

## What Money Is Not . . .



Oftentimes we talk about money as if it is something that can revolutionize our lives – changing them for the better. While that might be true on some levels, there are many things that money cannot buy. Let’s explore some of these today and consider the big picture.

### ***Money is not infinite.***

You’ve heard it said that money doesn’t grow on trees. Well, that’s true. And believe it or not, money is not freely printed by the treasury department without consequences. The rarer money is, the more valuable it becomes – just like any commodity. You print more of the green stuff, and people will value it less. It’s all about trust, and it’s our nation’s responsibility to properly determine the value of the dollar as they make and distribute it. Not only this, but consider that it’s not infinite for any household. Money runs out. Remember that spending other people’s money will not get you where you want to be in life. **Debt** is a horrible thing that can be a tremendous burden on those who hold it.

### ***Money is not success.***

Simply having money will get you nowhere. It’s how you use your money that will determine whether you are a success.

- If you work hard to provide a good living for your family, you are a success.

- If you are **giving**, you are a success.
- If you have a plan for your money that is Godly, you are a success.

There are too many people out there who think that having a lot of money will make them successful. But would we consider certain famous (and wealthy) celebrities who are struggling in their relationships and with drugs successful? I think not.

### ***Money is not the only motivation.***

There are some employers who believe that money is the ultimate motivation. But is that really true? Sure, money is a motivator, but aren't there other reasons people work?

Perhaps they are looking to:

- Challenge themselves to make the world a better place. Some people love a good challenge. Consider those who are in law enforcement . . . they are putting their lives on the line (but not necessarily just for the money). They might like the challenge of catching crime in action. Or, maybe they want to make the world a better place by ridding it of offenders.
- Socialize and get out of the house. People need people. That's how we're designed – it's all about relationships! Most everyone is looking to have a little bit of interaction and meet others.

Remember employers, your employees are not working for you based on money alone. They are considering all the factors of their employment: the other employees, how you treat them on a day to day basis, and the work environment. Give your employees the encouragement to continue and let them know they are doing a great job when you recognize it!

### ***Money is not the way to buy happiness.***

Money can buy a lot of things. But here's a secret . . . things don't make you happy in the long term. Sure, you'll get a short term rush from the purchase of a new car or gadget, but does it last? You know it doesn't last.

Don't get me wrong, money can be fun. **Dave Ramsey** even says it's fun. But both Dave and I know that things cannot lead to ultimate happiness. True joy comes from Jesus our Messiah. It doesn't come from the showroom floor.

### ***Money is . . .***

So, what **is** money? I believe that money is a way to transform one type of work into energy that **can be stored** and converted into another form of energy. Whoa. That was a little nerdy. In other words, you can go work for someone and dig a few ditches, turn that into money (that you receive from them), **save it** until you need the money, and then pay a plumber to install your air conditioning system. You see, you took one form of energy and converted it into something else.

All of this is to say that money is a tool. Nothing more. It's the vehicle by which we can master one trade, and have everything else provided to us. That's powerful! But always remember what money is not . . . .

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