

God money and me.

The book has good principles about the blessing of God and money. But the book also lacks the knowledge of the bible and God's purpose for our lives. The book made 3 interpretations mistakes and 1 big tenet mistake.

Interpretations mistake 1- The temptations of Jesus.

The book stated that the temptations of Jesus after the 40 days of fasting were about money:

- 1- Temptation in the desert, to transform stone in bread - the test of provision.
- 2- Temptation in the pinnacle of the temple - to jump and the angels would hold - the test of security.
- 3- Temptation of worship the devil - the test of lordship.

In Genesis, when Eva ate of the forbidden fruit, it is said: *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom.* we have 3 elements. In the first letter of John 2:16 is *"For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—isn't the Father's, but is the world's."* We have 3 elements again. And Jesus has 3 temptations. Therefore I can not see another interpretation for the 3 temptations of Jesus than this other 3 from Genesis and John. Maybe you can say: "but with money you can do this 3"; but without money you can do this 3 too.

Interpretation mistake 2 - The offerings.

He uses the offerings of Malachias to affirm that we need to offer. You have the reference of offerings 15 times in Exodus, 36 x levticus, 35 x numbers, 10 x Deuteronomy and almost all in the context of presenting God something for purification and sanctification and not as freely giving to the temple (only few exceptions). I believe

yes christians need to give offerings, but the author missed the opportunity here to address correctly the necessity of offering: James 2: 14-16 *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?* ¹⁵ *Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.* ¹⁶ *If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?*

Interpretation mistake 3 - Bring the tithes to the house of God -

You need to tithe in your church is stated in the book. However, *"For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother."* (Matthew 12:50) The house of God is not the place you go, but everyone trying to follow Jesus. Also don't think you are doing wrong giving your tithes to your missionary brother in Africa while you don't understand why your church spent so much money in things you don't think necessary. Of course the best would be an agreement with your pastor and your community, but the house of God is not the place you go on Sundays. Your tithes need to go to the house of God and it is His family all around the world.

And the big mistake of the book is not understanding the time:

He chose many verses in the bible to show that you can have and need to look for financial blessings. That God wants to bless you I have no doubt. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you are the son/daughter of God and as son/daughter He loves and wants to give you the best. But then there is the question, what is the best? Money? Followed by a second question, why many don't have it? Among all the verses he shows us I chose a few to make clear the contradiction:

He shows in 2 Corinthians 9:8 *God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*

But in Revelation 2:9 Jesus said:

"I know your works, oppression, and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Well, what is sufficiency and abundance if in Revelation Jesus recognizes that His church doesn't have money and anyway calls them rich?

From Proverbs 8 :17-21 the author quoted: *I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. I traverse the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths, of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.*

But inside of this verse you can read with attention: *better than gold than choice silver.* Gold and Silver were the synonyms for finances at the time.

Money has no value to God. And God wants to bless you, to give you value. If God wants to give you value and money has no value for Him, what is then His priority? And what are His blessings? Is it not that, that you have value?

Anyway God as father wants to give you the best, quality of life, good food, joy in life, abundance. As the author shows with many verses in the bible. The principal question here is not if he wants, but when he wants.

The author states from proverbs 11:10-11

When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

Well, that means if you live in a country where you can find justice, it will be well, if you live in a country without justice, you will have a hard time. It is not about one person doing right or one person doing wrong, then we don't live alone, but it is about your environment. If you doubt about it, look around the world, the most developed countries have a stable system of justice.

And 3 verses before is written:

A righteous person is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked takes his place. Proverbs 11:8

You can accept without doubt, that God wants to bless you, but you need to accept without doubt too, that we have trouble in this life.

The author shows in 2 corinthians 8:9

for you know the grace of our lord jesus christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.

And he forgets about 1 Corinthians 11:1: *Be imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

And again: Psalm 112:1-3

Praise the lord! blessed is the man who fears the lord, who delights greatly in his commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth, the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

The author underlines "wealth and riches will be in his house" but didn't comment "his righteousness endures forever". Well, forever looks like the promises of God of the future life.

To be rich is also a question of time:

But he went in, and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you come from, Gehazi?" He said, "Your servant went nowhere."

He said to him, "Didn't my heart go with you when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and olive groves and vineyards, and sheep and cattle, and male servants and female servants?

Therefore the leprosy of Naaman will cling to you and to your offspring forever." He went out from his presence a leper, as white as snow. 2 Kings 5:25-27

“Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and olive groves and vineyards, and sheep and cattle, and male servants and female servants?”

For Abraham, David and Salomon was time to have it all. For Abel, many prophets and Jesus it was not the time in this life. The blessings of God for this life is not about finances, but growing in faith. Depending on the environment, you can have it already in his life, but don't put your intelligence in how to be rich, then all things come from God.