



Week Two: Our Enemies

Our Enemies: How do you resist your enemies?

Are you aware of the hindrances to your giving?

Three enemies to our finances:

1. Debt. Proverbs 22:7: "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."

NOTE: The first things belong to God. Give to God the first hour of your day. Give him the first day of your week. And give him the first portion of your income.

CHALLENGE: Are you a true tither or just a "tipper?"

2. Dishonest Gain: Ephesians 4:28: "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."

3. Distraction: Proverbs 30:8-9: "Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God."

God doesn't need your money. He needs your obedience.

Our Enemies: Week Two Unedited Video Transcript

Welcome to week two of the 21-day prayer journey, Questing after God's Heart. This week we're going to take a look at the enemies we face every day that become hindrances to us in our giving. Our enemies would like nothing more than to keep us on the sidelines. In this day and age, the financial pressures that we face can be so debilitating. The constant chase after things and status consume our lives.

There are three core enemies that we face when dealing with our finances. The first one that we face is debt. Debt in America is out of control. The average credit card debt in America right now per card that you hold in your purse or wallet is \$5,700. So if you have four cards you're on average over \$20,000 in credit card debt in this day and age. It is nothing more than slavery and bondage. It locks us up and keeps us away from what the Lord intends for our lives. In Proverbs 22:7, the rich rule over the poor and the borrower is a slave to the lender. This particular passage speaks deeply into the fact that the debt is nothing more than slavery or bondage in our lives. God provides a solution found in Proverbs chapter 3 verses 9 and 10 where it talks about honoring the Lord with your wealth giving him the first fruits of all your crops and the overflowing abundance that Christ has for us.

There's something we have to get straight. The first things belong to God. Give to God the first hour of your day. Give him the first day of your week. And give him the first portion of your income. When we get God first, he can help with a lot of struggle that we have in our lives. It's important if you're sitting out there and you're struggling with credit card debt today or you're in slavery and bondage to debt and it's piling up on you, get God first and he can help you out of it.

The second enemy that I want to talk to you about is dishonest gain. Now let me share with you a personal story of my own life to start this out. In the year 2000 I was going through a very difficult time in my work life and so I remember going away for the weekend to Chicago to visit my roommate from college. And when I did, that Saturday night turned around, and my friend came to me and he said, Hey would you like to join me for church on Sunday morning? And I was thinking to myself, The last thing I kind of want to do is go to church. And so, but he kept asking me. He was very persistent and finally I said okay.

So you got to understand at that point in time in my life I was a "tipper." If I needed something from the Lord, I was like, "Okay here's \$20, what can you do for me?" Or if it was a really big thing, I was like, "Here's fifty bucks Lord, I really need this one." And so I walked into that situation with that type of framework in my mind. But it was a divine moment for me that morning, and the pastor was talking about dishonest gain. I was literally on the edge of my seat and it really convicted and confronted me, because what I was doing as when I was working at the bank, what I was doing as I was taking people out golfing, and I was taking maybe some clients. But a lot of times I couldn't fill the foursome, so I'd be inviting a buddy to come along with. And in doing so I would expense my buddy's round of golf with everybody's else's to the bank. Now God really hit that hard on me that day and I made a decision walking out of that service that I was going to tithe it from that day forward. As a result when I noticed that was dishonest gain going on in my life, I made that change immediately and God blessed me. Ephesians 4:28 says it best, Let him who steals steal no longer, but rather labor working with his hands the things that are good.

Now in our society today dishonest gain is out of control. There are people getting paid cash but never reporting it to the IRS. There's people cheating on hours at work, that are filling up time cards. There's people that are calling in for false sick days. Dishonest gain is out of control in our society. Now the thing that we need to understand is in scripture, there's actually consequences for dishonest gain. There are three that really pop out. The first one is, finances dwindle. We find that in Proverbs 13:11, dishonest money dwindles away. The second one is, your family may disintegrate. We find that in Proverbs 15:27, he who profits illicitly troubles his own house. The third one is the most scary perhaps, and there's several examples in scripture. It is your life may end prematurely. We find this in Joshua chapter 7, Achan's sin, I will not be with you anymore until you destroy whoever among you is devoted to destruction. And how scary is that.

Now we are not saying that all death is for dishonest gain. But we are saying if we wrestle scripture all the way through, that there are consequences to dishonest gain, and we need to pay attention to them. I would suggest that \$1 made dishonestly may forfeit our blessing from Christ.

The third enemy is distraction. Money can be a huge distraction. I don't care if you have a very little bit. or you have a lot of it. It can consume our mind and consume our time. Proverbs 30, 8 and 9, Keep deceptions and lies far from me. give me neither poverty nor riches. but give me only my portion, otherwise I may have too much and disown the name of my God.

Now, I've waited the entire time to say this. We're not in a country club setting, we're not part of a social club of any sort, but we're following the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As we continue on this 21-day prayer journey, I want to challenge you to go to the Lord and ask him to remove these obstacles from your life. And doing so I want you to be freed up to live the life that Christ intends for you. God sees your faith and finances as inseparable . He doesn't need your money, he needs your obedience.

NOTE: You can view the videos any time online at www.HVPC.org/21days.