

Money Matters 101

Quarterly Study

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE FOR STUDY 8

Money Isn't Happiness

True pleasure comes from contentment rather than from wanting more.

Even if we don't admit it to ourselves, we think that money can bring us happiness. We want to make more money so we can buy more stuff and go more places. But money rarely brings us long-lasting pleasure. Only contentment can do that.

Lesson #8

Scripture:

Matthew 6:25–34; Philippians 4:10–13; 1 Timothy 6:6–10



PART 1**Identify the Current Issue**

Real, lasting pleasure comes from contentment. When we allow God to set us free from always wanting more stuff, exotic vacations, better houses, and fancier cars, then we get the best pleasure of all: the pleasure of contentment. Contentment really is a feeling. Imagine being able to see your neighbor's fancy new SUV or luxury car and not have any desire to get one for yourself. That's the pleasure of contentment. Imagine being able to see your friend or family member's updated or remodeled kitchen with all the granite and track lighting and stainless steel appliances and just be happy for them, but have no desire for that stuff for yourself? That's real pleasure, the pleasure of contentment.

PART 2**Discover the Eternal Principles**

Teaching point one: Having more does not make us happy.

Teaching point two: Having more often increases rather than decreases worry.

Teaching point three: Having more doesn't satisfy our deepest heart's desire.

PART 3**Apply Your Findings**

To increase our satisfaction with life, whether we are in need or have plenty, we need to be more thankful. Focus on the mission and passion that God has uniquely given you. What can we do when having food and clothing doesn't seem like enough? Practice the discipline of simplicity and get rid of material possessions that you don't need.

**NewThing**