

## MONEY CRUCIFIED (Starting at the Roots)

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus. What an honor it is for me to minister the message of God's grace with you. I want to encourage you to go and share this message with as many people as possible because this is going to impact the lives of people.

I am going to talk about money and the title of this message is *Money Crucified*. I'm going to look at certain verses in the Bible that's been difficult to explain, things like Timothy where the scripture talks about the love of money being the root of all evil. If Paul comes and writes to Timothy and says that the love of money is the root of ALL evil, he had to have a certain understanding about it and there was a reason why he was saying that. He said that because it is so and because it was revealed to him by Jesus. We are going to look at those kind of things and explain it.

Now, when you look at those verses, if I say to you, for instance, "Do not worry about what you eat, about what you drink, and what you shall wear, and those kinds of things", then fear wants to grip your heart. And guilt, because maybe you are worried about where you are going to stay. I am going to explain to you how the where you are going to stay and what you are going to eat is not supposed to be interpreted in the way of feeling condemned but where you can feel free.

I am starting a series on finances and I do have a series on money that I had done long ago and I was just thinking to go for maybe the next 3, 4, 5 Sundays and just preach on finances, just bringing a well-balanced message. What I mean by balanced is a message that is so full of life that it can produce the eternal life God planned for you in the area of manifestation in your life that can bring it forth.

I want to just say this as an introduction, that the reason why I do this is not because I am hurt, or because I have been abused, or because I have something against any preacher. I'm not against preachers. I love the Church, I love the local Church. I love for the Church to advance to reach more people. I love for the church not to struggle financially and just live in abundance. But that cannot be at the cost of the Truth. For the Truth can even produce all those things anyway. So I just want to bring this and share this.

Another reason why I also want to minister this is I see a little bit of confusion concerning tithing, concerning giving, in the church. It's almost as if there is a little bit of legalism connected to this. And I don't say that people who say that you must tithe or people who believe you should only give to the local church, and those kind of things, that they are legalists. All I believe is that there is a clear truth concerning these things whereby we can see great fruit.

I don't think that one man can, really, in every area of your life, say, "This is the full Gospel concerning that area of your life." It would be very, very difficult for one man to understand it all. We need each other. We need to share with each other and see this encouragement and sharing of Truth, touching the lives of all people.

Now, before we get into this, I would like to just pray for you.

"Father, I want to thank You, that as I share this message concerning money and this introduction message is quite a tough one, I thank You, Lord, that You can touch people's lives and Holy Spirit thank You that You speak through me in such a great way. I thank You that You do not just give me an eloquent way of saying something but that You allow me to say it in a way that what is in my heart about this can be understood and that people can be free. Thank You for that, Father! In Jesus' mighty name. Amen and amen!

Just before I get into the message I want to just say to you that you have to read this a few times to really grab what I say.

When we go to the book of Timothy, first Timothy, we will have a look at what advice Paul gave Timothy here. Now, just before I get into this, I'm also going to use some Old Testament verses. I do believe that the Old Testament is of great value to the Church and I say that, knowing that the Law is not for a righteous man. So I can never preach the Law to you. **The Law is not for a righteous man.**

The Law is for the person who seeks justification by his works. That's what it is for. If you are really righteous, why do you need a law to obtain righteousness. You know, the Law is not for a righteous man. Neither is the Law unto life.

I see that the Law was ordained unto life but found to be unto death. So, what I see there is that the Old Testament people, and even the apostle, Paul, thought that life was contained in the Law. And I thought that was the wisdom by which they could have a quality of life, a good quality of life, God's quality of life. But then Paul comes and he says that Jesus Christ became the wisdom of God for us by which we are now having life.

Yet, the Law is not to be used. It should just be used in a lawful manner. In other words, a lawful manner, the teaching I put up just yesterday for those who wanted to watch it and there's a teaching, *The Way Jesus Looked at the Law*, and please do yourself a favor and go and listen to that. It just impacted my life greatly in understanding the Law. You need to look at the Law the way Jesus looked at the Law and that's how we can apply it.

Now we are going to look at Timothy here, and we are going to look at Ezekiel as well. Now let's get into the message for today...

1 Timothy 6:1-12 says "*Let us many servants as under the yoke count their own master worthy of all honor, that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort. If any man teaches otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the word of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to holiness: He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words whereof comes envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw yourself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothes let us be content. But they that want to be rich, fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which draw men into destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, oh man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life...*"

Now, isn't this just such a powerful, powerful piece of scripture! The context here was basically Judaizers who came and what they would do is they were seen as the people who really loved money. And the Bible even says that the Jews of those times, the Pharisees and those people, loved money.

Now where does this big love of money come from? Why is it so deeply rooted into humans to really love money? And it's actually more than money. Money is just the currency or the thing that is used for something greater than money. But money gives itself so much to the system which works in man that we can call it a love of money.

Where does this whole thing come from? We must realize here, and let's just read the verse here. It says, "*In having food and clothes, let us be content, for they that want to be rich, fall into temptation...*" "*... they that want to be rich, fall into temptation.*" Isn't that just so, so bad... that they want to be rich... Now who of you, to be honest, want to be rich? All of us want to be rich! Let me put the question like this: "Who wants nothing?" There is nobody!" Everybody, even the poorest person would say, "I want something." Now if you would ask me, "Bertie, do you want to be rich?" and I think of billions and whatever... I don't want to be that rich because there's a lot of turmoil that goes with it. Basically, everyone would want the money. People would want to abuse the money. Everyone would be at your door wanting your stuff. It would grab a hold of my life in such a way that I am saying, "Man, I don't want that. I want peace and I want to continue in the peace that I live in."

But to say who of you don't want to drive a reliable vehicle, who wouldn't want to live in a good house and those kind of things? Everyone wants. Yet that verse, when it's read like that, it condemns your heart. But I believe Paul was talking about something completely different here.

Something that I've never seen before and in this week I realized where this whole thing comes from. I even started to understand Matthew 6 even much better, where Jesus was saying that when you look at the birds of the air they don't sow and reap. Why did He say that? Why He said, "Don't worry about what you will wear..." and all those kinds of things. Now it clearly says that the love of money is the root of all evil... the love of money.

Now we've heard, many times, people will say, "Not money... it's right to have money... it's just the love of money." Yes, it is the love of money. And the love of money here was basically a teaching wherein the Jews love money because money was conforming their stand with God for they believed that gain is godliness.

Let's just read that again. "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness.. ." So there were people who came in and who were teaching other Christians about the love of money. They didn't teach as, "You must love money." They declared that gain is godliness.

The best way to explain would be to say that if someone is doing well financially, to say, "What is he doing right? What has he done that God can bless him that way?" That was the kind of thing they were teaching because they were connecting financial blessing to obedience to God. That's what they were doing. And by that they were basically saying, "My financial prosperity is actually declaring my stand with God." So if I am righteous and God approves of me, then I will have all these things. So in saying that you actually become evil. **Evil is Law minded!** You brought a law outside of the Law of Life which is, that His life is your life, you brought into your relationship with God. And what you are saying is "I bring this law, that the blessing I have declares who I am." and that brings a love for money because all of us want to be accepted. All of us want to be good enough. All of us want that and because we want that, there comes a love for this money called, clearly, "gain is godliness". **The love of money is to believe that gain is godliness.**

We can see it in a way that we see that these people believe that if you are rich, you are godly. It's really not what they believed. They brought in a Jewish system which is found in Deuteronomy 28. Let's go there. You know, I always quote it but sometimes it's good to read it.

*Deuteronomy 28:1-8 "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments which I command you this day, the Lord your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on you, and overtake you, if you shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed shalt you be in the city, and blessed shalt you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, and the fruit of thy ground (that's money), and the fruit of your cattle (that's money), the increase of your kine (that's money), and the flocks of your sheep (that's money). Blessed shall be your basket and your store (that's money). Blessed shalt you be when thou come in, and when thou go out (in other words, all of this will be continually. This blessing will be continual). The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against you to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against you one way, and flee before thee seven ways (so when the enemy comes against you, they will not harm your prosperity... none of those things... you will continually be blessed). The Lord shall command the blessings upon you in your storehouses (that's money), and in all that thou set your hand to (that talks about your work shall be blessed... most of the time it talks in the context of what you do... your work... money); and he shall bless you in the land which the Lord your God shall give you. The Lord shall establish you a holy people unto Himself... "*

So, in other words, here he comes and declares that this holy people shall be established. How shall they be established --- By financial prosperity. So what happens is the Jewish people started to really think that if somebody is rich, it is God's stamp of approval upon him. And the moment they got this from this verse... and it is a difficult thing to say why God even said this... it's a whole other teachings... the whole concept here is "My blessing determines what I am, and what I am is based on what I do because if I do right, and I am obedient and I do my work well, then the blessing of God will be upon me and so I love to see this financial prosperity because that speaks of who I am. And by that we also could declare who is cursed --- like the poor. The poor would say, "I am just nothing. I am not accepted by God!"

And if you read on verse 15 and on, it says: *"But it shall come to pass, if you will not harken to the voice of Lord your God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command you this day; that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city and cursed shall you be in the field. Cursed shall be your basket and your store."* And here it goes on and talks about money again.

So in this mind set, (which came in from a legalistic system... this was written down by the finger of God... which Moses got from God on a mountain), they couldn't but believe that "I am what I do and who I am is manifested by the financial prosperity I have and therefore they have a love of money and because that **money tells them who they are**.

Now that can cause you to have a very great desire for stuff because all of us want to be accepted before God. And the greatest thing about this is, should you be poor then or if you should be rich, this is all public. Everybody can see this. So if I am poor, I am, in the eyes of people, cursed because they believe that even in the eyes of God I'm cursed and they even believe God causes these curses. So the rich really look down on the poor because of this legalistic system. And this is the very same problem that was in Corinthians concerning the communion. People came and the rich would eat, they would have their own meal, and there were others who were poor and they didn't even care for them. Why wouldn't they care for them? Because this love of money system, which was a legalistic system, was still grounded into their very being, destroying them.

So let's go back to Timothy and we can just see what is said clearly. He said, *"The love of money is the root of all evil."* So if the love of money, in other words, if the love for confirmation by what you see on account of your ability or your working system principles, can end in your life, all law shall be removed. Now the word, evil, there means to be full of labor and annoyance. So you will literally enter into the rest when you can realize that this system is not valid anymore.

Why would Paul say, *"... it is the root of all evil"*? Where does he get that idea? Now this is just my view on this and I hope that you can see it the way I see it because this is wonderful for me!

Let's go to Ezekiel 28, and read from verse 11. This talks about the fall of the king of Tyrus. The king of Tyrus has certain attributes concerning himself that, I believe, really fits into the fall of Satan. There are some people who believe that Satan was created evil from the very first day. I don't believe that God made evil, I don't believe God created a lie. God is not the father of lies. I believe that Satan is a fallen angel and he brought in the system that made him fall. We are going to look at what made Satan fall.

Before I get into that let me just say that this: It is very important, for me, that the Church understands this, that church leaders understand this and that you understand this. It is very important to me that you do understand this because we are dealing now with the root of all evil. The greatest way whereby we can see if we are blessed or not, in this world, is money. You know, we will say of someone, "It is going so well with him", and we have such an honor for the rich, our media, our advertising campaigns, our politics --- everything revolves around money. And if the enemy can get the Church to keep just a little bit of that love in their life, it will grow again into law. Any love of money shall grow into more legalism. It is the root of all labor and the root of all annoyance and the root of all legalism. That's why I think it is very important for us to understand.

Let's read here where it is talking about the fall of Satan here.

:11 *"Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; You seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty."* There is no one! There is no one. To me this is a type and a shadow of a being that doesn't exist because the bible says that there is none righteous, no, not one. So how can you be perfect in wisdom and not be righteous? Wisdom means application of Truth. How can you be perfect in the application of Truth, and be unrighteous? It is impossible.

So here is a being that is so wonderful, it says in verse 12, *"You have been in Eden, the garden of God (Now, the king of Tyrus surely wasn't there) every precious stone was your covering..."* The precious stones talked about there are just, I wouldn't say adding to but just speaking about the splendor of this person. Then verse 14: *"You are the anointed cherub that covers (It talks about the*

ability of this cherub that covers, that's over) *I have set thee so; you were upon the holy mountain of God: (The mountain of God --- if you think of Sinai and the mountain of God, it was where God was. That's where God sits, the level of God.) you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (Here he talks about the stones of fire. It talks of this absolute goodness of God that He's alive and full of fire, the very mercy and the goodness of God.) Verse 15: "You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you."*

So what he was saying was he said, "Listen, man, everything you did was perfect until something was found in you and this corrupted your wisdom. This corrupted your actions. And what was this thing that was found in him? It says, *"By the multitude of your merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence."* What he says here is that the multitude of merchandise filled the midst of him with a wrong belief. So what happened was Satan took into account a system where the abundance of merchandise started to effect his belief and he started to believe that he is in the level of God because of the abundance of the things he has. That's exactly the system that the Jewish people believed in and remember, I'm still explaining 1 Timothy 6 here. This is exactly what the Jewish people believed in, which the Gentiles believed in, which all mankind believe in and that is that your financial prosperity tells you who and what you are.

I have a good friend in town. He works for a boss here and he has a good position in the company. He said that his boss who drives a very expensive \$250,000 car and whatever, sat him down and said to him, "Listen, man, you are what you possess. I am better than a guy who drives a small car because if he was as good as I am, then he would have had what I have and he would have owned what I own." Now, that's someone who is full of arrogance who would just boldly come and say what they believe. Others cannot identify that belief and would not even make such a statement because it would feel wrong. But how many people would live like that and live by that and that is a Satanic system because that is the root from where all principles on "how to get more, to be more", starts. If you can love the system that says, "I am what I can produce", from there, you will find certain principles that tells you what you need to do in order to produce that. And you love the end of it, the end sum of it, because it tells you who you are and if you believe in that, immediately hierarchy has settled in your life. And you will always measure yourself where you are.

If we don't get the love of money out of the Church, and the system that God honors money, and that God finds value in money, out of our system, we are going to get into trouble. And we will have a small root in our system from where all kinds of legalism can grow. We don't want that!

So here we see, there are so many beautiful things in this passage that I'm going to read here. He says, *"By the abundance of thy merchandise..."* (In other words, the system of what I can produce, my money, what I can buy and sell and produce in my profit, went into his heart and when it went into his heart and he started to believe that he is what he does, then his ways were not perfect anymore. The way he would deal with other beings was not perfect any more. The way he would think was not perfect any more and corrupted his whole life. And Jesus Christ came to take that system and crucify it. He came to crucify that system and set man free.

We find this so rooted in our very being even as Christians, and even as Grace believers. I find that unless we deal with this and get to the place where we hear a comforting word of God to the point that the system of the love of money loses all its power, we will still feel inferior when you come with your car that's maybe a 1980 model and you park next to your pastor friend who drives a Porsche Kian or an Escalade if you are in the U.S. or some nice car. It's like you will feel that little bit of inferiority. And that inferiority is not because the guy, with the big car, may have projected it on to you. It might be, but the root of that whole thing would be what **you** believe about those things. And that is the love of money and that will be the root of all legalism. You'll start to judge people, you'll start to judge yourself, you won't feel good about yourself, you'll start to judge the motives of others who do have money, you'll start to judge the motives of those who have less than you, and the whole death thing will jump up. And Truth will lose its value and your wisdom will be corrupted. We will look into that now.

It says here in verse 17 *"Your heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, you have corrupted thy wisdom by the reason of your brightness:"* If you think of someone who is really rich, leads a wonderful life and is even good to a lot of people, there is a brightness shining out of him... there's a

glory shining out of him and this person took this brightness and this glory, this king or Satan and took it to heart and based his belief on that and loved that. "I love this because this speaks of me. This good I do, this what I can produce, it speaks of me." He loves it. And listen to what he says here in verse 17: *"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by the reason of your brightness."*

So wisdom means how to live every day. It was corrupted by the reason of the loving of this very beauty that was God given. So the moment we sit in a place where we are under the love of money, of where I have respect for, love (the word for love is agape), I've got love, I've got respect for, I've got adoration, I see no need to add anything once money has declared me blessed. That kind of a thing I am fully content with money's final voice over my life. I'm content with that. If I have money, I am happy. There's nothing wrong with money. Please hear me. There's nothing wrong with money. There's nothing wrong with having a nice car. There's nothing wrong with living in a good house. The thing is the belief around it. That's the whole thing and we see that belief as the root of all evil. If it is the root of all evil, I think we need to talk about it. It's one thing to be rich draws you into all kinds of hurtful lusts and we are warned by the apostle Paul to flee wanting to be rich. My goodness, I haven't heard many people preach about that and if I heard somebody, it wasn't in a very condemning way.

Here we see that the wisdom one has, let me give you a good example. It's not a wise thing to love one person in the church more than another person. It's not a wise thing to spend time in a church with one couple all the time and never want to talk to anybody else. But a love for money will make you want to do what you know is not wise and you will spend more time speaking to the rich than you would spend speaking to the poor. You will even see the church as the rich and poor. You will worry about you can't lose this guy because he gives to me. You know, when a rich person does something that is wrong, you will not treat him and correct him, correct his belief, as you would correct a poor person because you would be so scared that this guy is upset and wisdom goes out the door. The application of Christ cannot freely come to the rich guy because you are under the belief that money declares who I am and he is giving to me and therefore I cannot treat him the way I am supposed to treat him and tell him, "Listen brother, I think you have a wrong belief here. Let me correct your belief concerning this.", because you're so scared that he isn't going to give to you. Actually you don't care about him. You don't even care about money. You care about what money confirms for your life is from there and you see that is God's stamp of approval on your life and that is what happened to Satan. That's what happened to Satan and that's what caused his fall.

The same system was used in tempting Jesus in the desert. *"Jesus, if You are the Son of God (He was), use Your very ability and find Your confirmation out of Your abundance of Your merchandise."* (In other words, out of the abundance of what You can produce). Jesus said, "I don't live by that but I live by the Word that comes from the mouth of God."

So, with any mind, we know that it will corrupt our wisdom. It will corrupt the way you treat your people who work for you. Preachers came and Judaizers who had a love for money, love for money was the affirmation that comes from finances and the blessings that come connected with Deuteronomy 28. That's what I believe. And they came and they preached and what happened, the fruit of that preaching was, that the people who worked for the boss was so upset with the boss because obviously the boss is not going to give you enough money so you can drive the biggest thing or have the highest quality camel, you know, and have the best everything. So what he is actually doing is, "I'm giving my best and this boss is robbing me from God putting His stamp of approval on me and therefore I will always have to be lower class, working class.

And the rich guy, the boss feels these people are not producing enough for me because I know I must be the blessed of God somehow and I want God to bless me and I want to see myself as blessed. I don't want to be at the bottom. I want to be at the top of this hierarchy because this is all public and I don't want to be ashamed of myself so I want them to work hard. And you start to treat people in a way that you are never supposed to treat them because you have a love for this affirmation that money can give. Jesus came to set the Church free from that.

This is why I want to continue to preach about God's provision from the Trinity. I want to talk about how He cares for you because if you can know how He cares for you, you will realize that this financial prosperity thing is not an indication of anything. It means nothing for the Bible says, *"If the rich can say, 'I'm poor' and the poor can say, 'I'm rich', that is actually what needs to happen.* If the

rich can say that me finding affirmation... let me take you to church. Excuse me for using church as an example because for the last twenty years of my life I've just been involved in church and church systems. If you can say, "Man, if the guy with the biggest church and the greatest staff and all those kind of things, says, "I'm blessed because of these things", let him also say, "I am poor." because these things say nothing. It says nothing. If you put the rich in a scale and you put the poor in a scale, you find that the both of them weigh up to vanity. Let me speak to leaders: we give more attention to the guy with the bigger congregation and we feel that he is the guy.

A guy said to me, "Bertie, I'd rather be wrong and be wrong with this and this, (and he mentioned some names of big preachers), than be wrong with you." My goodness, that sounds to me like, "*I'm of Paul... I'm of Apollos*"... Sounds like fleshliness to me. That is not the way I think it is supposed to be because we should not measure who we are with. I'd rather be wrong with, let's use a big name, Benny Hinn, because at least he has millions of people following him. No! I'd rather never to be wrong and just be right and agree with God! It's like your wisdom, and this is what happens with these things, your wisdom gets corrupted. We have to know how to treat people. We will take money from people and we know that they give it feeling obligated.

Where in our love life with our wife or our husband, if it comes to intimacy and the one says, "Well, I don't want to be intimate with you but I let's do it then because this is what you want. You will say, "Listen, I don't want to force myself on you. Let's just leave this, maybe you feel bad or maybe I ill treated you today, or whatever. Let's just leave this until tomorrow and then sort this out." That is what you'll do in normal life. But when it comes to church and someone wants to give you money and you know this guy feels a little bit obligated, or he feels a little indebted to God and he gives it, you'll say, "Well, God blessed me. Amen." Your wisdom is corrupted. The end of that is that person feels abused and you've got to live with your own conscience, which tells you deep in your heart, "That's not really the truth. You're really trusting God. You really believe in God", and you begin living with all this turmoil which God has not given us. He's set us free from all of that.

So let's go to Matthew 6. The moment we understand the Trinity, the moment we understand our union and our fellowship and our provision, that way, everything in life changes.

It says in verse 22: "*The light of the body is the eye, if, therefore your eye be single, your whole body shall be full of light. 23: But if your eye be evil, (works orientated), your whole body shall be full of darkness! If, therefore, the light that is in you be darkness, how great is the darkness!*" This says the light of the body is the eye. In other words, the revelation or the enlightenment, that which enlightens your life, is the way you believe. It's how you see something. If your eye be single, in other words it is not double--- law and grace. but single, you only see Jesus. Your whole body shall be full of light.

But, if your eye is evil (evil ---full of labor and annoyance, works based), your whole body will be full of darkness. But if the light that is in you, the revelation you have, is a revelation of works righteousness, how dark will your life not be! Next verse, continuing in the very same breath, saying this, "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot be a servant of God and a servant of money.*" My goodness! You know, you can work and have money... no problem. But when do we become the servant of money?

God calls money--- now this is going to sound very bad--- but for lack of a better example, just hear me out. God calls money the competition... the other god. He didn't say, "You can't serve God and Satan". He said, "You can't serve God and money." Now why would He say such a thing? And He goes on and says, "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other;*" So you either have a love of money or a love for God. You either love the affirmation that comes by saying, "I'm blessed" and what it means should you prosper. If we didn't have any money it would have been just how many cattle you have --- basically the fruit of your labor. You either love the fruit of your labor and being defined by what you do, or you will love God, but you cannot have both. This is what Jesus said. The moment you think you have both, you either have one or the other. That's the way it is.

Let us continue. Just before that it says, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth.*" Talking about my treasure is about what I produce in this world. Don't let that be your treasure but let the treasure be the resurrected Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father, defining you.

*"No man can serve two masters. Therefore I say to you, 'Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, what you shall drink, nor for your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than meat, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air: they sow not, neither do they reap, nor go into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?'"* You see, this was completely against the system of that time. It's completely against the Satanic system of "I am what I possess." This says, "Why do you worry **what** you will put on?" It doesn't say, "Why do you worry **if** you will put something on."

Every person is concerned if he is going to have clothes tomorrow or not. Listen, if you think that you will walk naked tomorrow, you will worry. If you think that you will not have a place to stay, you will actually worry. Jesus wasn't saying, "Don't be concerned **if** you will have clothes or **if** you will stay." That's a natural thing for any human being. We have a concern. I need to have a place to stay... I need to have clothes. What He was concerned here is **what** you will wear and not **if** you will wear but what you will wear. Today's term would be, "Are you concerned about (and don't feel guilty, I am just using this as an example to explain to you what kind of a belief He is talking about)"

He is not addressing actions. He is addressing a belief because these people believed that the earthly system is really what's available to them. They found their value in these things. It would be something like, "Do you worry if the clothes that you wear are a name brand, or not." It's not if you wear but what you wear or what you eat. Do you worry if you buy your clothes from an expensive shop or just Walmart, or South Africa Checkers or whatever. Are you concerned about those things? If you walk down the street with a bag where you bought clothes, are you concerned what the name on the bag is? That's the whole thing. If you have a bag that's from Walmart and a bag that's from a very expensive clothing shop, would you put the Walmart bag inside the expensive bag, or the other way around? What would it be? And this is what Jesus was addressing because these people were believing "I am what I do, I am what I wear, I am the bag that I carry", and that kind of thing.

I know of people who take a bag from some expensive clothing shop and go and buy at a less expensive shop and bring that bag. In big fashion cities, people do that kind of thing. I'm just saying this is what Jesus was addressing. He said, "Listen, don't worry about that because that whole system has ended. God cares for the birds and He is your Father", which was not known to the Jews. Here Jesus comes and He declares to the people that God is your Father. By saying, "Father", He says you are in equality with God. Now why do you want to work to get stuff? You want to work so that God can give you stuff so that you can know that you are accepted by God by the stuff you have. No! No! He is your Father. You are already accepted and you are worth more than anything to Him. You never need that affirmation anymore. Let that affirmation lose its value. That system of I work, then God blessed and by the blessing I know what I am based on what I have done and where my stand with God is. He said that "God" ended. That's not there anymore. Jesus came and introduced a system in Matthew 6 calling people, the children of God.

It says, "Your Heavenly Father... YOUR Heavenly Father, cares for the birds. If He cares for birds and He is your Father, don't you think you are worth more than the birds? So, first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness. In other words, get rid of the earthly kingdom, the Satanic system where you believe that you are "what you wear or where you stay".

You know, so many times, our wisdom is corrupted, the way we deal with our money, so corrupt because of this wrong belief. What God gives us every month is more than enough financially. Most of the time what people receive is more than enough but because of this belief they will buy clothes and they will buy cars and they will buy things where they push their money so much to the edge because they are really trying to reach something that is a belief in them that says, "That is good. You know, that kind of clothes is good." You know, as contentment settled into my heart, I found that I've got money in the bank. As I got rid of this system of what kind of a thing I drive, or where I stay, and that kind of thing, I found that my wisdom concerning how I deal with money, has changed completely. I found that I now have enough over that I can be generous to people and give.

It was so nice today in our congregation when I could say to the people, without any fear, to say to them, "Listen, man, there is someone in our church who is going through a hard time financially. Her husband is going for a major heart operation and she is going through a hard time financially. She



can't even drive to the hospital all the time because she doesn't have enough fuel money." And I would say, "Listen, all the giving today, we'll just give to that lady. Be as generous as possible."

Now obviously we have costs, you know, we need a new car, but thank God, there's already the way the wisdom will come your way. You can deal with people in a way that you would never normally deal because you would think, "What about this month, you know, we don't meet our budget and we will need to use our credit card to pay something, for the building or whatever, for the building, whatever." I don't care! There will always be enough! Glory to God! But you can live in this freedom. You can wisely treat your people in church with absolute wisdom.

The whole giving, and I don't want to say offering, but that's what people understand. The whole offering is given, was given to one lady today. And why did we do that? We didn't arrange this. I just drove and said to my wife, "I think that is what we need to do today." And we did it. And she was really blessed! She was happy.... she was so happy with what was given and I was amazed that the money that came in was even much more than would normally come in on a Sunday. Glory to God! It was just the absolute generosity in the people's hearts.

Now, you will know how to deal with people, you will know how to do things because the power of this will be broken over your life. And this is what Jesus was saying here. He was saying, "You already qualify, My friend. You don't need the qualification that money can put upon your life." And once this settles in you, you will really start to, for the first time in your life, know what you really want. We were so in need of affirmation and so in need of God's approval and never knowing that this was the system where we basically found our life in what we do and the fruit thereof that it completely destroyed us. And Jesus came and He declares over your life, so freely, so clearly, that God the Father is your Father. He says, "Don't worry about what you will wear. First seek the kingdom of God." How does His kingdom function? His kingdom functions with Father and Son. It functions with co-heir. It functions with co-inheritance. It functions with what belongs to the Father, belongs to you. It functions with the Father gave everything to man and now He's living with man. That's how the whole thing functions!

You're like the elder brother **working for something we have**. You **are** approved of God! When He looks over your life, He just smiles over your life. Glory to God! When we think of tithing and we think of money in the Church, we can never start our month thinking we owe God. You know, Jesus in Heaven, the life between the Son and the Father, is our life! We are co-seated with Him and I cannot think that Jesus, in my wildest imagination, I cannot think that as the Father, from Who He is, provides for the Son and the Son, again, to the Father. It's just a mutual, wonderful relationship. Let's just talk about the Father and Son perspective as the Father provides for the Son. He didn't just provide for Heaven and where He is. He provides for Him in being everything that Jesus at the beginning of every month feels He owes the Father ten percent.. It just doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense. And if we have this thing about money where God says, "Listen, man, you owe Me ten percent." It speaks to our subconscious mind that God has some issue with money. We can't put our finger on it but if you don't give it, you are indebted to Him... you owe Him.

You know, my son cannot start every month with an emotion waking up every morning, every first Monday of the month with, "I owe my father". And then he gives it and then, "I don't owe my father." Imagine I would say to my son, "You know, if you never tithe, if you never give me ten percent, I will never curse you. I will never condemn you, but remember, it still belongs to me." He will feel like a thief if he doesn't give it one month. It would be that indebtedness.

Now I don't say, and please hear me, I do not say that you cannot tithe. I say, "You cannot tithe based on the old tithing system anymore. You can't bring your wine to the church and drink there and those kinds of things. I don't say you should go to the gates of the city and put everything there every third year. I don't believe you can tithe that way but if you talk about the tithing system that was in the Church to give ten percent of your money, I don't say that you cannot do that. Neither do I say that you should do that. What I say is if you, from a free will feel that you want to do that, do it. But if we start with indebtedness, and this is the whole thing to me and I don't want to get to. Again, if I don't give it I am put in the category of thief, I am putting it in the category of "I am indebted." So what happens again is you find those who are the givers of the tithe and are in a certain label. And how do you determine that? By what they did. How do you know that? We count the money for ten percent

and now we see. And we find the other people who didn't give. And then the people that did give will tell people that don't give, "Well, you're really not on my level, you know. It's not good.

And I know I might be stepping on some toes but my heart is really the body of Christ. My heart is a healthy church and I care for the local church. I do believe that there is an absolute place for the local church. My goodness, I have my own local church and have planted many churches until today. I have planted many churches all over. I'd be a fool to say that there's no need for a local church. Glory to God! But there's no need for a local church to be in error concerning the thing that is the root of **all** evil.

Listen my brother, I think you can be in error and in law. I can tolerate law teaching concerning prayer much more than I would concerning finances because law prayer is not the root of all evil but the love of money is the root of all evil. And what I found is we don't really want to just get rid of this old system completely. Let's get rid of it... completely! And do you know what I found? And this happened to me -- - generosity grabbed a hold of my heart and it's one of the most beautiful ways to live! It's such a high quality of life where you can be so captivated with the beauty of somebody else... the value of somebody else that you can't but take from yourself and give! I'm so blessed!

Today I stopped at the supermarket and there was a guy with a flat tire there. My wife was the first one just to say what was in my heart..."Help this guy change the tire." I came and said, "Can I help?" He said, "No, I'm okay." I said, "Well, I know you're okay but I'm okay with helping you." And I just came and changed the tire for this guy. If his tire was beyond repair or if he didn't have a tire, I would have just gone and bought him a tire. That is what is in my heart and I tell you that I didn't have this before. This is happening to me in such a great way and I thank God for that.

I want to tell you, tithing teaching, sowing and reaping teaching, you must submit to your pastor teaching, could never have produced this kind of a high quality fruit in me. I want to go so far as to say, "Nothing, but the law system, can ever take this away from me! This is not something I do anymore. I find that this is something God does in me and the only thing that could kill me is if I start to take this Christ life and let the Christ life manifesting in me become the root of my belief now where I am defined by what I do. That will utterly destroy me. So I am guarding against that.

The Bible says, "*Above all things guard what you believe and how you believe.*" Above all things. Now a guard is there because you are afraid that somebody else can maybe steal something from you and you got this guard. Now, I don't believe in living in fear and being tormented by fear because perfect love casts out all fear but God said, "*Don't fear lest you don't enter into the rest.*" So I'm not going to flirt with legalism. I'm not going to flirt with to see how close I can come. I don't know if you will think this is humorous but one guy said to me that while he was dating his girlfriend, he knew of all the ways of how to have sex without really having sex. He was trying to get as close as what he can without sinning. That's what I find with legalism. There is such a draw to that other system that we want to see how close we can get without being in the law. No! See how far you can get from the thing. Paul didn't say to Timothy, "See how close you can get. I want you to get a lot of money." No, he said, "Run! Flee from these things!" Glory to God.

My next teaching will be about how God cares for you from a Trinity perspective.

(I want to thank everybody who give from a generous heart towards Dynamic Love Ministries. I also want to thank people... maybe you don't give to my ministry but you just feel a generosity and you give to your local church or to somebody in your family or someone that you really care for and you feel that grace brought forth generosity. Thank you! To me it is wonderful because I just see Christ's life in people and true freedom. Thank you to those people who are on my Facebook page who confirm these things and just give testimonies of what God has done for you through these words. It really blesses me to the depth of my heart. Thank you so much for that.

Thank you for your generosity. It's just changed our life in a great way. It has enabled us to preach and it's appreciated so much.

I'm not against giving. I'm absolutely for the fact that giving shall take place "for God so loved that He gave." Now that is not a law that I say, "Well if you have the love of God in you, you must give." No! That's a law! What I say is when God's love is in you and continues to live in you, then He will be the Giver in you! And that's what He was about from the beginning so that you could experience what it is to be like Him. You know, there can only be one God and it's Him. He couldn't make you God exactly

like Him, free from Him, for there's only One, but that's how close He could come to share with you what it is to feel like Him, to be like Him, is to come and live in you. This is what the Gospel is all about.)