

Breaking Free From Besetting Sins

Freedom From Debt

I. Introduction

II. Why Do I Always Want More?

- A. Three lies we believe about having more:
1. Having more will make me happier.
 - a. "If I only had _____, then I'd be happy."
 - b. The basic message of all advertising is, "You can buy happiness."
 - c. Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NAS) *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.*
 - d. "Things" can buy happiness for a while, but it wears off.
 - e. Lasting happiness is not found in things.
 2. Having more things will make me more important.
 - a. Luke 12:15 (NAS) *"Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."*
 - b. Don't confuse your value with your valuables!
 3. Having more things will make me more secure.
 - a. Proverbs 11:28 (NAS) *He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.*
 - b. Proverbs 18:11 (NAS) *A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own imagination.*
 - c. To have security, you have to find it in something that ultimately cannot be taken from you.
 - d. I Timothy 6:9 (NAS) *But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.*

III. How Can We Enjoy Life More With Less Things:

- A. Find my happiness in helping others.
1. Acts 20:35b (NAS) *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*
 2. Matthew 5:6 (NAS) *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."*
 3. The key to satisfaction in life is not from what you have, but from what you are.
- B. Find my self-worth in knowing God.
1. Psalm 139:16-18 (NLT) *¹⁶You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. ¹⁷How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! ¹⁸I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!*
 2. When you really understand that you are significant on this earth and that you matter to God, you don't need to "prove" yourself anymore with "things."
 3. Our real self-worth is based on what God says about us, not on what I say about myself!
 4. Romans 5:8 (NAS) *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- C. Find my security in trusting God.
1. Hebrews 13:5 (NAS) *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being*

content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU."

2. True security is only found in that which cannot change!
3. Matthew 6:19-21 (NAS) ¹⁹*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*
4. How do you "store up treasure in heaven"?
 - a. By investing it in people who are going there!
5. Giving is the only antidote to materialism. It's the acid test of, "Am I materialistic?"

IV. If You Happen to Be in Debt, What Do You Do?

- A. The way out of debt is to start by going on a "spending diet" (budget).
- B. You must settle those 3 lies we believe about having more:
 1. Having more things will make me happier.
 2. Having more things will make me more important.
 3. Having more things will make me more secure.

V. Conclusion