



## **M.U.G./G.U.M. (MONEY, YOU and GOD/GOD, YOU, and MONEY)**

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### **WHAT IS MONEY?**

1. Medium of exchange that is considered valuable in groups, societies or cultures for payment or purchase
2. A **NECESSITY** of life whenever we are living in a group
3. The only external man-made thing that predates our birth and follows us after we die
4. Money and God's vision for our lives
  - a) Since money is a necessity for living, all visions from God involve money as a blessing, an instrument or tool
  - b) The mismanagement of money can negatively impact the fulfillment of God's vision in our lives, personally as well as kingdom purposes
5. Money and Sex
  - a) Sex is expression of love, not vice-versa.
  - b) Sex is expression of true romance, not vice-versa.
  - c) Mismanagement and misuse of money like the misuse of sex turns money into a stronghold

### **MONEY: THE LAST GREAT STRONGHOLD**

≈ What is a stronghold? Literally, a well-fortified place: a fortress

### **BIBLICAL REFERENCES:**

#### **God as Stronghold** (Psalms 9:9, 18:2, 27:1, 94:22, 144:2)

If God is spoken of as a stronghold; then the biblical understanding of stronghold is something that is mighty. God as Stronghold is Almighty. God is the first, primary and ultimate stronghold of our lives for protection, comfort, defense and freedom. God is the only stronghold worthy of our lives because God is the only Stronghold who empowers, enables and equips us to pursue our highest destiny. Only when God holds us, are we then free to live up to our potential that only God knows we have. That is why only God who is incarnate and victorious in Christ Jesus and who abides with us in the person and presence of the Holy Spirit has a vision for our lives that is greater than any vision we can have for ourselves or others can have for us.

If God is not our first, primary and ultimate Stronghold for good, then other things and people can become strongholds for evil, that are diametrically opposed to the excellence of God. Or, we make a silent surrender and capitulation to that which is less than the highest and the best.

#### **Military usage** (Judges 9:46-69; I Samuel 22:1-5)

Military strongholds were places of shelter from the enemy. They were places of protection as well as hiding. They were large enough for more than one person.

### **Strongholds as fortresses of iniquity in our lives (II Corinthians 10:3-5)**

Strongholds are places, settlements and fortresses that the enemy has erected in our lives as shelters from the will and the word of God. They can take the form of persons, things, attachments, temptations, and *blessings that have been corrupted by the enemy*. In this instance, a stronghold is any overpowering sin or situation; person, power or perspective that holds people in captivity and control, preventing them from living to their fullest potential. Attachment to anything or anyone that blocks or stops our fully following the call and claim of God on our lives, which is always highest and best for maximizing our potential, is a stronghold.

#### **Money as Stronghold:**

The whole area of money and finances have become for many believers a fortress of resistance that the enemy has erected which prevents the word and will of God from being fully operational and realized in our lives.

Many persons having overcome all kinds of difficult circumstances, debilitating conditions and sin, are still in bondage to money. The hold of money on persons, families, societies and culture is so tenacious that it can only be described as demonic (I. Timothy 6:10).

Strongholds are large enough to hold more than one person. Sometimes strongholds capture whole families and even churches. Sometimes its bondage has been standing for generations in some families and churches. Sometimes we inherit hindering and binding attitudes toward money. For example, debt has been a way of life in some of our families for generations.

New Testament Example of Good Person in Captivity to Money Stronghold:

Luke 18: 18-25

**Stronghold require more than desire or good intentions.** They require a steadfast will and determination expressed by Jesus in Luke 9: 51-56.

### **THE BIBLE AND MONEY**

The Bible understands the corrupting potential and power of money:

Proverbs 11: 28

Proverbs 23: 4-5

Habakkuk 2: 4-5

I Timothy 6: 10

II Timothy 3: 1-2

The Lord Jesus was also aware of money as a snare:

Luke 12: 13-21

Luke 16: 19-31

Luke 18: 18-25 (esp. 24-25)

In the scripture money can also be a sign of God's favor

Proverbs 10: 22

Abraham, Genesis 13: 2-6

Isaac, Genesis 26: 12-14

Jacob, Genesis 32: 3-5

David

Solomon, I Kings 10: 14-25

Job, Job 1: 1-4; 42: 10-12

The Lord also made provision for the financial wellbeing and security of those who follow him (unlike the old lady who prayed that if the Lord kept her pastor humble, the congregation would keep him poor)  
 Numbers 18: 8-32 (25-29)  
 Deuteronomy 14: 28-29  
 Corinthians 9: 13-14  
 I Timothy 5: 17-18

A generous and fair compensation to those engaged in fulltime ministry or service to the Lord is biblical teaching. The Lord never intended for his servants to live in poverty or at a level beneath the prosperity and wellbeing of the people of God.

A number of the early church members if not rich were certainly well off. Their houses were large enough for believers in certain locales to meet.

Money can be used to bless the ministries of the church, others in need, as well as charitable causes.  
 Mary Magdalene, Mark 15: 40-41  
 Nicodemus, John 19: 39  
 Joseph of Arimathea, John 12: 38, 41  
 Lydia, Acts 16: 13-16  
 Early church in Acts 2: 44 and Acts 4: 34-37

There were also believers who were not fiscally prosperous.  
 Proverbs 19: 17  
 II Kings 4: 1-7  
 Mark 12: 41-44  
 Acts 6: 1

Everyone who serves the Lord and supports ministry will not be financially prosperous. However God has promised to supply all of their needs (Matthew 6: 25-34; Philippians 4: 19)

### **What is the Bible Saying?**

Money is not necessarily evil in and of itself. Money in and of itself is neither moral nor immoral. It is more amoral. The way we view and use money determines whether or not it becomes a snare or a servant, a strength or a stronghold, a burden or a blessing, a mess or a means, or a help or a hindrance. Like everything else that is out of balance in terms of a proper relationship with God, money can corrupt.

Money corrupts when it gives us a false sense of security.

Money becomes evil when it becomes an idol.

Money becomes evil when it becomes a stronghold. The love of money makes it into a stronghold. The love of money is sinful and demonic.

### **Sources:**

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[How to Manage Your Money](#)

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\*\*\*\*Dennis Kimbro, [Wealth Choice: Success Secrets of Black Millionaires](#)

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Breaking Financial Barriers That Block Vision

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\*\*\*\*Recommended required reading for everyone