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Money and Generosity
Perspectives by Rev. Dr. Jerry Kieschnick

These two commodities go hand-in-hand. One of my favorite statements about money is from the late Zig Ziglar, a Christian motivational speaker: *Money isn't the most important thing in life, but it's reasonably close to oxygen on the "gotta have it" scale.* He was right. We need money to live.

Think about it. Just about everything we do involves the expenditure of money. Fuel pumps don't give away gasoline for free. Neither do electric vehicle charging stations or tire dealers.

Grocery stores have checkout lanes for the purpose of collecting, whether in cash or credit, the total amount due for the groceries in your shopping cart. These days that amount can be painful!

Mortgage banks, automobile dealerships, insurance agencies, and utility companies insist on being paid for providing, insuring, and fueling the cars we drive and the homes in which we live.

The Bible says a lot about money. Here is one of the more famous passages: *The love of money is the root of all evil.* 1 Tim. 6:10

That passage is often misunderstood. Notice the verse does not say money is the root of all evil but the love of money. The Greek word for *love* in this passage is a term that actually means lusting, scheming, and conniving in selfish attempts to get more and more money.

Being generous with money, time, and love is also a biblical encouragement that is not always easy to follow. The Bible says *God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Cor. 9:7. The Greek word for *cheerful* is *hilaros*, the root word of our English word *hilarious*. Have you learned the joy of hilarious giving?

In my lifetime I've heard many stories about money and the blessing of being generous. You probably have also heard such stories. Here's one I particularly like:

A mother sent her son to borrow some money from their next-door neighbor. When he returned, she took the envelope with the money in it from him, placed it in a drawer, and never opened it.

Her son asked, "Mother, why did you borrow the money if you didn't need to use it?" His mother replied, "I did it so our neighbor won't be ashamed to borrow from us when he's in need."

I've also read and heard many poignant quotes about generosity. Here are just a few:

True generosity is when you give your all and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.
— Simone de Beauvoir

You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.
— John Bunyan

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. — John Wesley

God bless you abundantly, as you use the gifts He gives you, every day, including money, in godly acts of generosity!

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