



ATTITUDE TOWARD MATERIAL THINGS

In a world filled with shortages there's not enough for everyone. We all have needs, desires, and wants. What should our attitude be toward material things?

1. Keep your priorities straight.
 - a. Put God first—let God be your Boss (Matt. 6:24).
 - b. Put service and acquiring righteousness first (Matt. 6:33; cf. 2 Chron. 1:10–12).
 - c. *a test of priorities*: Find your treasure...and there you will find your heart (Luke 12:34).
Do you have more money in the bank or more riches stored up in heaven? Are you putting as much treasure in your heavenly bank account each week as you are into your savings and retirement accounts? Let's say you work forty hours a week for your paycheck...how many hours a week are you working for a heavenly paycheck (preparation and teaching a Sunday School class, visitation, work at the church, counseling, writing cards, fund raising meals, work with youth, etc.)? Add up the number of hours you spend earning rewards. Compare it to the number of hours you work for a living. How rich are you? Are you going to make the Fortune 500 spiritually?
2. Character is more important than money: It's better to be poor and honest than rich and crooked (Prov. 28:6). The Hebrew noun *tom* "completeness, integrity" (BDB), translated "uprightness" in the KJV and "integrity" in the NASB, comes from the verb *tamam* "be complete, finished" (BDB). *Tamam* is used, for instance, of completing the building Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 6:22). No one is born with integrity: it increases over the years until it's complete. *Iqqesh* "twisted, perverted" (BDB), translated "perverse" in the KJV and "crooked" in the NASB, is the opposite of "all that is straight" (Micah 3:9).
3. Riches, desires, and pleasures can choke out your spiritual life (Mark 4:19=Luke 8:14; 1 Tim. 6:10).
4. Trust God to supply all your needs and desires—not money (1 Tim. 6:17).
5. Wait for the Lord to provide...keep trusting while you wait and don't worry (Matt. 6:25).
6. God knows all your needs and will supply them (Matt. 6:32; Phil. 4:19). There is Someone out there who knows and cares—you're not alone.
7. Be content with what you have (Phil 4:11–12; 1 Tim. 6:8).
8. In times of financial loss accept God's will with a good attitude (Job 1:21; Heb. 10:34).
9. God is the One who protects (Job 1:10), removes (1:11–12), or increases (42:10, 12) your finances.
10. Work to provide for your needs and the needs of others (Eph. 4:28).
11. Be generous with what you have (1 Tim. 6:17–18; 1 John 3:17).