

Breaking the Spirit of Mammon

there's so much more...
life
THE BLESSED
A GATEWAY SERIES

Focus Mammon is a spirit that rests on money that is not submitted to God. You can't serve both mammon (riches) and God.

Open How did you earn money as a child (did you receive an allowance, do chores for pay or earn it in another way)?

Read The word *mammon* means *riches*. Mammon is not money; it's the spirit of the world that *rests* on money. All money has a spirit on it—money that has been redeemed through tithing has God's Spirit on it, and unredeemed money has the spirit of mammon on it. The spirit of mammon tries to take the place of God and says money is the answer to your problems. It promises security through independence, power, freedom, comfort, significance and success. Money that has been submitted to God and serves Him is blessed by God!

In Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:9–13, Jesus stated that no one can serve both God and mammon. The spirit of mammon stands in direct contrast to the Spirit of God. If we think that most of our problems could be solved if we had more money, then we've been influenced by the spirit of mammon.

Money itself is not evil. It is the *love* of money that is "the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). Money can be used for righteous or unrighteous purposes, for temporal or eternal purposes.

We are to be faithful stewards, no matter how much money we have. Luke 16:12 says, "If you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" The first ten percent of our income is "another man's"—it belongs to God. When we're faithful with that which is His (by tithing), we'll be entrusted with "the true riches" (the souls of people) (Luke 16:11). Why would God entrust influence and authority to those who are unfaithful? When we tithe, we submit our money to the Spirit of God and break the spirit of mammon.

Talk

1. What stood out most to you in this message? Why?
2. Read Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:9–13. Why is it *impossible* to serve both God and mammon?
3. What are the characteristics of the spirit of mammon? Do you have to be a “greedy” person to be operating under the spirit of mammon? Why or why not?
4. Read 1 Timothy 6:10. Why is it important to understand that it’s the *love* of money that is the root of all evil and not money itself?
5. Why does tithing break the spirit of mammon?
6. Why do you think God would look at how we steward our money to determine whether or not He can entrust true riches (people) to our care?

Live

1. Money “talks.” Everyone has heard the spirit of mammon speak about something. For example, it may tell you if you had the right clothes you’d be accepted, or a better job would make you feel more significant. What has the spirit of mammon told you in the past? Is it speaking to you now? What is the truth?
2. The spirit of mammon will always tell you that you can’t afford to tithe because it knows that when you tithe, you’ll be released from its control.
3. What is the core lie that the spirit of mammon tells people about what they need? What do you *really* need?

Pray

Thank God for His blessing that is available to you. Ask Him to guide you as you create financial strategies to keep Him first and to break the spirit of mammon. Thank Him that He is all you really need, and that He will bless and provide for you.