

Philippians 4:4
"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Philippians 4:19 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible because it applies to a lot of different needs. However, the context for this verse is financially based. The Bible refers to money over 2,000 times which seem to be divided into two broad categories: bad attitudes and good attitudes.

1. Bad Attitudes About Money

- **Lusting for it. (1 Timothy 6:10)**
How can you tell if the money that you have is God's blessing or a byproduct of unhealthy lust? Ask yourself two things: Are you content? How do you feel when you are challenged to give it?
- **Worrying about it. (Matthew 6:25-29)**
Worrying will do nothing about your problem. Relax and trust God's ability to provide.
- **Lazy about earning it. (Colossians 3:23)**
The Bible challenges to have more than a casual view about money. It's not only talking about being lazy; you can also miss out on opportunities to reflect God well.
- **Undisciplined about spending it. (Proverbs 13:22)**
Preparing for the future cannot be done well with an easy-come-easy-go attitude. Proverbs states that "a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children."
- **Being stingy with it. (Proverbs 11:24)**
Holding onto your money with a tight grip actually has the opposite effect of what you're hoping to accomplish. Those who don't give receive less, those who do, receive more.

Reflect: Are you content with your finances? Have you ever been challenged to give above your tithe?

2. Good Attitudes About Money

- **Embrace God's desire to bless. (Ps. 35:27, 1:3; Prov. 11:25, 28:25; Deut. 35; 3 John 2)**
There are over 90 references of God wanting to prosper you. Get rid of that "stinking thinking." God is a blessing God; prosperity is for you!
- **Give God credit for your good fortune. (Deut. 8; Psalm 24:1)**
God is the creator and owner of everything. He gave us our mind, effort, work - He is the reason for everything you have received. Adopt a stewardship mentality and give God the credit.
- **Develop your earning potential.**
God created us in His image; we have incredible potential! We all have unique abilities that need to be developed.
- **Be generous in expanding God's kingdom. (Deut. 8:18; Mal. 3:10; Prov. 3:9)**
You give to the house of the Lord. Your giving impacts our city and all around the world!
- **Expect to receive. (Mal. 3; Prov. 3:9-10; Luke 6:38; Prov. 11:25)**
You can't outgive God. He will open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing where there is not room enough to receive.

Reflect: How can you better steward your finances and earning potential?

Summary

God's Word gives a clear outline to have a healthy perspective on finances. We can have the joy of God's financial plan when we reject bad attitudes and adopt good attitudes about money.

Prayer

Make time to pray for one another before you dismiss your group.