

One's motivation for wealth can be in direct opposition to Bible teachings. Stewardship says that we will use the money that God gives us wisely, but the money we have is not ours. So why is there such a drive to be financially wealthy? Here are some reasons...

1. Covetousness. This is envy of what others have and the desire to also have it. It is based on a totally wrong concept of life (Lk. 12:15). Many advertisers use this concept to push their products.
2. Self-esteem. This is so that others will look upon me with envy. This attitude says that what I have is not as important as to why I have it, and how I cherish it (1Tim. 6: 17).
3. Greediness. The love of money that manifests itself in hoarding and needless stockpiling (Heb. 13:5). Greed is never satisfied, always wanting a little bit more.
4. Protection. We try to provide for our families but do so in such a way that we trust ourselves rather than God (Phil. 4:19).

These problems manifest themselves very slowly and must be guarded against. What is the focus of your life? Is it spiritual or material in nature? What would bother you more; a missed paycheck or a missed worship service? Jesus tells us to lay up our treasures in heaven (Mt. 6:20-21). Make 2Cor. 9:8 your financial guide.

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