



Godly Riches and Wealth

I think this area of helping people understand wealth and riches from a godly perspective has not been well addressed or dealt with, but when we look at the scriptures, we find that the Word deals with this subject at length. Just because one has wealth and has riches does not make their possessions godly. Not all wealth and riches that people have are godly riches. They are all not procured through godly means. The Word of God firmly teaches against ungodly means of obtaining wealth and riches. The means through which we gain the wealth and riches we have will determine if they are godly or not. Some treasures and riches that people have are treasures of wickedness.

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

—Luke 12:15

A vast majority of people have their self-worth and identity in their possessions and riches and therefore will do anything even if it's ungodly to acquire those riches, treasures, and wealth. This is the polar opposite of what the Word of God teaches. We need to walk in the fear of the Lord in how we acquire wealth, riches, and treasure. Our lives have more to them than just the possessions we have. Our lives do not consist, nor are they derived from our possessions or the abundance of the things we possess. We should not have our identity and fulfillment in riches or wealth.

Contentment

Riches or not, we need to learn to be content. A lack of contentment is one reason people do unspeakable things to gain wealth and riches. Contentment does not come from things. If it did, people would never want more. Satisfaction comes through a relationship with Jesus.

- a) Philippians 4:11-12 ¹¹Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. ¹²I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
- b) I Timothy 5:17-18 ¹⁷Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.
- c) 1 Timothy 6:6-9 ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁷Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; ¹⁸That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; ¹⁹Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Is God against riches and wealth?

God is not against riches. No one can biblically prove that perhaps it can be done religiously.

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

—Mark 10:25

Many quote this verse to prove that rich people will not make it to heaven. This is not what the Word is teaching. We have to look at the context of this to understand what Jesus was saying.

A rich young ruler came to the Lord wanting to know what he could do to inherit eternal life. Since he wanted something to DO (Remember eternal life is not inherited by doing, but by believing—faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior), Jesus pointed Him to the law, not because he could

keep it, but to show him he could not. After this man deceitfully claimed he had kept the law, Jesus took it further and told him he still lacked one thing and then asked him to go sell all his riches and give it to the poor and then come and follow Him. This man was grieved because he had great possessions. Why was he grieved? He loved his riches. He trusted in them, not in Jesus.

The issue with rich and wealthy folks have is a temptation to trust in those riches rather than God. Again, not all rich people do this. Some rich folk have faith and complete trust in the Lord. Many have believed that rich people will not make it to heaven. That is not what the Word of God teaches. If that were to be true, God would not have made people rich and wealthy as we see in the Word.

a) Abraham

- i) “And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.”
—Genesis 13:2
- ii) “And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.”—Genesis 24:1
 - Abraham was not blessed in some or a few things, but in all things. God would not have done this if it weren’t His will. In Ephesians 1:3, we see the Word promising us the same thing. Ephesians 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”

b) King Solomon

- i) “And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.”—1 Kings 3:13
- ii) “And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones...”—1 Kings 10:27

c) Isaac

- i) “Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession

of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.”—Genesis 26:12-14

- These people did not envy Isaac for his poverty. The people envied him because he was very wealthy. Poor people hardly have any enemies. What is there to envy?

ii) Genesis 26:16, “And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.”

- Isaac, with his servants, family and wealth, was greater and mightier than the entire nation of Abimelech.

d) David

i) “And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.”—1 Chronicles 29:28.

e) Heaven

i) “And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.”—Revelation 21:18-21

f) Job

i) “His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.”—Job 1:3

Advantages of riches and wealth

I made a vow not to be poor. The vow of poverty I take not. I believe no one can make a biblical case for poverty. Poverty is not God's will and because some people increase without following godly means further shows that God created us for prosperity, and we have this on the inside of us but because of the fallen nature many have attempted to acquire that through wrong means.

A. Many friends

Proverbs 14:20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbor: but the rich hath many friends.

- a) Poverty is a terrible thing. No one wants to be a friend of a poor man, but the rich have many friends. I believe riches, especially those that are gotten through godly means, draw not only friends but good and godly ones.
 - i) Proverbs 19:4 Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor.
- b) Riches attract many friends. Everyone wants to be friends with the rich because of the advantages and benefits it brings. However, the godly should not hate the poor because they are poor and should not love the rich because he is rich. This is ungodly.

B. Crown

Proverbs 14:24 The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.

- a) Riches can only be a crown if it is gained in godly means. If they are not, they are a frown, not a crown.

D. No lack

Proverbs 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

- a) Giving is not losing. Here is a promise for those that are giving and look out for the poor. They shall not lack.
- b) I must also say that this giving to the poor must be done out of love or else it will profit you nothing. It must also be done in faith and not out of obligation. If you just give ignoring all the other principles of the scriptures to giving, you will miss out the benefits of giving and reaping.

- c) Sometimes people think when they give, their reward should come from the very people they give to. When we think this way, we limit God and we are trusting in (flesh) man.
 - i) We get upset if we do not get a thing back from the same people we blessed. We must always expect to receive our reward or blessing from the Lord, not from man. I also know that God works through people and will bless us through people, but our trust should not be in a man.
 - ii) If we are looking to the Lord, we will not be mad at one who doesn't give us back because we are God-dependent.
- d) Additionally, we also think it's a loss to give to the poor because after all the people we are helping can't help us back. So, we either just give in faith or we do not give at all.
- e) We also must be very careful when giving to the poor. Are we just giving for the sake of giving or are we giving to help them come out of poverty?
 - i) Is it a hand up vs a hand down?
 - ii) If we are not careful, we can end up creating a welfare mentality in the poor. The poor might play the game just to get. We should beware of all these angles of giving to the poor.

What should we be seeking?

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

—Matthew 6:33

Rather than seek riches and wealth, the Word tells us to seek the Lord. When we seek the Lord, riches will follow as a byproduct. The richest and wisest man that has ever lived besides Jesus never sought riches but sought the Lord (1 Kings 3:3-14; 10:23).

What the Word says about wealth and riches acquired in ungodly ways

- A. Job 20:19 Because he hath oppressed and hath forsaken the poor; because he hath violently taken away a house which he built not; ²⁰Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.
- a) Some people acquire wealth through oppressing others, forsaking and depriving the poor and violently taking away what belongs to them. This is ungodly and the wealth and riches gained through these means are ungodly treasures, riches, and wealth which do not glorify the Lord.
- B. Psalm 62:10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.
- a) This verse shows that riches can increase in vain through oppression and robbery.
- C. Proverbs 10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.
- a) Some treasures are treasures of wickedness and these treasures profit nothing or they are useless. This reveals that some treasures can be obtained in ungodly means such as theft, deception, and many ungodly means.
 - b) These treasures have no profit. They are useless.
- D. Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase.
- a) Wealth can be gotten by vanity or wrong means and will diminish. It will not increase. Rather than take advantage of other people and acquire wealth through wrong means we need to increase through work.
- E. Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.
- a) Job 27:13-18 This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty. 14 If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread. Those that

remain of him shall be buried in death: and his widows shall not weep. Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay; He may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver. He buildeth his house as a moth, and as a booth that the keeper maketh.

F. Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

- a) The Lord spoke Proverbs 14:23 to me and it changed my perspective on business. We should make a profit in our labor. There is nothing wrong with making a profit, but there is something wrong with overly charging others due to their ignorance. Sellers should make a living, not a killing. The difference is huge!

Financial prosperity is a good thing but we have to apply godliness and our moral compass even when it comes to business.

- b) Contrary to what some people think, it is not always the seller that takes advantage of the buyer. There are situations where a buyer has taken advantage of the buyer and after he/ she gets a good deal, he goes off boasting and showing off.
 - Proverbs 20:14 It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth (KJV).
 - Proverbs 20:14 It is worthless, it is worthless! says the buyer; but when he goes his way, then he boasts [about his bargain]. AMP
- c) There is nothing wrong with making a profit. It is godly to do so. The problem is when we take advantage of others and blind them to make a profit. In addition to that, when we overcharge to make an outrageous profit off of others, it is wrong. We should make a profit, a living, not a killing.
- d) We should not be profiting from sin. All labor has profit, but not all labor is godly labor. Profiting from sin is ungodly and will not produce true wealth and riches. Those “riches and wealth” are not blessed.
- e) Sometimes when we go buy something, the seller may accidentally give us more change than we ought to have been given. What some do is keep it and not return it. This is wrong and it is an ungodly way to try to increase. We should not be quiet about it. It is godly to return it. If they say keep it, then we should. We should not be keeping or taking what does not belong to us.

G. Proverbs 15:16 Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. ¹⁷ Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

- a) This goes contrary to what many people think. Some think that you should get all you can, any way you can steal, cheat, lie, kill, and so forth and they finally sit on their can! In God's eyes, little is better if it is acquired through godly means and avenues.
- b) Righteousness far supersedes wealth and that's why we should learn to be content. Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6). Great treasures that have not come through godliness will have sorrows and trouble that accompany it.
- c) Some people have great treasures, but it has trouble with it. One of the reasons for this is because these treasures were not obtained through ungodly means.
 - i) This verse is saying that there is much treasure without the fear of the Lord, and small treasure through the fear of the Lord that has no trouble.
 - ii) Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.
- d) It is better to have vegetables with love and trouble-free than meat with hatred, fear, and trouble.
- e) Psalm 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

H. Proverbs 15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

- a) Greed is only going to cause us trouble because we will have to compromise and cut all corners. This is not the way God ordained us to prosper nor survive. We should not cheat, steal, lie, take bribes to get ahead. If we use ungodly means to gain wealth, all we have done is opened up a door to the devil and troubles. Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death (Pro 10:2).
- b) Greed is wrong. It is selfish, and it only thinks about oneself. Greed will cause one to do anything to meet its need. This is how many people gain riches and wealth. Because of greed, they cheat, lie, steal, kill, destroy and plunder others so that they can accumulate all these needs but the end is those riches and wealth are not blessed and therefore trouble comes with them and their family suffers as a result.

- c) Wealth, riches, and treasures may be gotten hastily but their end will not be blessed (Proverbs 20:21) and because it is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich and He adds no sorrow with it (Proverbs 10:22), these riches that have been acquired greedily will be full of trouble, sorrow and their end will not be blessed.
 - d) This verse lists an example of greediness, which is bribery. Wealth and riches gotten through these ungodly means will not last. It will diminish (Proverbs 13:11).
- I. Proverbs 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.
 - a) Would you like more money and wealth without the right standing with God (gotten by ungodly means) or little wealth and riches with right standing with God? The answer is simple. It should be little with right rather than great treasures and revenues that did not come through the fear of the Lord.
 - b) A person with a poverty mindset would have chosen more wealth without righteousness. All the treasures we gain without the fear of the Lord (ungodly means) will diminish and we are storing them up for those who pity the poor and for the just.
- J. Proverbs 16:11 A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work.
 - a) God delights and it is His will to have just weights rather than divers weights which many use for cheating.
 - b) Proverbs 20:10, 23 reveals that some weights and dealings are were unjust weights and are an abomination to the Lord.
- K. Proverbs 20:21 An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.
 - a) An inheritance is usually gotten after someone dies. So, how can it be gotten hastily or quickly? Could it be through murder? God is not in the business of getting rich quickly. Time is an important aspect of gaining riches and wealth. There is no blessing on 'get rich quick schemes' because they are ungodly schemes. Easy come, easy go! God's primary way of increase is through work (Deuteronomy 28:8, 12; Proverbs 13:11).
- L. Proverbs 20:10 Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

- a) God hates cheating. Merchants used to take the standard weights that were approved, and they substituted them for others that were unjust and different. The buyer paid for the right measurement yet got the wrong weights used for the measurements. In other words, he was being cheated. This was pure evil, and it was calculated. The Lord hates it. All treasures, riches, and wealth gained through deception will diminish. It will not last.
 - b) Some people use ungodly ways to increase their wealth one of which is stealing.
 - c) Proverbs 20:23 Divers weights **are** an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.
- M. Proverbs 21:6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue **is** a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.
- a) It is possible to get treasures through lying and deception otherwise this verse would not have said so. It's wrong and ungodly to use deception and cheating to get wealth. Their deception is in vain.
- N. Proverbs 22:1 A **good** name **is** rather to be chosen than great riches, **and** loving favor rather than silver and gold.
- a) Many people never care how they are viewed. They do any evil and tarnish their name. But a good name is better than riches—especially riches of wickedness. All things in life are not measured in monetary times.
 - b) Favor and good name will get you further than money or riches couldn't.
 - c) Having great riches without a good name indicates foul means through which they have been obtained or how they are used.
- O. Proverbs 22:16 He that oppreseth the poor to increase his **riches**, **and** he that giveth to the rich, **shall** surely **come** to want.
- a) There are right and wrong ways to make money or increase riches and wealth, but it should not be at the expense of the poor. This is ungodly and abhorred by God. These would be riches of wickedness and will profit nothing (Proverbs 11:4). Proverbs 13:11 says that "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase."
 - b) I'm thinking of some lawyers who will squeeze the life out of a poor client and the end is as if the poor or client was working for the lawyer. I also think of salesmen and many

others who will not care one bit about the poor, but they will do anything to anyone to get that 'commission'. Not good, not God!

- c) This verse likens oppressing the poor to giving to the rich. This verse is not against giving to the rich. The rich spoken about in this verse is one who has gotten his riches through oppressing the poor. We should not be giving to this kind of rich people. Our giving is not blessed, and we will not get a return because these oppressing rich aren't fertile good.
- d) This truth can be applied out of this context. Some give to the rich for selfish reasons. This could also be speaking against the motive and attitude behind our giving to the rich, not giving itself. Giving with a wrong motive voids our gifts and hence makes us poor no matter who we give to, rich or not.

P. Proverbs 22:22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

- a) This is one of the many ungodly ways through which many people gain riches and wealth. Robbing from the poor is one evil thing. The poor have nothing, yet some will not spare them. They will loot and take advantage of them. This is ungodly.
 - i) The Lord gives the reason one should not rob the poor. He says they are poor. He is already poor. What is there to rob?
- b) Even more, some will go to the extent of oppressing those who are already afflicted. They will not spare them so they can increase themselves. This is ungodly and the wealth accrued in this means is not godly wealth nor riches.

Q. Proverbs 23:4 Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. 5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. 21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

- a) Those who labor to be rich will cut corners and compromise to get there. Our labor ought not to be to get riches but to seek the Lord. Matthew 6:33 reveals how riches and wealth comes. It comes by seeking the Lord, not seeking and laboring for riches.
- b) These kinds of riches will not last. They will one day make themselves wings and fly away as an eagle toward heaven. Simply put, they will not last. Indeed, the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just (Proverbs 13:22).

R. Proverbs 28:6 Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

- a) This verse is not advocating for poverty. It doesn't read "Better is the poor" period. It's drawing a contrast between being poor walking in integrity and one is a pervert, although rich.
 - b) The Message Bible says it this way "It's better to be poor and direct than rich and crooked."
 - i) It is very clear on how God views things which is quite different from the view of most people. Suggesting anything other than what this scripture teaches is wrong.
 - c) I just want to add also that this is not against riches. It's against elevating riches over righteousness, integrity, and godliness. Some have and have gone on to use all
 - d) There is no virtue in poverty. One thing in which the poor are better than the rich is when he is walking in righteousness and uprightness while that rich is walking in perversion or unrighteousness.
 - e) God is not against prosperity and riches. You can have riches as long as the riches do not have you. This was the problem with the rich young ruler in Mark 10. His riches had him.
 - f) We also see many folks in the bible who God gave tremendously overwhelming riches. (Abraham-(Genesis 13:2 and 24:35; Isaac- Genesis 26:12-16; Jacob- Genesis 36:7; Joseph- Genesis 49:26; David- 1 Chronicles 22:14 and Solomon- 1 Kings 3:13; 2 Chronicles 1:12 and 9:27).
- S. Proverbs 28:8 He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.
- a) If people only knew this, they would act differently. What's the point of destroying other people's lives through thievery and ill accumulated wealth just for it to end up in the hands of another? If we knew that all the dishonesty will end up in the hands of another, we would think twice before committing to such behavior. This could change or affect our actions. This shows the silliness of this dishonesty. It doesn't pay off, and it's not a genuine increase. Sin is emotional. It's not smart.
 - b) "Usury" refers to Interest on debt (Strong's Concordance). It was prohibited for the Children of Israel to charge interest on money lent to each other. Doing so was wrong and was an unjust accumulation (Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:36-37; Deuteronomy 23:19-20). This is not to say that earning interest is ungodly, but I believe there is some ungodly interest that is gained through overcharging and taking advantage of others. For instance, I think the interest on student loans and home purchases is insanely

ungodly. For one to pay twice to thrice as much at the end of their term cannot be fair.

- c) There are two types of gains: Just gain and Unjust gain. So then if these two types of gains, then it's clear that the end doesn't justify the means.
 - d) "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse." Proverbs 28:27
- T. Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.
- a) The Hebrew word for 'faithful' here means firmness and moral fidelity. So, one who is a faithful man is one who is firm in their moral convictions. They don't compromise. They are secure. They cannot be bought, and they will not cut corners. Therefore, they will be blessed.
 - b) Making haste to be rich is referring to compromising moral convictions in exchange for riches and wealth. Such a person is not firm in morality and godly values.
 - c) Another way we can look at this verse is in context with the previous verse.
 - i) So faithful would mean trustworthy, diligent, hardworking, committed, and persistent person.
 - ii) This kind of person will be increased in blessings. Everyone wants to bless or be around such a man. Hard work pays.
 - d) "Making haste to become rich" would be a reference to get-rich-quick schemes or shortcuts to riches and increase. The overnight increase is not the way God increases and blesses us. Things that bring riches instantly or overnight such as gambling and lottery aren't God's means for blessing and increasing us.
 - i) Taking advantage of others is also part of making haste to get rich. We should avoid such. For us to take this kind of route means we have to compromise what is right (godly moral convictions).
 - e) We should endeavor and seek to be faithful because it pays off big-league.
- U. Proverbs 28:22 He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.
- a) Hastening to be rich is equivalent to having an evil eye. You may be thinking, "What's wrong with hastening to be rich? Doesn't everyone want to be rich at least quickly?"

- i) The problem is that hastening to be rich means that you will have to compromise, steal, cheat, or cut corners to get rich. You will have to get into a get-rich-quick scheme or ungodly means.
 - b) We are not to take advantage of others to get ahead. Many people kick down doors to get ahead. They step on others and sometimes crush them to advance themselves.
 - c) Proverbs 15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.
 - i) Proverbs 22:16 He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want. 22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:
 - ii) Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.
 - iii) Prov 23:1-7 When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: 2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. 3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat. 4 Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. 5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. 6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: 7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.
 - iv) Proverbs 15:16 Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.
 - v) Proverbs 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.
 - d) It's impossible to get rich quickly without compromise. People always compromise so that they can increase quickly. This is not God's way of doing things. Such kind is not blessed.
- Y. Proverbs 28:24 Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.
- a) Some folks believe it's okay to cheat and take advantage of their parents. Whether they are old or not, it is wrong. It's a sin. Robbing is sin regardless of who steal from.

This person may think it's a light transgression, but it's not. This verse compares him to a destroyer.

- i) For example, the Pharisees and scribes asked people to take what was supposed to be given in support of their parents and give it to God, and they were free from honoring their parents. This was wrong.

Z. Jeremiah 17:11 As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

- a) This passage reveals that riches that we get in an ungodly way will not last. We will leave them behind. They will diminish and we are storing them for others such as those who pity the poor (Proverbs 28:8) and the just (Proverbs 13:22).
- b) Again if people understood this, they would not take the ungodly channels they use to gain these treasures, riches, and wealth. All their labors are in vain. They are laboring for a stranger.

AA. Habbakuk 2:6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

- a) One of the ways people increase that which is not theirs is through the ungodly means they use to acquire those sins such as cheating, lying, stealing, bribery, and so forth. Woe unto that person.

BB. James 5:1-5 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. ²Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. ³Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. ⁴Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

- a) These verses describe a person that increased and acquired riches through defrauding others. They lived in pleasure but their riches were not blessed but were corrupt and their gold and silver cankered. Their treasures were all heaped up yet it the last days.

- b) Ecclesiastes 5:12-14 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. ¹³There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. ¹⁴But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.

In conclusion, Proverbs 3:9-10 says “Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.” Our wealth and riches are meant to honor the Lord and one of the ways we do that is by giving. I do not believe that wealth gotten in ungodly ways honors the Lord, even if it were given to Him. What honors the Lord is what we give from godly means.

Godly means of acquiring wealth and riches.

A. The blessing of God

This the primary key to increase. The grace and favor of God on our lives that is spoken upon is key to increase in wealth and riches. Having lived in cultures full of bribery, I believe that the favor and the blessing of God and Abraham is on my life. For that reason among many, I do not take bribes and I do not give bribes. Thank you, Jesus.

- a) Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.
- i) The blessing of the Lord makes rich. Whatever is not blessed of the Lord does not bring riches. Not all riches are genuine riches. Some riches are fake for a lack of a better word.
- b) Deuteronomy 28:12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt.
- ii) Although God blesses the work of our hands, not ALL work is blessed. Some of what people call “work” is not work and has no blessing of God on it. For instance, bribery, prostitution, Vulgar comedy, sex trafficking, robbery, pimping, sex trade, drug dealing, and any criminal and ungodly activity cannot be listed as work and it is not blessed.

- iii) This does not mean they will not make money, they will, but these means are ungodly, and we should not take part.

B. Fear of the Lord

This is one area that many have not given the audience. The fear of the Lord is crucial in acquiring godly wealth and riches.

a) Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life.

- i) True riches come by humility and the fear of the Lord, yet not just riches alone but also honor and life. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil (Proverbs 8:13; 16:6). If we do not hate evil, we don't truly fear the Lord. Therefore, when we depart and hate evil, we will increase in riches (Godly riches), honor, and life.

- It takes humility to depart and hate evil. Humility is saying yes to the Lord and no to anything contrary.

- ii) Some people want riches, long life, and honor, but they do not hate evil.

C. Labor or jobs

One other way we can increase that is godly is through work and job. Labor brings us increase yet not all labor because not all that people call labor is labor. Some labor is ungodly and will not produce a godly increase. This can include not only the labor or job itself but how we conduct it. Again, all the labor of the ungodly will diminish and will also change hands from the sinner to the saint (Proverbs 13:11, 22). When we work, we become that avenue God can work to bring money through to us.

a) Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase.

- i) We need to gather by labor. This is a godly way to increase.

b) Proverbs 10:4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

- i) Being diligent at our labor, working hard, and smart makes rich. Those who say we can't make it by doing it the right way such as through work are dead wrong.

- c) Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.
- d) Proverbs 21:25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor.
- e) Proverbs 27:23-24 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. For riches are not forever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?
- f) Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
 - i) We should not be working any kind of labor or work. It has to be a thing which is good and godly. We need to labor and work with our hands the thing, which is GOOD, but as I mentioned earlier, not all that people do is good or godly. Things like bribery, prostitution, gambling, nudity for pay (some acting and modeling), Vulgar comedy, sex trafficking, robbery, pimping, sex trade, selling condoms, drug dealing and trafficking and any criminal and ungodly activity cannot be listed as a good thing and are not blessed and even if these are considered as labor or work by some, they are not a good thing.
 - A believer should not be involved in such.
 - Even if one tithed off these labors, they would still not be “the thing which is good.”
- g) Proverbs 27:23-24 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. For riches are not forever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

D. Inheritance

We can increase through an inheritance. This would be money or wealth that is left by one to another. This is a godly means of increase. It is a godly thing to leave an inheritance to your children or grandchildren or someone.

- a) Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.
- b) Proverbs 17:2 A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.

- c) Proverbs 19:14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.
- d) Proverbs 20:21 An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

E. Giving

Need I say more on giving. This is one area that few people see as a means of helping them increase and acquire wealth. We can increase mightily through giving. Giving is not losing. It is an investment. We will get a return if we do it in faith. It is NOT wrong to expect a harvest on a crop planted. We should not plant to be a blessing to the ground, but rather get a return so we can be a blessing to other people. I'm not saying giving should not be done to be a blessing, but we should expect a return as well. This is true in the natural and it is not strange to expect a return spiritually.

Not all giving has the right motives. Some people use charity and generosity cards after they have gained riches, money, and wealth through ungodly means. This does not purify their riches and wealth and make them godly.

- a) Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.
 - i) Giving honors the Lord, therefore, I will give to God before I eat. I will give to God before I put gas in my car even if I have to walk. You can't pay all your bills and then give to God last. Give to God first then pay all your bills. We give God first fruits not last fruits—if any is even left.
 - ii) If we do not give, we are not honoring the Lord.
- b) Proverbs 11:24 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.
- c) Proverbs 11:25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

F. Investing

This is a way we can increase as well. We can invest our money, and this can bring us increase. This is a godly avenue for an increase of riches and wealth, but we can't invest what we do not have. One of the ways we start on this investment journey is through saving. If you spend

less than what you make and do it over a long period of time, you will see a difference in your finances and increase even if you did not know any other financial principles. This is a basic principle that many do not even know or practice.

- a) Proverbs 28:8 He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

“Usury” is speaking about interest. The children of Israel were forbidden from lending to their brethren at interest (Exodus 22:25-27; Leviticus 25:36-37 and Deuteronomy 23:20-21).

Another principle that I have learned is to have a minimum of 3 months OR 6 months saving, just in case something goes wrong. This is an emergency fund.

G. Business/ Profit

- a) Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.
 - i) The Lord spoke Proverbs 14:23 to me and it changed my perspective on business. We should make a profit from our labor and work. There is nothing wrong and it is not unjust to make a profit. This is also true for a business, but there is something wrong with overly charging others due to their ignorance. Sellers should make a living, not a killing.
 - ii) Contrary to what some people think, it is not always the seller that takes advantage of the buyer. There are situations where a buyer has taken advantage of the buyer and after he/ she gets a good deal, he goes off boasting and showing off.
 - Proverbs 20:14 It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth (KJV).
 - Proverbs 20:14 It is worthless, it is worthless! says the buyer; but when he goes his way, then he boasts [about his bargain]. AMP
 - iii) There is nothing wrong with making a profit. It is godly to do so. The problem is when we take advantage of others and blind them to make a profit. In addition to that, when we overcharge to make an outrageous profit off of others, it is wrong. We should make a profit, a living, not a killing.
 - iv) We should not be profiting from sin. All labor has profit, but not all labor is godly labor. Profiting from sin is ungodly and will not produce true wealth and riches. Those “riches and wealth” are not blessed.

- v) Profit comes from work not talk. You can talk all you want but you end up with lack, deficiency, and impoverishment. Talk is cheap.

All ungodly means are not listed because they do not belong to the circle of godly means of increasing and acquiring wealth and riches.