes from God. He is the source of everything in the world, and He has the power and authority to bestow greatness and power upon all. This understanding challenges us to think about how we manage our wealth and power and how we can apply the wisdom contained in this verse to our lives.

First, this verse reminds us to seek our wealth and glory in God, not in the material world. It is easy to fall into the trap of seeking happiness in our possessions and accomplishments, but this is temporary. Instead, if we seek God and trust in Him, we will find peace and satisfaction that transcends the physical world.

Moreover, this verse teaches us about the sovereignty of God. He has the power and authority to bestow greatness and power upon anyone, meaning that there are no limits to what God can do in our lives. If we trust Him and submit to His will, we can expect God to bless us in ways we could never imagine.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

> — *1 Chronicles 29:14*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Chronicles
Topics: money, dependence, giving

Interpretation:
The *book of 1 Chronicles* is found in the *Old Testament* and tells the story of the people of Israel, from the death of *King Saul* to the reign of *King David*. In chapter 29, King David is gathering funds and resources to build God's temple, a project that had been entrusted to his son, *King Solomon*. As he does so, David offers a prayer in the presence of all the people in which he acknowledges the greatness and sovereignty of God.

David's Humility

1 Chronicles 29:14 is an expression of humility and gratitude on the part of King David. In this verse, David acknowledges that everything they have is from the hand of God and therefore he has no way to offer Him anything other than his own will. This is a humble acknowledgement that we are small in the face of God's greatness and that everything we have is a gift from Him.

Attitude of the Heart

This verse also reminds us that it is the attitude of our heart that ultimately matters. David focuses not on how much he gives, but on the disposition of his heart to give. He gives willingly, recognizing that all he has is given to him by God and that therefore all he has should be used to glorify Him. This attitude encourages us to reflect on our own attitude toward giving and consider how we can give more generously and with a more grateful heart.

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> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?
> — *1 John 3:17*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: money, compassion, love, materialism, neighbor

Interpretation:
In *1 John 3:17* we see a call to compassion and help for those in need. *The Apostle John* tells us that if we have material possessions and we see a brother or sister in need, but we close our hearts to them, we cannot say that God's love dwells in us. This message is a call to love and compassion for others, especially those who are less fortunate than us.

Why is it important to help those in need?

The Bible teaches us that our material possessions and the wealth we possess are not for our own benefit alone, but are to be shared with others.

Jesus tells us in *Luke 12:33, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys."* This verse shows us the importance of helping those in need.

Moreover, helping those in need is not only important because of the religious mandate, but also has a positive impact on our lives and our communities. By helping the less fortunate, we build a more just and equal society. We also develop our own empathy and compassion, as well as leadership and teamwork skills.

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> The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.
> *— 1 Samuel 2:7*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Samuel
Topics: money, Almighty, dependence, humility, poverty

Interpretation:
In *1 Samuel 2:7* we are taught that God has absolute control over wealth and poverty. He is the one who enriches some and impoverishes others, who brings some low and exalts others. The biblical idea behind this verse is that God is sovereign and His providence extends to every aspect of our lives, including our financial situation.

God uses wealth and poverty as disciplines in the life of a believer to bring him to greater humility. On the other hand, God can also use wealth to bless and support the work of the gospel. However, we

must always remember that it is not money that will bring us happiness and complete satisfaction, but the *presence of God in our lives*.

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> 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 6:10*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: money, desires, evil, faith, greed, idols

Interpretation:
The Bible verse in *1 Timothy 6:10* is an important reminder that the love of money can be the root of all evil. The desire to accumulate wealth and power can lead to greed and unethical decisions in life, which can lead to a loss of values ??and faith.

The Bible teaches us that money itself is not evil, but the love of it can become a hindrance to our relationship with God and the realization of our true happiness. It is easy to become caught up in prosperity and the accumulation of wealth in this world, but in the long run, this can bring more pain than satisfaction.

A fall from faith

When we focus on money and the accumulation of wealth, we lose sight of the purpose of our lives. We can stray from the inner values ??that are necessary to live a meaningful and successful life in our relationships with God and others. The Bible teaches us to find balance in our lives and not let the pursuit of wealth distract us from our faith.

Pain and consequences

The love of money can bring many negative consequences in our lives. Some people may fall into debt, greed and avarice, while others may succumb to the temptation of corruption and unethical behavior. These actions can have serious consequences, including legal problems, mental and emotional health issues, and loss of morality.

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> 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.
> *— 1 Timothy 6:17*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: money, joy, materialism, pride

Interpretation:
Verse *1 Timothy 6:17* teaches us that the rich in this world are commanded not to be high-minded or to put their hope in riches, because they are unreliable and transitory. Instead, they are encouraged to trust in God, who is the only one who can provide us with everything we need, and to enjoy His blessings.

How can this verse help the reader?

This verse is helpful to all of us, whether we are rich or poor. It reminds us how important it is not to cling to material things or become depressed when what we think will bring us happiness does not work out. Instead, we are to trust in God, who provides us with everything we need in life.

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> 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.
> *— 1 Timothy 6:9*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: money, greed, materialism

Interpretation:
The Bible constantly warns us about the dangers of being obsessed with wealth. In *1 Timothy 6:9, the Apostle Paul* warns us of the negative consequences that can come from allowing greed to control us.

The dangers of desiring to be rich

In this verse, the Apostle Paul tells us that those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare. Temptation is a trap that we can fall into without even realizing it, and a snare is a deception that causes us to do something we should not. In this case, the temptation is the desire for more money, and the snare is the belief that money will bring us happiness.

Furthermore, Paul tells us that the foolish and harmful desires that can arise from this temptation can plunge people into destruction and ruin. “Foolish” are those desires that are meaningless, foolish, and will not bring us any benefit, while “harmful” shows that these desires can negatively affect us and harm our relationships and our lives.

Money does not bring us happiness

Wealth is a blessing if used correctly. However, we should not fall into the trap of believing that money will bring us happiness. The truth is that money cannot give us the complete satisfaction we seek, just like material possessions. Moreover, we must remember that while wealth can provide us with comfort and make life easier, it can also become an obstacle to our relationship with God. Often, the rich are proud of their wealth, which prevents them from humbly approaching God.

The importance of living with financial wisdom

While we must be aware of the dangers of wealth, this does not mean that we should avoid hard work and financial responsibility. The Bible teaches us that we are to use our resources wisely and be good stewards of all that God has given us. This financial wisdom can be developed through planning, saving, and investing. However, we must avoid greed and the temptation to accumulate wealth dishonestly and without any eternal purpose.

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> Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

> — *2 Corinthians 6:10*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: money, joy, materialism, poverty, reward, sadness

Interpretation:
2 Corinthians 6:10 is an interesting passage that talks about a seeming contradiction we can experience in our lives. On one hand, we can feel sad and poor, but at the same time, we can have joy and wealth.

Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing

The first part of this verse tells us to be joyful despite being sad. It is important to note that this does not mean that we do not feel sadness or pain, but rather that we can experience both emotions at the same time. As Christians, we know that God is with us in our trials and tribulations, and this helps us to feel more confident and to seek joy despite adversity. He is our source of lasting happiness, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Poor, but making many rich

In the second part of this verse, St. *Paul* encourages us to consider how we can be poor, but at the same time enrich ourselves and others. Sometimes we think that wealth is measured only by material means, but the true meaning of wealth is the ability to share what you have with others.

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> Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”
> — *Acts 5:3-4*

Book: New Testament / Acts

Topics: money, devil, honesty, lying

Interpretation:
The verses in question come from *Acts 5*, which tells the story of *Ananias and Sapphira*, a couple who wanted to deceive the apostles and the Christian community in Jerusalem. They sold a property but decided to keep some of the money for themselves and only do part of what they had agreed to do.

Ananias and Sapphira, a story of deception

Peter, one of the leaders of the church, asks Ananias and Sapphira why they lied about the income from the sale of a plot of land. Ananias had promised to sell his land and bring all the money to the apostles, but he lied to the *Holy Spirit*. In other words, he sinned.

At the time the *Acts of the Apostles* was written, the Christian community was characterized by love and generosity, a desire to share with others what they had and to help the poor. So Ananias and Sapphira acted deceitfully and selfishly, trying to make it appear that they were giving away all the money they got from selling their property, when in fact they were keeping some of it for themselves.

Fighting the temptation to sin

These verses show us that we are all susceptible to the temptation to sin. Ananias is an example of how we can fall into lying and dishonesty if we are not careful. Satan, the enemy of our souls, seeks to deceive us into sin.

Lying to God

These verses teach us that lying to others is lying to God. In this sense, Ananias and Sapphira's deception was directed not only against the Christian community, but also against God. This fact takes on special significance in the context of the time when *Acts* was written, when the Christian community was being persecuted and oppressed by religious leaders and the Roman authorities.

Beyond the seriousness of Ananias and Sapphira's deception, these verses are a reminder that every action we take has consequences and that we are responsible for them. Even when we think no one is watching us or we can hide our actions, God is always watching us. Therefore, it is our responsibility to act with honesty and integrity in all areas of our lives, even in the most mundane situations.

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> For the Lord your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.
>
> — *Deuteronomy 15:6*

Book: Old Testament / Deuteronomy
Topics: money, blessing, debt

Interpretation:
Deuteronomy 15:6 speaks of the importance of financial well-being and how it can be used to bless others, rather than to be selfish with one's possessions. As followers of God, it's important to understand that the blessings we receive from Him are intended not only for our personal benefit but also to bless others. This verse teaches us to be generous and to lend to others without expecting anything in return.

The importance of generosity

Generosity is a very important virtue for every follower of God to possess, as it is a way to show love and gratitude for what God has given us. Giving to others is priceless, and this involves sharing not only our possessions but also our time, attention, and emotional and spiritual support. It's important to know that by giving of ourselves, we bless not only others but also ourselves, to the extent that God rewards us.

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> Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.
>
> — *Ecclesiastes 5:10*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: money, greed, materialism

Interpretation:

One of the most common problems in modern society is an excessive love of money. Modernity and the capitalist world have taught us that the most important thing in life is having a lot of money, but the Bible teaches us something completely different: that the love of money is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 clearly states that those who love money will never be satisfied with it, no matter how much they have, and those who love wealth will never bear true fruit. This teaches us that the love of money or wealth is empty; it cannot satisfy and distances us from what is truly important.

How can we apply this verse to our lives?

Applying this verse to our lives is simple, but not easy. We must learn to value what is truly important, what is truly valuable. Love for God and family, love for our neighbors, honesty and integrity—these are what will bring us true happiness and satisfaction in life. We must learn to put money in its place, viewing it as a means to satisfying our needs, not as an end in itself. We must be grateful for what we have and not desire more and more, as this only leads us to dissatisfaction.

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> As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them?
> — *Ecclesiastes 5:11*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: money, desires, materialism

Interpretation:
Ecclesiastes 5:11 discusses how material goods can multiply, but instead of benefiting their owner, they can be consumed by large numbers of people. In other words, the author of Ecclesiastes uses this verse to emphasize the futility of wealth.

Context explanation

The Book of Ecclesiastes focuses on the ephemerality of life and the reality of death. The author, attributed to *Solomon*, reflects on the futility of pursuing happiness and wisdom through wealth and the possession of material goods. In light of this, verse 5:11 invites us to reflect on how even acquired material goods can lose their value or provide no significant benefit.

The temptation of wealth

This verse also highlights the temptation associated with wealth and material goods. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that possessing certain goods will make us happy or provide financial security and stability. However, the author of Ecclesiastes reminds us that even the accumulation of possessions may not bring us significant benefits or long-term value.

The value of relationships

The Bible verse *Ecclesiastes 5:11* can also teach us the value of relationships. Instead of focusing on the accumulation of possessions, the author invites us to reflect on the importance of human relationships and how these relationships can provide lasting and meaningful value in our lives.

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> Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.
>
> *— Ecclesiastes 5:19*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: money, food, joy, receiving, work

Interpretation:
The book of Ecclesiastes is one of the wise and instructive books of the Bible. In it, its author, presumably King *Solomon*, reflects on the pleasures, sorrows, and vicissitudes of life.

Enjoy divine blessings without guilt

Sometimes we feel guilty about enjoying God's blessings, either because we believe we don't deserve them or because we think it's better to be modest and avoid attention. However, *Ecclesiastes 5:19* reminds us that these blessings are God's gift, and therefore it is our duty to enjoy them. Of course, without falling into excess or arrogance, but always thanking the Lord for His generous blessings.

Work hard to enjoy blessings

Another important lesson from this verse is that to enjoy God's blessings, we must work hard. God does not bestow blessings and riches upon us magically or unfairly, but tests our capacity for effort and perseverance. It is our duty to strive for excellence in all we do and, as a result, to receive the rewards God has in store for us.

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> Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.
> *— Exodus 20:23*

Book: Old Testament / Exodus
Topics: money, idols, law

Interpretation:
This verse is part of the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. God forbade the Israelites from making gods out of silver or gold to worship as if they were the true gods. *Instead, God commanded them to worship Him alone*.

The Bible repeatedly warns against idolatry. In the Old Testament, the Israelites often went astray and worshiped false gods instead of the true God. This not only angered God, but also led to the destruction of the nation of Israel at the hands of their enemies.

In the New Testament, the Apostle *Paul* warned Christians against idolatry, emphasizing that Christians should not worship false gods or put anything above God in their worship. As Christians, we are to be faithful to the true God and always trust in Him.

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> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

> — *Hebrews 13:5*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: money, contentment, debt, materialism, trust

Interpretation:
Hebrews 13:5 teaches us the importance of living without covetousness, that is, without being overly obsessed with money or material possessions. Instead, we are to be content with what we have in the present moment, trusting that God will not leave us or forsake us in the difficulties of life.

This passage of Scripture encourages us to trust God in every moment of our lives, even in difficult times when it is easy to think that our circumstances are unchangeable and we cannot imagine or even believe that we can move forward.

A teaching on gratitude

It is important to be grateful for what we have in our lives. By doing so, we focus on what we have rather than what we lack. This brings us greater happiness and peace. Gratitude allows us to have a more positive outlook and to appreciate the things around us more. It also helps us to have a more humble attitude and to recognize that the gifts in our lives are a product of divine love.

We often focus on what we don't have, what we're missing, what we're craving. But in doing so, we can become selfish, creating a sense of dissatisfaction that prevents us from appreciating what we truly consider to be life's gifts.

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> Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.
> — *James 1:9-10*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: money, humility, pride

Interpretation:

The Book of James, part of the New Testament, offers us a number of teachings and advice for our personal and spiritual growth. Verses that stand out for their deep wisdom and meaning are *James 1:9-10*. These verses encourage us to consider the importance of humility and the recognition that true greatness lies in serving others.

Joy in humility

The Apostle *James* speaks of “brethren,” meaning all those who share faith in *Jesus Christ*. The term “humble” refers to those who do not have a high social or economic status. It is interesting to note that *the Word of God* places great emphasis on humility, as it is one of the core values ??that every Christian must possess in order to grow in their faith.

Why should we boast about our exaltation if we are humble? These verses teach us that true exaltation is not in titles or wealth, but in being chosen by God to be part of His Kingdom. In other words, being a Christian is what makes us truly exalted in God. Therefore, we should be grateful for this blessing, not for our earthly possessions.

Wealth is like flowers on the grass

James 1:9-10 reminds us of the fleeting nature of earthly wealth. Wealth is a temporary gift, but it is no guarantee of a prosperous life. Those who are rich in this world must know that their wealth is not infallible and that they can lose everything they have at any moment. People often become overwhelmed with pride when they achieve professional success, earn a degree, or acquire expensive material goods. However, God calls us to be different in our thinking and actions.

If we are humble, we should find our glory in what really matters: *our relationship with God and our ability to love and serve others*. This passage also indicates that those who become obsessed with their wealth will be doomed to humiliation. Humility is important in the lives of believers because it allows us to recognize our limitations and shortcomings, and it makes us dependent on God.

The needs of others

It is easy to give in to vanity and selfishness in our daily lives. However, if we strive to be humble, we will be better able to see the needs of others and to provide support to those in need. Moreover, we will understand that everything we have has been given to us by the grace of God and that our role in life is to use these blessings to help others.

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> After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.
> — *Job 42:10*

Book: Old Testament / Job
Topics: money, blessing, Prayer

Interpretation:
The story *of Job* is one of the most gripping and touching in the Bible. This righteous and pious man lost everything he had—his family, his fortune, and his health—but he did not lose his faith in God. Job shows us the importance of maintaining trust in God during times of trial and tribulation.

Context of the verse

Job faced a series of unimaginable trials in his life. In a short time, he lost everything he had, from his property to his family. Despite this, Job maintained his faith in God and did not blame Him for his suffering.

Instead, he questioned the reasons for his suffering and sought the cause of his adversity. After a long conversation with his friends, Job prayed for them and finally found peace in his heart.

Job's prayer for his friends

Job prayed for his friends, even though they criticized him and accused him of sin. Instead of being angry with them, he offered to intercede for them before God.

Job was willing to forgive and forget the sins of his friends. His prayer not only demonstrated his godly character but also revealed his love and compassion for others, even those who had unjustly judged him.

God's answer

God heard Job's prayer and blessed him not only with restored health and wealth, but also with joy in his heart. Job possessed unwavering faith in God, and his patience, willingness to forgive, and intercession for his friends earned him a special place in God's heart.

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> 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*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: money, contentment, greed, materialism

Interpretation:
In Luke 12:15, Jesus warns his disciples about greed, the tendency to focus on the accumulation of wealth and material possessions. Jesus tells them to beware of all greed, emphasizing that a person’s life is not made up of the abundance of goods they possess. In other words, Jesus is teaching them that true happiness and meaning in life are not found in the accumulation of material goods, but in something deeper.

Jesus encourages us to look for deeper things, rather than focusing solely on material things. He invites us to look for happiness and fulfillment in other places, such as meaningful relationships, spirituality, and helping others. Having material goods is not necessarily a bad thing, but it is important not to focus our entire attention and life on them and not let them define us.

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> Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?
> — *Luke 14:28*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: money, debt, planning

Interpretation:
Spiritual growth does not happen overnight. It is a process that takes time, persistence, and planning. In *Luke 14:28*, *Jesus* talks about the importance of counting the cost before we begin. This metaphor of building a tower shows us that we must be wise, prudent, and farsighted in everything we do in life.

What does this verse mean?

In the context of this verse, *Jesus* is talking about the cost of following Him as a disciple. He is telling His followers that they must be willing to give up everything and count the cost before they decide to follow Him. Building a tower can be a metaphor for any project we are trying to accomplish in our lives.

Counting the cost before we begin involves having a clear idea of ??what we want to accomplish and what resources are needed to get there. This applies not only to material projects, but also to our spiritual lives. We must be aware of how much time, effort, and resources it will take to grow and mature as Christians.

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> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.
>
> — *Matthew 13:22*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: money, Fruitfulness, temptation, Word of God, worrying

Interpretation:
To better understand *Matthew 13:22*, it is important to know the context in which it was written. *Jesus* uses the parable of the sower to illustrate the different types of hearts that receive the Word of God.

One of the hearts Jesus mentions is one that was planted among thorns. The seed in this heart begins to grow, but then it is choked by the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches.

The Problems of This Century

One of the problems that dominates Jesus' narrative is the concept of worldly cares. The deception of wealth draws us into worldly cares and distances us from God.

If we allow these cares to dominate us, our growth in faith can be stunted and suffocated. When worldly cares begin to become our primary concern, our spiritual growth becomes secondary and we can forget about what is truly important.

The Deception of Riches

Jesus also mentions the deceitfulness of riches along with worldly cares. Wealth can become a hindrance to our relationship with God if we are not careful. Material possessions can be deceiving because once we have them, we can fall into the trap of thinking that we don't need anything else.

We can begin to think that our material possessions satisfy all our needs. The problem is that while physical wealth may provide temporary satisfaction, it will never be enough to meet the eternal needs of our soul.

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> His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'
> *— Matthew 25:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: money, blessing, reliability, reward, serving

Interpretation:
In the Bible verse *Matthew 25:21* we find a story about a servant who was rewarded for being faithful in doing what he was asked to do. This story is an important teaching about the importance of being faithful in small things, as it can lead us to receive greater blessings.

This passage is part of the teaching about the kingdom of heaven that Jesus shared with his disciples. In the story, a rich man who was about to go on a journey gave his servants charge of his property. He gave one of them five talents, another two, and another one talent, according to each one's ability.

The servant who received five talents used them wisely and was able to double them, as did the one who received two talents. But the servant who received only one talent hid it and did nothing with it.

When the master returned, he called his servants to give an account of what they had done. Then the one who had received five talents gave him ten, and the one who had received two gave him four. The master was pleased with them and congratulated them, saying, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"*

This story teaches us the importance of being faithful and diligent in small things, and the fact that God has given us different talents and abilities that we can use for the good of His Kingdom. Often we want to have big opportunities and responsibilities, forgetting that everything begins with small tasks and wise stewardship of what we have been given.

We can also learn from the example of the servant who hid his talent, who showed paralyzing fear and did not dare to use what was entrusted to him. It is important to remember that God calls us to be courageous and trust Him even in situations that seem small or insignificant.

This verse can help us understand that in our Christian walk, every step we take is important and that God values ??our faithfulness. We can apply this to many areas of our lives, work, personal and spiritual. In addition, it also encourages us to take risks, trust God and take risks in doing new things, even if they seem small or insignificant to us.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
> — *Matthew 6:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: money, desires, heart, materialism

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:21 is a verse that reminds us of the importance of our earthly treasures and how they impact our spiritual lives. In this verse, *Jesus* warns us that our heart will follow our treasures, meaning that our devotion, energy, and time will be directed toward what we consider most valuable in life. But what are our treasures? How can we identify them and make sure our lives are aligned with what God wants for us?

First, it is important to understand that our treasures can be anything we consider valuable, whether material or non-material. This includes our possessions, our careers, our relationships, and our personal dreams and desires. Jesus is not telling us to give up everything we consider valuable, but rather to make sure that our first priority is Him and His Kingdom, and that everything else has its proper place in our lives.

For many of us, identifying our treasures can be a difficult process. How do we know what we consider most valuable in life? One way to know this is to observe our daily habits and how we use our time and energy. Do we spend most of our days working on our careers? Or do we devote time to developing our faith and serving others? Are we focused on accumulating material wealth or are we seeking to build meaningful relationships with family and friends?

Once we recognize our treasures, it is important to ask ourselves if they are in alignment with the values ??and principles God teaches us in *His Word*. Are we pursuing fame and fortune at any cost, even if it means hurting others or betraying our principles? Or are we seeking to follow God's will in our decisions and actions, even if it means giving up our personal desires?

The truth is that while we cannot avoid treasures in this life, we can ensure that they are aligned with God and His Kingdom. In fact, our position regarding our treasures reflects to whom we are loyal. We must be responsible with what we have and consider it a priority in life because in the end all material things will remain on earth, but what truly surpasses *is our inheritance in Christ*.

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> 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*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: money, debt, greed, materialism, serving

Interpretation:
In today's society, we are constantly being driven by the need to achieve wealth and success in life. The intense competition for money and material possessions often causes us to forget the fundamental truth that this Bible verse from *Matthew 6:24* offers.

The meaning of the verse

The teaching of this verse is clear: we can only serve one master, material or spiritual. Serving wealth distances us from God, and this leads us to make decisions that harm our values ??and distance us from true happiness.

The Bible teaches us that God is the source of all goodness and that serving Him is the path to happiness, peace, and harmony in our lives. While money and material possessions may bring us temporary happiness and pleasure, they cannot satisfy our spiritual or emotional needs.

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> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
> *— Philippians 4:12*

Book: New Testament / Philippians
Topics: money, contentment, food, life, poverty

Interpretation:
The Apostle *Paul* wrote to the church in Philippi about their ability to live in any situation. He said that he had learned to live modestly, and he also learned to live abundantly. But most importantly, Paul attributed his ability to survive in any situation to one person: *Jesus Christ*.

Learning to live with humility

In this verse, Paul says that he has learned to live humbly. This is a difficult lesson, since humility often contradicts our human nature. Humility means recognizing that we are completely dependent on God and that we are not above others.

This recognition of our dependence on God leads us not only to a more modest life, but also to a sense of true freedom. Not worrying about what others think of us or accumulating earthly things allows us to trust in the One who cares for us.

Learning to have abundance

The Apostle Paul also talks about the ability to have abundance. This is also difficult for many Christians, since we often think of poverty as a sign of holiness. However, the Bible is full of stories of prosperous people like *Job and Abraham*. God promised blessings and prosperity to those who obey and trust Him.

Prosperity can also give us the opportunity to bless others. God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others. We can share our financial and material goods, but we can also share our knowledge, wisdom, and time.

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> Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death.
>
> *— Proverbs 10:2*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, honesty, righteousness

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is considered one of the wisest books in the Bible, and is full of instructions on how to live righteously and wisely. In chapter 10, verse 2, we are taught an important lesson about the value of justice and the dangers of amassing wealth through dishonest means.

A warning about treasures of evil

Here we are reminded that no matter how much money, power, or wealth we accumulate in our lives, if we have acquired it through unlawful or evil means, it will do us no good. We may think that these treasures will bring us security and happiness, but in the end, they will only bring destruction and pain.

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> The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it.
>
> *— Proverbs 10:22*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, blessing, dependence, work

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is one of the wisest books in the Bible. And this verse tells us about the blessing that God gives us. We often wonder what makes our lives richer and happier. We may think it's money, success, fame, or interpersonal relationships. But the truth is that none of these things alone can make our lives truly rich and happy unless we have God's blessing.

What is the Lord's blessing?

The word "blessing" comes from the Hebrew word "berajah," which means "to speak well of someone" or "to strengthen someone's strength." The Lord's blessing refers to everything He gives us in our lives, including health, provision, peace, protection, and happiness. It is a divine act that allows us to experience God's unconditional love for His people.

How can this verse help us?

This verse reminds us that true wealth and happiness come from God. No matter how much money we have, how successful we are, or how many people we have around us, without God's blessing our lives will always be full of sorrow and disappointment. Therefore, we must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to us *(Matthew 6:33)*.

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> Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
>
> *— Proverbs 11:4*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, materialism, punishment, righteousness

Interpretation:
Proverbs 11:4 contains an important message that we must constantly remember in our daily lives. It is that no amount of wealth or material possessions can protect or save us when we face God's wrath and justice.

This saying reflects on the futility of wealth and the importance of living a righteous life. If we analyze this proverb carefully, we will notice that it actually tells us two different things: on the one hand, the

futility of wealth, and on the other, the importance of righteousness.

The futility of wealth

As for the first part of the parable, it tells us that wealth is worthless in the face of God's wrath. In other words, no matter how much money or material possessions we accumulate, if we are not righteous and do not obey God's will, it will all lose its value in the face of God's justice.

The importance of justice

The second part of the parable shows us the value of righteousness before God. Although wealth cannot bring prosperity to a person, righteousness can be a means of salvation from death.

Moreover, it is important to realize that righteousness includes not only external actions, but also internal ones. This means that in order to be considered righteous, we must not only perform certain specific actions, but also have a righteous attitude in our hearts.

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> Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.
> — *Proverbs 13:11*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, debt, greed, work

Interpretation:
The verse teaches us the importance of acting honestly when it comes to wealth. Those who seek dishonest gain may gain temporary wealth, but it will not last.

It is vital to seek honest means of acquiring wealth and to manage our resources wisely. By acting honestly and gradually, we will see our assets grow and prosper.

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> A person’s riches may ransom their life, but the poor cannot respond to threatening rebukes.
> — *Proverbs 13:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, fear, materialism, poverty

Interpretation:
This verse from *Proverbs 13:8* makes a clear connection between wealth and a person’s life. This verse suggests that wealth can be a lifeline in dangerous times. On the other hand, it also shows us that the poor are less likely to pay attention to threats.

The importance of wealth

Wealth is important to our lives because it provides us with security and stability. If we have a good supply of food, a safe place to live, and access to health care, we will be less vulnerable to dangers that may affect our lives.

Moreover, we can also protect ourselves from external threats by investing in safety measures. Wealth gives us insurance that is invaluable in times of crisis.

The poor and threats

The rest of this verse says that the poor do not listen to threats. This suggests that the poor are more likely to ignore threats made to them by others. Poverty can make us more vulnerable and unable to prevent the dangers we face.

Lack of resources can make it difficult to buy food and access health care, so the poor may have a harder time protecting their lives than the rich.

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> Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.
> — *Proverbs 15:16*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs

Topics: money, awe, materialism

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is known for its wise advice on how to live a meaningful life in alignment with God's will. In particular, verse 16 of chapter 15 teaches us an unforgettable lesson about what is truly important in life.

In a society where material wealth is often the standard for measuring success and happiness, this verse challenges us to reflect on the ephemeral nature of money and possessions. While having money and financial security can provide us with prosperity and ease in life, real wealth is found in the intangible.

"The fear of the Lord" refers to a life of obedience to God, a life in which love and respect for Him are the foundation of all our decisions and actions. This verse reminds us that it is better to live a life full of God's love and grace than to have great wealth and inner turbulence that prevents us from enjoying it.

When we live in the fear of God, we are at peace with ourselves and with the world. No matter how meager our material resources, we can trust in God's provision and care in all situations.

Moreover, this world allows us to be content with what we have, which does not mean submission or lack of ambition, but rather recognition *that true happiness is found not in the things we possess, but in our relationship with God*.

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> How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!
> *— Proverbs 16:16*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, materialism, wisdom

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs in the Bible is widely known for its wise advice on how to live righteously and justly. *Proverbs 16:16* says that wisdom is better than fine gold, and understanding is better than silver.

What is wisdom?

Wisdom is defined as the ability to apply knowledge effectively and practically. It is not just knowing things, but also being able to apply them in everyday life. Wisdom goes beyond simply having information; it includes understanding, insight, and the ability to make smart decisions.

Wisdom and wealth

This verse compares wisdom to fine gold and understanding to silver. The idea is that wisdom is something very valuable, much more valuable than any material possession. People often pursue luxury and wealth, but this verse encourages us to focus on something much more important: wisdom.

How can we gain wisdom

Wisdom is not acquired overnight, but is a gradual process. The Bible tells us that wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord *(Proverbs 1:7)*. It is important to realize that God is the source of all wisdom, and that to gain wisdom, we must seek Him. This includes having a close relationship with God, reading and studying the Bible, and praying.

We can also gain wisdom through experience. Life presents us with different situations, and we can learn from them, both from successes and failures. We can also gain wisdom from other people, especially those who are older and more experienced than us.

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> Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.
> — *Proverbs 16:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, contentment, honesty, righteousness

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is a wisdom book that teaches us practical ways to live a life that pleases God and benefits ourselves and others. In chapter 16, verse 8, we find a valuable lesson about the importance of fairness in all our actions.

The importance of fairness in our actions

This verse tells us about the importance of doing what is right, even if in the short term it may seem like we are missing out on some opportunities for gain. Fairness is not only necessary to avoid illegal or immoral actions, but also to build an honest life that truly impacts the world for good.

Achievements that are gained unfairly will not bring us true satisfaction or lead to a fulfilling life. Fairness, on the other hand, gives us a sense of accomplishment and makes us feel valuable in the eyes of God and others.

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> The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale.
>
> — *Proverbs 18:11*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, materialism

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is an inexhaustible source of wisdom for all who seek truth and justice. Its teachings are applicable to every time, culture, and context in which we find ourselves. One of the most prominent verses in this book is *Proverbs 18:11*, which speaks of the importance of wealth for some people and how they view it as power.

Riches of the rich

Proverbs 18:11 speaks of how a rich person might view their wealth, that for some people, wealth is a safe haven where they can find refuge from the outside world. It's important to note that the verse doesn't claim that this is the way a rich person thinks; it simply reflects how some people view their possessions. In other words, the verse is an observation about behavior some people may exhibit.

Reflections on wealth

Wealth may be an important aspect of many people's lives, but it's not the most important. For some, accumulating wealth becomes so obsessive that they can neglect other important aspects of life.

In this sense, it's important to remember that material goods and wealth are not the source of happiness and satisfaction in life. On the contrary, true happiness lies in things that can't be bought, such as meaningful relationships, mental health, and personal development.

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> Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.
>
> *— Proverbs 19:14*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, relationships

Interpretation:
Proverbs 19:14 begins with the words, "Houses and wealth are inherited from parents." This implies that parents are responsible for creating a strong and secure home for their family and leaving an inheritance for their children.

This means that parents must work hard to provide for their families and provide them with a home in which they can live comfortably and grow their wealth. But this task is the responsibility not only of parents but also of prudent women.

A prudent woman as a gift from the Lord

The second part of *Proverbs 19:14* states that "a prudent wife is from the Lord." This means that a wise and discerning woman is a gift from God to the home. Parents can trust a prudent woman to care for their home and family.

A prudent woman is able to make wise decisions and understand what is best for her family. She thinks before she acts and cares for the well-being of everyone in her home. Her presence in the home is invaluable, as she not only takes care of everyday needs, but also strives to ensure that the home is a place of harmony and peace.

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> What a person desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar.
> — *Proverbs 19:22*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, goodness, poverty, reliability

Interpretation:
Proverbs 19:22 reminds us of the importance of showing mercy in a person's life and how it can be a source of satisfaction for him.

Charity is one of the fundamental Christian virtues that teaches us to love and serve others without asking for anything in return. This virtue is important in the life of a believer, and in order to live out its teachings, we must constantly practice it in our lives.

What does it mean to show mercy?

Charity is the ability to feel compassion and empathy for the difficulties and suffering of others. Showing mercy means paying attention to the needs of others, providing support and offering help when needed.

It is more than just material assistance. Showing mercy is an act of love and compassion that transcends cultural, racial and economic differences.

The Pleasure of Mercy

Proverbs 19:22 tells us about the satisfaction that comes from showing mercy. This satisfaction comes from the fact that helping others helps us feel good about ourselves and find meaning in our lives.

In a society that often pushes us to pursue success, power, and money, charity reminds us how important it is to be generous and to seek the well-being of others. This simple yet powerful act can fill our lives with meaning and happiness, while at the same time improving the lives of our fellow humans.

Better to be poor than a liar

Another part of *Proverbs 19:22* tells us about the importance of respecting truth in our lives. Truth is the most important virtue in the Christian life, and it goes far beyond what we say and do. Truth is also our way of seeing the world and God, and acting in harmony with what we believe.

In this sense, the verse asks us to choose truth over lies, even if the outcome is unfavorable to us. Instead of choosing a life full of deceit and lies, it is better to be poor, that is, to be considered a person who has no financial resources, but whose behavior honors God and others.

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> A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.
>
> *— Proverbs 22:1*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, materialism, relationships

Interpretation:
A good name is linked to a person's reputation. It's the opinion others have of you and your behavior in society. One could say that a good name is the result of your actions and their impact on the community in which you live.

In this verse, the Bible tells us that a good name is much more valuable than wealth. This may seem counterintuitive to some, as we live in a society where money and the accumulation of material goods are highly valued. However, this verse tells us that being respected and loved is much more valuable than having a lot of money.

Why is having a good name important?

A good name provides many benefits in life. When you are respected and value others, you have a much better chance of success at work, in your interpersonal relationships, and in society as a whole. Moreover, a good name also signifies that you are an ethical and honest person, which is crucial for building a just and equal society.

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> The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.
> — *Proverbs 22:7*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, debt, poverty, slavery

Interpretation:
This verse speaks of the power of money and how it can affect human relationships. The rich can exercise power over the poor, becoming their masters and establishing relationships of inequality and dependency. On the other hand, the borrower becomes the servant of the lender, meaning that the person who borrows loses their freedom and independence because they are indebted to someone else.

It is important to reflect on this verse because it helps us understand the power dynamics that can arise in our interpersonal relationships, especially when it comes to money. Not only can money affect our ability to meet our basic needs, it can also affect our emotions and self-esteem.

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> Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness.
> — *Proverbs 23:4*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, greed, planning

Interpretation:
Proverbs 23:4 exhorts us to avoid the pursuit of wealth, to be prudent, and to forsake it. This verse can be seen as a warning against greed, which distracts us from what's truly important in life.

What does it mean to be rich?

Before delving into the meaning *of Proverbs 23:4*, it's important to understand what is meant by the word "rich." While some define wealth as having large quantities of material goods and money, others understand wealth as happiness, love, and emotional well-being. Therefore, this verse can refer to both material and spiritual wealth.

Why exercise caution and forsake wealth?

This verse's call to prudent behavior and forsake wealth does not mean we should be content with what we have and not strive to improve our lives. Rather, it is a call to remember that greed and the pursuit of wealth can lead to irresponsible and destructive behavior.

An obsession with wealth can lead us to ignore important values ??such as honesty, loyalty, and compassion. Furthermore, the pursuit of wealth can lead people to work long hours and focus excessively on work, to the detriment of family and social life.

Prudence means acting cautiously, guided by common sense and wisdom, and taking conscious steps to achieve long-term goals. It's important to remember that true wealth is measured not by the amount of money, but by the quality of life and relationships.

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> Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.
> *— Proverbs 23:5*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, desires, materialism

Interpretation:
The fifth verse of Proverbs 23 is a clear warning about wealth and the temptations it brings. The biblical author reminds us to be wary of wealth, as it can easily take over our lives and even cause us to forget our values ??and principles.

Interpretation of the Bible verse

One possible interpretation of this verse is that material wealth is illusory and prevents us from achieving our true goals in life. The comparison of wealth to eagles' wings suggests that wealth is unstable and can disappear at any moment. The word "heaven" is used metaphorically to express the idea that wealth and material possessions have no real value or significance in our spiritual journey.

Furthermore, it is important to remember that the pursuit of wealth and the accumulation of possessions can not only distract us from our goals but also lead to greed and stinginess. Therefore, this verse also warns us of the dangers of unhealthy ambition.

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> Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.
> — *Proverbs 3:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, giving, harvest, sacrifice

Interpretation:
Proverbs 3:9 calls us to honor the Lord with all our possessions and the firstfruits of all our fruits. But why is this so important?

First, we must understand that everything we have, including our possessions and property, comes from God. He is the Creator of all things and has blessed us with them so that we can enjoy them and use them for His glory.

However, we often cling to our possessions and treat them as our own, instead of recognizing *that they are gifts from God*. When we honor the Lord with our possessions, we acknowledge His authority, sovereignty, and goodness. We are symbolically saying, *“Lord, all that I have is Yours.”*

What does it mean to give the firstfruits of our fruits?

This verse also calls us to bring the firstfruits of all our produce to the Lord. The word “firstfruits” refers to the first portion of our income or harvest that was offered to God as a sacrifice. This was done in recognition that everything we have comes from Him.

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> Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.
> — *Proverbs 30:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: money, food, lying, materialism, poverty, reliability

Interpretation:
In the book of Proverbs, *Agur* makes a sincere and humble request to God in chapter 30, verse 8. In this verse, Agur asks the Lord to keep him from vanity and lies and to give him only the necessities of life, which is daily sustenance.

Vanity and lies

Vanity and lies are two terms that are mentioned together many times in the Bible. Some people think that vanity and lies in everyday life are the shortest path to reaching the top. However, Agur shows in this verse that this attitude is not typical for those who are seeking to live a righteous life in the eyes of God.

It is important to remember that God is a God of truth, and everything He gives us is based on truth, not lies. Vanity causes us to desire things that are not necessary and to seek to impress others, which can ultimately lead us away from the path of God.

Poverty and wealth

This verse also talks about the importance of balance in our lives, which is especially important when it comes to wealth. Agur asks God to grant him neither poverty nor wealth, but to give him only what he needs to live.

It is important to note that poverty and wealth can affect our relationship with God. Poverty can make us feel powerless and dependent on others, while wealth can make us rely on ourselves and forget God. By asking God to give us only the food we need, Agur shows his trust in God and his willingness to always seek Him.

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> I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.
> — *Psalm 119:14*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: money, joy, law

Interpretation:
The Book of Psalms is a collection of verses used in the Jewish and Christian liturgy. *Psalm 119*, in particular, is the longest and is devoted to *God's Word and Law*.

What does this verse mean?

In *Psalm 119:14*, the psalmist expresses profound joy in God's revelations, which relate to His words and laws. The word *"following"* refers to how people navigate through life, and *"statutes"* are God's guidance for following this path. The psalmist finds more satisfaction in following God's commandments than in material wealth.

Reflections on material wealth

Material wealth is necessary, but in many cases it can become an obstacle to our relationship with God. It's easy to become caught up in the pursuit of money, fame, or possessions and forget about our relationship with God. However, as the psalmist notes in this verse, no material wealth can compare to the joy and satisfaction that follow God's will brings.

The importance of joy in God's Law

The psalmist finds joy in God's law because he understands that obedience to God's law is the only path to true happiness in life. God's law protects us from the mistakes and dangers of life and shows us how to live righteously and fully. Moreover, the psalmist recognizes that following God's law is the best way to honor God and demonstrate our love and gratitude for what He has done for us.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.

> — *Psalm 37:16-17*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: money, righteousness, sin

Interpretation:
Psalm 37 is a wisdom psalm that encourages us to trust in God and hope in Him in the midst of adversity. The psalmist talks about how the wicked seem to prosper and how this can tempt the righteous to stray from the path of the Lord. However, the psalmist confirms that true blessing and prosperity come from God.

What do these verses mean?

The verses teach us that we should not measure our wealth and prosperity in material terms. We may have little compared to the wicked, but if we are righteous, we have something far more valuable than wealth: *faith in God and eternal salvation*. In other words, while it is not wrong to have wealth, God reminds us that true happiness does not come from material possessions.

This passage from *Psalm 37:16-17* describes the difference between the fate of the wicked and the righteous. *"For the power of the wicked will be broken,"* meaning that their power and authority will be destroyed by their wickedness. On the other hand, the one who supports the righteous is the Lord, meaning that God protects and supports those who act honestly and fairly.

How these verses can help us

The verses encourage us to think about our priorities and values. We often become obsessed with chasing material wealth and forget what is important. The verses remind us of the importance of our relationship with God and our spiritual life. They also encourage us to appreciate what we have and be grateful for the little or much that God has given us.

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> The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.
> — *Psalm 37:21*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms

Topics: money, debt, giving, righteousness

Interpretation:
Psalm 37 is a hymn to trust in God and the proper attitude of believers in adversity. This beautiful verse calls believers to trust in God and not be disturbed by the envious and unjust. In verse 21, the psalmist explains the difference between the wicked and the righteous.

The wicked borrow and do not repay

The first contrast the psalmist presents is between the wicked and the righteous in the economic sphere. The wicked borrow without intending to repay, which implies a lack of ethics and responsibility. This reflects the wicked's selfish and careless attitude toward others.

The theme of financial responsibility is recurring throughout the Bible. God desires His children to be prudent and generous with their material resources. The importance of financial responsibility is evident in passages such as *Luke 12:15*, which states, *"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.'"*

The righteous are merciful and giving

On the other hand, the righteous are considered merciful and generous. A righteous person cares for others and shares what they have without expecting anything in return. Such behavior reflects the love and kindness that should characterize believers.

In *2 Corinthians 9:7*, we are reminded, *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* This means that everyone should give according to their ability, not out of obligation or compulsion.

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> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing.
> — *Romans 13:6*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: money, greed, honesty

Interpretation:
The book of Romans was written by *the Apostle Paul* to the Christians in Rome who were living under the rule of the Roman Empire. In this context, paying taxes to the Roman authorities was mandatory, but many Christians refused to do so because of their belief in *the Kingdom of Heaven* and their rejection of any form of earthly authority.

In *Romans 13:6*, Paul reminds Christians that they must pay taxes because the authorities are in the service of God and are dedicated to that service. Also, in the previous verse *(Romans 13:5)*, Paul speaks of the importance of submitting to the authorities rather than resisting them, since resisting the authorities is resisting what God has established.

Taxes and civic obligations

Paying taxes was not only an obligation under Roman rule, but is a civic obligation in most countries of the world. As Christians, we must recognize that we are citizens of the world and therefore must fulfill our civic obligations, including paying taxes.

Moreover, paying taxes is a way to contribute to the well-being of our society. Taxes are used to fund government programs and services that benefit all citizens, such as health care, education, security, and infrastructure. As Christians, we must recognize our responsibility to contribute to the well-being of our society.

Serving God through our civic responsibilities

In this verse, Paul also reminds us that governments are in the service of God. In other words, our civic responsibilities can also be a way to serve God. When we fulfill our civic responsibilities conscientiously and responsibly, we contribute to the well-being of our society and reflect Christian values ??in our daily lives.

Moreover, paying taxes can also be a way to demonstrate our trust in God. When we pay taxes, we trust that God will provide us with sufficient funds to meet our financial needs and that we are doing what is right in *His Kingdom*.

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> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

> — *Romans 13:7*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: money, awe, debt, honesty

Interpretation:
Romans 13:7 tells us about the importance of financial responsibility and paying our debts. In the context of the Roman society in which the early Christians lived, this was a very relevant issue, given that taxes were a heavy burden on citizens. *St. Paul* reminds us that we have a moral and civil obligation to pay all our debts and tax obligations.

Pay your respects

In this passage, St. Paul encourages us to pay our debts in full and on time. We must pay our taxes to the appropriate authorities according to the law. This is not only a financial responsibility, but also an ethical and moral responsibility that helps us build a just and responsible society.

In addition, we must recognize that the authorities imposing these taxes are concerned with the common good, which is also important for the well-being of society as a whole. *1 Timothy 2:1-2* says, *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."*

Respect and honor

It is also important to note that this verse goes beyond paying taxes and tribute. St. Paul tells us that we are to show respect to those who are charged with governance and justice. Justice and peace in society are fundamental to its functioning and overall well-being.

Finally, we are also asked to give credit to those who have earned our respect and admiration. Not only to these leaders of society, but to anyone who has made a significant contribution to our lives, community or country.

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