

Question: Have people who possess earthly riches found favor with God?

Answer: No, not necessarily -- but they will, if they use the riches for the things God has purposed for them to be used. We will gain more understanding on this subject through the study of the Scriptures.

I have in recent times realized more forcefully the depths of self-deception within a man who believes he is the actual “owner” of anything in this world. More acute is my realization of this self-deception when it comes to *people who are religious and are regular church attendees*. I fail to see how anyone can continue to say they believe the Bible to be the true and inspired “Word of God” -- and yet ignore and even deny so much of its content. I often say to those who are in this category, “***I suppose you think this or that Scripture is in the book just to fill up the pages!***” In this case, I am referring to the Scriptures such as these that follow:

Deuteronomy 8:17-20 says: “And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, ***that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day***. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, ***I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish***. As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; ***because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.***”

Psalms 49:6-7 & 17 tells us: “They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: ***For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.***”

Psalms 50:10-11 says, “***For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.***”

Proverbs 16:16-20 says, “How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. ***Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall***. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.”

Matthew 6:19-21 tells us: “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven (***meaning spiritual wealth***), where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ***For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***” Also see and study carefully Matthew 6:24-34.

Limited space here does not allow for the many other Scripture references that refer *directly* to this subject. God gives certain people the power (knowledge) to get both earthly and spiritual wealth. ***We are only going to discuss one’s possession of earthly wealth here, and the purpose for which God would give “only” some men the power to get earthly wealth and not give it to others.*** It is *not* that God has more respect for one man than another. But because some people are more developed mentally and emotionally than others, their tasks and assignments are different. Each individual is at a different stage of growth and maturity in his earthly experiences, therefore the more developed one is, the more able he is to ***bear the thing he is given to bear***. Study carefully Matthew 25:14-30.

GOD DOES NOT GIVE HIS EARTHLY WEALTH TO ANYONE -- but God does give *more* seed / words of knowledge (which is a man's power) to those who are at the point in their development where their trustworthiness can be more forcefully tested. It is clear that God gives "seed" (knowledge) to the sower, **but it is also abundantly clear that God retains ownership of all the earth and the fullness thereof.** The "fullness of the earth" means exactly that. **There is nothing on the face of the earth that did not come out of the earth.** Just because men are greedy, haughty, and self-righteous (full of iniquity) does not change the truth concerning God's ways and His righteousness.

When I hear a man or woman boasting about "what they own," knowing they do not realize that **they don't even own the very breath of life in their nostrils,** I can hardly hold my peace. If these men and women were not so pathetic, they would be humorous. Those who boast about "their riches," and how much land, homes, buildings, and other earthly goods they have laid up, have obviously given no thought as to **what the purpose is for which God has given them the power to get and lay up their wealth.** Surely God did not give His power to them just so they could "feel" more important than those who may not have riches laid up. And surely God's purpose and intent for the one whose care the riches are in **is not to pass them on to his children.** In fact, a father who feels the need to "pass his riches on" to his sons and daughters is in fact **judging his children to be less able to gather riches than he himself is.** This does not speak highly of the father's opinion of his children.

I fully realize that one can take the Bible and "prove" the above statements to be erroneous -- if he is reading them through blind eyes. However, if one would read the Holy Scriptures with Understanding, he would not be so quick to judge one who speaks with Understanding and Truth.

God uses many different kinds of tools to prove a man's character and trustworthiness. Some of these tools are earthly wealth / riches. A man who has been given the "power" (the knowledge and favor of God) to amass earthly wealth is nothing more than a "**steward**" over the wealth, and **none of the wealth belongs to him.** When the time comes for a man whom God has trusted and to whom He has given stewardship over His goods **to be tested concerning his trustworthiness and honesty,** he will be faced with the opportunity to prove himself -- along with the realization that **he does not own one single thing in this earth.**

God, to whom all wealth and riches belong, will in due season speak to the individual concerning the proper use and the purpose for which the wealth has been gathered. The man who will recognize this truth and respond to the inner urgings of the Spirit when it is time for the wealth / riches to be used **for the plan that God has for them (rather than his own plan), will prove to his God that he is a good steward over what he already has. Therefore God will give him stewardship over much more.** On the other hand, a man who "thinks himself to be rich" -- when in truth he owns absolutely nothing -- if he turns a deaf and greedy ear to the inner proddings of the Spirit, he will find himself at the end of his way **to be a poor, wretched, and miserable man. There are "no exceptions."** This man's "riches" will eat his flesh as a canker worm (cancer).

It is the responsibility of every man to do with whatever he may have in his hand the thing(s) that God purposed to do with them when He placed them in his care. Giving "your riches" according to "your plan and purpose" may seem to be right in your own eyes. But unless a man places God's wealth where God has purpose for it, regardless of how much or how little it may appear to be, **he gives away stolen goods.** Besides this, when that man seeks to justify his own actions, **he is operating in iniquity, and his iniquity cuts him off and separates him from his God!**

In Matthew 7:21-29, verses 22 and 23 make it very clear that **those who "do good in their own eyes," without the counsel of God, will not find favor with God. Rather, their works of iniquity (self-**

righteousness) are as filthy rags in the sight of God, and their works profit them nothing. There are no exceptions, for God accepts no man's fleshly works or so-called "good deeds." Whatever a man may have in his hand (care), although it may "seem to be little," if he proves himself worthy of the little he has, he will be made to **"rule over the much"!**

The time has now come for those who have **"an ear to hear the inner Voice of the Spirit"** to not only **"hear"** and recognize the prompting of the Voice of the Spirit within, but also to **"do"** what the Spirit directs them to do. To be a "hearer and not a doer" of the work is to be a "self-deceiver." As James 1:22 says, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

No man should ever consult another man *who is most likely less enlightened, and therefore less "in tune" with the Spirit of God,* as to what he should do with whatever wealth he has. All men should look within their own hearts for the guidance and instructions they need in order that they may please God in their doings / deeds. The only way to keep what you have and add to it -- according to God's way -- is to "give it away." This does not mean to simply and mindlessly "give it away," but to **give it away according to God's plan and purpose for it.** The sure way for a man to lose everything and become a castaway himself is to **"hoard up God's stuff"** when God is saying, **"Turn it loose!"**

Greed, self-righteousness, self-pride, and self-importance will lead a man into a pathetic and a very sad state-of-affairs. This is a man who thinks himself to be **"something"** when he **"is nothing and owns nothing."** It would behoove each who reads this writing to examine himself and **take careful heed to the prompting and the witness of Truth within his own heart -- and to do as he knows to do.** Greed, iniquity, pride, and haughtiness belong to an insecure, lonely, and self-deceived man.

FREEDOM, PEACE, AND SELF-RESPECT BELONG TO A MAN WHO IS JOINED TO THE CREATOR OF THINGS, RATHER THAN TO THE THINGS CREATED!