

Influencer Part 2: What to do with wealth?

*“And the Lord **God planted a garden in Eden**, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is **pleasant to the sight** and **good for food**. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. The Lord **God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden** to work it and keep it.” Genesis 2:8-15 ESV*

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.” 1 John 2:15-16 NIV

- ✓ If it looks good it's probably bad for you.
- ✓ If it makes you feel better it's likely sinful.
- ✓ If it improves your status it's usually prideful.

1. God created more than enough.

*“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land... a land in which you will eat bread **without scarcity**, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper.” Deuteronomy 8:7, 9 NKJV*

“But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.” He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.” John 12:4-8 NIV

2. Abundance is not the starting point.

*"Not that I speak from want, for **I have learned** to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance **I have learned** the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*

Philippians 4:11-13 NASB1995

*"But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who **gives you the ability to produce wealth**, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today." Deuteronomy 8:18 NIV*

Value time.

*"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **making the most of your time**, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16 NASB1995*

Value consistency.

*"Do not despise these **small beginnings**, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." Zechariah 4:10 NLT*

Value skill.

*"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training**. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."*

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 NIV

Value wisdom.

*"How much better to **get wisdom** than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver." Proverbs 16:16 NKJV*

Value generosity.

*"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; **then** your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV*

3. Abundance attracts the world to God.

*"God's purpose in all this was to use the church to **display his wisdom** in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." Ephesians 3:10 NLT*

*"You will be made **rich in every way** so that you can be **generous in every way**. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us." 2 Corinthians 9:11 CEB*

"The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it." Proverbs 10:22 NKJV