

Rate of Return – Part One

Pastor Jeff Cranston

Money tries to pull us away from God by saying...

1. **“Compare yourself with those who have more.”**

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. – Proverbs 14:30

2. **“You really are not a greedy person.”**

Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’ - Luke 12:15

3. **“Worry constantly about me.”**

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. - Matthew 6:25 (NIV)

4. **“Giving is a good idea in theory, but it's a bad idea in practice.”**

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. - Luke 6:38

Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. - 2 Cor. 8:2

5. **“Ignore the reality of your present financial situation.”**

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? – Luke 14:28

6. **“There is such a thing as ‘enough’; you just don't have it yet.”**

Money can help pull us closer to God. When it does, it says things like...

1. **“Don't look to me for contentment.”**

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. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. - Phil. 4:12,13

2. **“You will like your life more if you give than if you don't.”**

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ - Acts 20:35

Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.- Ephes. 4:28

3. “The time to start giving is now, not later.”

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.- Malachi 3:10

4. “Make generosity your first priority.”

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not die but have everlasting life. – John3:16