

Creating Wealth: Prosperity in a Spiritual Economy

- 1) Is poverty a virtue? (The misunderstandings about material wealth)
- 2) Stewardship (resist the temptation to use your talents unwisely)
- 3) Establish and Maintain a spiritual ideal to help you in your responsibility as a steward of God's abundance
 - a. Material success should be a result of right living and not a goal in itself
 - b. We should not seek material success for self aggrandizement or self-indulgence
 - c. The attainment of material success, however large or small, should go hand-in-hand with the ideal, "I am my brother's keeper."
- 4) Understand and apply the Universal Laws that impact Economics:
 - a. The Law of Love as Expressed through Giving
 - b. The Law of Supply
 - c. The Law of Faith
 - d. The Law of Cause and Effect
 - e. The Law of Expectancy
- 5) Tithe ("...as ALL should")
 - a. To whom?
 - b. Consistency
 - c. Time as well as money
- 6) The Plan of action:
 - a. Analyze one's situation
 - i. If you're in debt, why?
 - ii. Do you give regularly?
 - iii. Where are you not applying the laws?
 - b. Based on the assessment, prepare yourself to change the situation. Be willing to work with the Universal Laws
 - c. Assess what actions have been in error and what future actions should be undertaken. Use decision-making meditation for inner-guidance
 - d. Seek to rid yourself of indebtedness in a consistent manner.
 - e. Be content, but not satisfied with whatever situation you find yourself in.
 - f. Appreciate whatever you have in hand, and begin NOW to send it out.
 - g. Don't withhold just because the offering seems small!
 - h. In paying debts and in tithing, hold the attitude, "Freely ye received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8)
 - i. As we plant the seed, mentally acknowledge the Source by our blessing the money or the gift as we send it
 - j. As we send or receive let us do so in the spirit of thanksgiving for our abundance
 - k. Let us not cancel out the effect of giving by fears of lack.

- l. When we give, we should not feel that we are bestowing charity; there is no such thing as charity in the popular context (since everything belongs to God)
 - m. Don't seek recognition or praise for our giving, but rather give in the spirit of selflessness
 - n. As we approach economic healing, expect the laws to work in your life, but don't try to force them to.
 - o. As we begin to apply the law of love consistently through giving with complete trust in the Father, the more we are building the pattern within us that will enable God to use us as channels.
- 7) Acknowledgement: Barbara Burgess Bullard, "Abundance is Yours"
- 8) Knowledge un-lived is SIN! (Character is the ability to carry out a decision long after the enthusiasm for that decision has gone)

Many carry a thought around that money is bad. We also carry around a thought that God is good. Therefore, in the thought system of many, God and money don't mix.

Is it possible to be true to your spiritual ideals and purposes on this earth and yet have material and financial security? Cayce noted:

In Jupiter we find the...inclinations that in the experiences of the entity will be great amounts of this world's goods...the training also then [should be]...as to the use of same [wealth], as being lent from Creative Forces and energies and not as for self-indulgence...

1206-3

For as these were a portion of the family of which John, James, Jude, Ruth, and all became a part, these were kinsmen; and people that were in authority so far as capital is concerned—as ye would term in the present; and were not poor!

1151-10

John...was the wealthiest of the disciples of the Christ. His estate would be counted in the present in American money as being near to a quarter of a million dollars...he was a power with those in the Roman and Jewish power at the period.

295-8

Biblical Misconception #1: “Money is the root of all evil...”

Complete context of passage:

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10

Biblical Misconception #2: Christ tells the rich young man to sell all he has and follow

Q-3: Explain repentance and remission of sins as they apply to us.

A-3: *Repentance means being sorry, as He, as He wept with the young man who turned away when he was told, “Sell all thou hast and give to the poor, and follow me.” He was sorry for the young man. Why? As He gave, “Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.” In other words, “Thou art not far from being wholly the law,” but the fear of lack, the fear of the lack of the medium of exchange—or of wealth—hindered.*

2533-7

Biblical Misconception #3: No man can serve two masters...Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Therefore, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” From Matthew 6:24, 33

Through the Cayce readings, it will become clear that we should serve God through stewarding the mammon or wealth, not that we serve mammon.

Biblical Misconception #4: It’s harder for a rich man to enter heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of the needle (Luke 18).

“eye of a needle” referred to a small opening in the walled cities for night passage to and from the city. The only way for a man to get his camel in at night through the “eye of the needle” was to remove all his goods from the camel and bring them through (be in control of) one by one

Biblical Misconception #5: Those who point to the apparent poverty of Jesus’ life on earth and declare that poverty must be a virtue

Jesus was always welcomed with food, drink, and lodging wherever He went. In addition, He had wealthy followers, such as Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and several of His disciples.

It is sometimes judged that most of the disciples were poor: and this was not true. For Zebedee and his sons, Matthew the publican, all who were closely associated were rather well-to-do. Peter and Andrew, of course, were servants or laborers with the sons of Zebedee, but Zebedee was among the wealthy...

1151-10

Take Note: Nowhere in the Scriptures is there condemnation of wealth as such, only condemnation of the wrong use of wealth and of its poser or possession over people who had not set the ideal of Oneness with God.

With respect to wealth, you must use it and not abuse it:

In the concept of stewardship we recognize that every gift of nature has been entrusted to us through the Grace of God. Therefore, we must use them in a responsible manner, in keeping with the laws and the will of God, to establish His kingdom in the hearts of men:

Know, all the desires...have their place in thy experience. These are to be used and not abused. All things are holy unto the Lord, that He has given to man as appetites or physical desires, yet these are to be used to the glory of God and not in that direction of selfishness alone...

Let this be rather the tenet of the mind, of the soul, of the body: Success must be to the glory of God rather than to the gratifying of any appetite, of any desire, of fame or fortune. Know that fame and fortune must be the result of thy seeking in His paths first, and then all will be lighted along the way.

3234-1

Cayce's guidelines in attaining material success or economic healing:

Material success should come as the result of seeking our spiritual ideal, and not be the main goal.

Q-2. In what field of endeavor am I most likely to succeed financially?

A-2. ...leave off the "financially." Let the financial be the result of honest, sincere desire to be and to live so that others may know the way also.

God giveth the increase.

2409-1

For, know, the earth and all therein is the Lord's. The silver, the gold, the cattle on a thousand hills are His. He knows thy needs, but thou must choose as to what ye will do with the talents He hath given thee.

As ye apply, as ye make use of that in hand, more is given thee. For, day unto day is sufficient, if used is made thereof..."

1206-13

How, first, will ye use that which has and that may come from the use of the material gains? How has thou used them in the past? Art thou worthy in thine own meeting with thy Lord in His holy place to claim that thou may be entrusted with ten talents when thou hast used two badly? Hast thou the claim that thou may be given fifty talents when ten have been mislaid?

657-3

We should not seek material success for self aggrandizement or self-indulgence

...as was given of old, "Be thou fruitful and multiply; subdue the earth and that therein." It didn't say abuse the earth or that therein, nor use for thine own aggrandizement; for only that that may be personally used from day to day is necessary... Wilt thou, then thine self, be a channel? Or wilt thou attempt to turn the channels into thine own doing?

520-2

...do not be afraid of giving self in a service—if the ideal is correct. If it is for selfish motives, for aggrandizement, for obtaining a hold to be used in an underhand manner, beware. If it is that the glory of truth may be made manifest, spend it all—whether self, mind, body, or the world means—whether in labor or in the coin of the realm.

1957-1

The attainment of material success, however large or small, should go hand-in-hand with the ideal, "I am my brother's keeper."

Where the purposes are [those of] the Prince of Peace. . . "I am my brother's keeper—I will do the right," these [purposes] will keep and bring social

security, financial security, and peace of mind and body to those that propagate same.

3976-17

Does mankind consider he is indeed his brother's keeper? This is the manner in which man may answer the question. There will be no want in bread for mankind when mankind eventually realizes he is indeed his brother's keeper. For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and the bounty in one land is lent to man to give his brother. Who is his brother? "Our Father" (we say)—then each of every land, of every color, of every creed is brother of those who seek the Father-God. Instill this as you interpret. Be faithful to the trust given you.

5398-1

He that saith he loveth God and seeth his neighbor in need of food or a coat, and saith "Go in peace—God be with thee," and does nothing about same, is a liar and a thief, wherever he may be; is false to self and will one day create those things that will bring discontent and disputations in the earth.

3976-28

Understand and apply the Universal Laws that impact Economics:

The Law of Love as Expressed through Giving

Giving. . .The gift, the giving, with hope of reward or pay is direct opposition of the law of love. . . Through that love, as man makes it manifest in his own heart and life, does it reach that law, and in compliance of A Law, the law becomes a part of the individual. That is the law of love. Giving in action, without the force felt, expressed, manifested, shown, desired or reward for that given. Not that the law of love does away with other laws, but makes the law or recompense, the law of faith, the law of divine, with the law of earth forces, If you please, of effect, not defective, for of effect.

3744-4

The Law of Supply (the promise of abundance—all we could ever truly need will be made available to us as we are seeking to obey all the laws, especially that of love. Supply is merely the natural result then of working in harmony with these other laws)

Q-5 I seek direction as to how to clear my debts

A-5 These can be met only by measuring up to that which brings the promise—that is well known in self—from the source of supply—materially, physically.

For the earth is indeed the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. The silver and the gold are His.

When ye measure to that standard where there is needed such for the best mental and should development, such is—will be—supplied.

877-29

For what saith the Law? Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all things shall be added unto thee thou hast need of! Most of us think we need a great deal more than we do!

262-89

The Law of Faith (stresses our need to trust wholly in God at all times to supply our needs as long as we seek to serve Him through serving others. It has as its premise the lack of fear; therefore, if we are trusting in God we should have no ideas of poverty or lack.)

...placing self in the hands of the power of God—His is the All Force. Believest thou that thou livest in the midst of the Father? Then act that way. Never has there been seen one that wholly trusted in God at want, nor their seed begging bread.

5563-1

...As to how this may be corrected—it is only through patience, persistence, and a return to the trust in God, and not in the power or the might of self.

3976-24

The Law of Cause and Effect

Every cause has an effect...

Know that all comes to him who puts his trust in the all-powerful influence of love and harmony, the real poem of life, and then works like thunder for same!

2337-1

As everyone should see...there must be first the individual conviction of the need to trust God for the needs of His people at all times and under

every circumstance, whether this is under democracy or any other form of government...

Then...each of you here—give God a chance to show what great blessings He will give to those who love Him...For, know ye, His laws fail not—“As ye sow, so shall ye reap.”

3976-23

The Law of Recompense

Similar to the Law of Cause & Effect, but stresses more specifically, that the Lord will compensate richly those who will help bring His kingdom into the earth. Implies the multiplication of efforts in His behalf.

Give and it shall be returned fourfold. Give, give, give, if you would receive. There has never been the lack of necessities, neither will there be, so long as adhering to the Lord’s way is kept first and foremost

254-11

The Law of Expectancy

When you put forth effort, expect results!

Expect much, demand much; but when ye do, be willing to give much. For as ye give, or as ye measure to others, so it is measured to thee again. This is the spiritual law, this become s the mental law—and the mind is the builder.

1532-1

Tithe (“...as ALL should”)

Note: There are very few blanket recommendations to all in the Cayce readings.

Historically based: Land owner collected 1/10th of renter’s produce

Biblically based: Hebrews 7:2, Abraham paid the tithe

Moses transferred the right of the tithe to God before the Israelites entered the promised land.

To whom?

These should be chosen by the entity. For what is to be given in this or that direction for any purpose shall be prompted by the real heart of the individual, and not by even a suggestion from others.

3663-1

Remember, if ye would gain from such ye must also contribute to same. For ye may gain only so much as ye contribute to any society, organization or group, whatever it may be. For each individual is made in the image of Creation, and unless ye are a creator in such ye are taking from same. If ye are taking from it, it lessens and lessens the abilities in every phase of the experience to be a permanent success. For the attitude of "Gimnee—Gimnee" ...leads only to a miserable failure in the long run.

3528-1

Consistency

First, analyze self. See where your shortcomings have been. See how that you must make your life a consistent one!

1587-1

There has been given the way, the manner. When this is conformed to, it must be in self a proof of the activity or an arousing of that interest, purpose, aim, desire. To be sure, if such is gone at in a willy-nilly or half-hearted way or manner, doubting, then the same will be the result. Know in self the amount of effort, the amount of faith, activity that is to be builded, that is possible to be builded through that given thee.

2733-3

Time as well as money

Q-9. What charitable work can I do to make me more worthy to my fellow man?

A-9. *It isn't charitable work that's needed! It's yourself that's needed. It is yourself that you need to expend in helping others! Charity doesn't go much farther than the fellow you contact talking about what a big fellow you are in glorifying yourself in an organized work. But serving yourself is quite different—and is that which counts the most.*

Q-10. In keeping with the foregoing advice, exactly what city or place is the best place for me to live, in order for me to express myself more fully?

A-10. Where you are—wherever you are! For as has been indicated from the beginning, the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. The organization with which you affiliate yourself must be the same. If it is not, change it.

2981-4

- 9) The Plan of action:
- a. Analyze one's situation
 - i. If you're in debt, why?
 - ii. Do you give regularly?
 - iii. Where are you not applying the laws?
 - b. Based on the assessment, prepare yourself to change the situation. Be willing to work with the Universal Laws

Assess what actions have been in error and what future actions should be undertaken. Use decision-making meditation for inner-guidance

Q-2. What can I do personally to help improve my financial condition?

A-2. That these conditions have in the past offered, and do in the present offer great obstacles from the human or the material standpoint in obvious...That these must be met for the peace of the mind is a portion of that which must be met in that holy of holies, and there—and there alone should the entity, the body, the mind, find the answer.

657-3

Seek to rid yourself of indebtedness in a consistent manner.

Q-13: What can I do to prevent stress or embarrassment by requested payment of indebtedness before I am able to settle?

A-13: Meet these fair and square in the face, as thou would have others do. Meet them in the same way and manner, using those channels that have been indicated that may be an outlet, in the speculative forces—provided thou hast made thine inner self right with thy God.

657-3

Be content, but not satisfied with whatever situation you find yourself in.

Contentment is not fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.

Here, too, should be a lesson—never be satisfied but content. For, he that is satisfied has ceased to grow. Being content and consistent becomes another experience for an individual.

2509-2

Appreciate whatever you have in hand, and begin NOW to send it out.

...For He did not lose patience with His disciples when they said, "Should we go away to buy bread to feed this mob?" "What have we here?" (That is, what have we to do with, to offer?)...only a few loaves, a few fishes, yet in the hands of those who could realize as ye may, "Of myself, I can do nothing, but through His power"...it may be multiplied into blessings.

5089-2

Don't withhold just because the offering seems small!

Learn ye what to do with them (the possessions of the earth). For if ye say, "Had I much, I would give to the poor; had I plenty I would be kind to the unfortunate," and you do not do the same with your mite, you would not do it if you had much! What said He? "She that cast in the penny gave more than them all." So you are only fooling yourselves if you are not giving, doing, bieving, even thy little!

254-95

In paying debts and in tithing, hold the attitude, "Freely ye received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8) (don't be concentrating on what you want in return)

And don't forget—you may sow the seed; God alone gives the increase. You may sow the seed in thy mental association—God alone must give the increase. You may sow the seed in an organization for cooperation in distribution—God alone may keep these in the way.

As we plant the seed, mentally acknowledge the Source by our blessing the money or the gift as we send it

Do ye use that [ideal represented by "In God We Trust"] in thine own heart when ye pay your just debts? Do ye use that in thy prayer, when ye send thy missionaries to other lands? "I give it, for in God we trust"?

3976-29

An affirmation: Divine Love through me blesses and multiplies this money.

What contribution can I, as an individual soul seeking God, seeking to know His face, make that may hasten the day of the Lord?

3976-22

As we send or receive let us do so in the spirit of thanksgiving for our abundance

...[In the old Testament] they were reminded, not in their days of plenty, but in the days when each day they were given only sufficient for that day, that periods were to be, should be, set aside when thanksgiving was to be a part of their activity—their remembrances...[of] the hopes that were and might be theirs if—if—they would but hold to those promises; relying—as it was necessary in those days, those hours, for a complete dependence—upon the bounty of a merciful Father, who had a purpose in the bringing out, in the edifying, in the directing.

3976-21

Let us not cancel out the effect of giving by fears of lack.

...the holding of a problem does not change it one whit—it is what one does about it that makes the change!"

1747-5

Therefore, take action and leave the worry behind!

When we give, we should not feel that we are bestowing charity; there is no such thing as charity in the popular context (since everything belongs to God)

Then, be more democratic with those whom ye would aid. Not from a mercenary angle or viewpoint, or merely for policy, but that brotherly love may indeed be the factor that would prompt the entity to give consideration to the spiritual and physical needs of the lowliest whom ye would aid.

1901-1

Don't seek recognition or praise for our giving, but rather give in the spirit of selflessness

Don't let your right hand know what your left hand is doing!

As we approach economic healing, expect the laws to work in your life, but don't try to force them to.

Q-12. To bring a desired thing or condition into manifestation, is it advisable to visualize it by making a picture or just to hold the idea in prayer and let God produce it in His own way without our making a pattern?

A-12. The pattern is given thee in the mount. The mount is within thine inner self. To visualize by picturizing is to become idol worshipers. Is this pleasing, with thy conception of thy God that has given, "Have no other gods before me"? The god in self, the God of the universe, then, meets thee in thine inner self. Be patient, and leave it with Him. He knoweth that thou hast need of before ye ask. Visualizing is telling Him how it must look when you have received it. Is that thy conception of an All-Wise, All-Merciful Creator? Then, let rather thy service ever be, "Not my will, O God, but Thine be done in me, through me." For all is His. Then, think like it—and, most of all, act like it is.

520-3

As we begin to apply the law of love consistently through giving with complete trust in the Father, the more we are building the pattern within us that will enable God to use us as channels.

If there is the satisfying in doing that thy hands find to do in the present, in meeting those conditions in the daily activity of the body, then these will

come about in their natural turn, their natural activity. For as has been oft given, when there is used properly that thou hastin hand from day to day the next step is given thee that will bring to thine soul and to thine inner self those things necessary as the Lord hast need of thee.

520-3

Acknowledgement:

Many thanks to Barbara Burgess Bullard and her article "Abundance is Yours," (Part I and Part II) as these materials were prepared directly from her article.

Knowledge unlived is SIN!

Character is the ability to carry out a decision long after the enthusiasm for that decision has gone),

Dig in! Begin!

254-43

Other reference materials:

Cayce reading 3538-1 F 46 12/13/43

In analyzing the physical and mental attitudes of the body here, [3538], we find that anxieties as to material things and conditions have had too great a stress put upon them by this body.

If there is the analyzing of self respecting the spiritual attitude the body should take respecting conditions of self and of those about the body, to be sure the body becomes discouraged.

When such information is first presented to the body, it may realize and declare "Why offer spiritual counsel, when I am so anxious about my physical being as well as those about me?" But who healeth thy diseases? To whom does the material world belong? Man or God? Whom do ye serve - thine own appetites, thine own desires, or God?

These should be thy first approach. For, as He has given, be not anxious wherewithal ye shall be clothed nor wherewithal ye shall be fed. For, the Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. When ye apply the spiritual life in thy relationships to others, there will be the supply. For, does He not clothe all nature? Are not the silver and gold His? Then act in that manner!

Begin by reading Exodus 19:5, and know that it is meant for thee. Then read the whole of Deuteronomy 30, and know that the counsel is being given to thee, and that

ye have to choose each day, now, and every other day. Don't say within self that these are of no avail to thee, but use them.

For again and again He says, "Try me - see if I will not pour out to thee a blessing."

Do that. **Then as ye study, know that ye are not only read but apply John 14, 15, 16, 17.** These are not merely words, they are living truths. He came that ye might have life and have it more abundantly. He withholds no good thing from thee, if ye will only choose it, live it. Live it in thy speech to others.

Though the heavens fall, though the earth be broken up, His promises will remain - and He will not fail thee, if ye fail Him not.

The Richest Man in Babylon (a parable) (by George S. Clason):

- One tenth of all I earn shall be set aside as mine to keep
- Seven-tenths shall be used to provide a home, clothes to wear, and food to eat, with a bit extra to spend, that our lives be not lacking in pleasure and enjoyment. [CB recommends you make this six-tenths, so that you have one-tenth available for tithing]
- Two-tenths of all I have earned shall be divided honorably and fairly among those who have trusted me and to whom I am indebted.

Seven Cures for a Lean Purse

- 1) Start thy purse to fattening
- 2) Control thy expenditures
- 3) Make thy gold multiply
- 4) Guard thy treasures from loss
- 5) Make of thy dwelling a profitable investment
- 6) Insure a future income
- 7) Increase thy ability to earn

The Goddess of Good Luck

Men of Action are Favored by the Goddess of Good Luck

The Five Laws of Gold

- 1) Gold cometh gladly and in increasing quantity to any man who will put by not less than one-tenth of his earnings to create an estate for his future and that of his family
- 2) Gold laboreth diligently and contentedly for the wise owner who finds for it profitable employment, multiplying even as the flocks of the field.
- 3) Gold clingeth to the protection of the cautious owner who invests it under the advice of men wise in its handling.
- 4) Gold slippeth away from the man who invests it in businesses or purposes with which he is not familiar or which are not approved by those skilled in its keep
- 5) Gold flees the man who would force it to impossible earnings or who followeth the alluring advice of tricksters and schemers or

who trusts it to his won inexperience and romantic desires in investment.

Better a little caution than a great regret.

Youth is ambitious. Youth would take short cuts to wealth and the desirable things for which it stands. To secure wealth quickly, youth often borrows unwisely. Youth, never having had experience, cannot realize that hopeless debt is like a deep pit into which one may descend quickly and where one may struggle vainly for many days.

We cannot afford to be without adequate protection.

Where the determination is, the way can be found.

“The problem with Yuppies is not that they want too much, but that they want it too soon.”

Unknown. Found in the National Enquirer

The Instant Millionaire (by Mark Fisher)

Chapter One: In which the young man consults a wealthy relative

Chapter Two: In which the young man meets an elderly gardner

Make sure you love what you do

Chapter Three: In which the young man learns to seize opportunities and take risks

People who waste time waiting for all the perfect conditions to fall into place never get anything done. The ideal time for action is now!

Chapter Four: In which the young man finds himself a prisoner

Chapter Five: In which the young man learns to have faith

Chapter Six: In which the young man learns to focus on a goal

Know how much you want to earn and the timeframe by which you want to achieve it—the magic of a quantified objective.

Chapter Seven: In which the young man gets to know the value of self-image

All the events in your life are a mirror image of your thoughts

Chapter Eight: In which the young man discovers the power of words

Character equals destiny

Desire is what best sustains your thoughts. The more passionate your desire is, the more quickly the thing you want will spring up in your life.

The way to obtain faith is through the repetition of words.

Words have power.

Chapter Nine: In which the young man is first shown the heart of the rose

The dual secret of true wealth:

Love for whatever you do, and love for others

Chapter Ten: In which the young man learns to master his unconscious mind

Self-Suggestion and Repetition

Chapter Eleven: In which the young man and his mentor discuss figures and formulas

Don't confuse assets and income

Seek to double your assets each year.

Set goals about increases in your income

Chapter Twelve: In which the young man learns about happiness and life ...during your search for wealth, never lose sight of the fact that if you lose happiness, you lose everything.

Every day in every way, I'm getting better and better.

To be a genius simply means to do what you enjoy doing. That is the true genius of life.

You must be courageous enough to act immediately.

You must know how to dare

Be still, and know that I am God

I could do anything. Nothing would be impossible for me as soon as I became the master of my destiny.

Chapter Thirteen: In which the young man learns to express his desires in life

Be specific

Faith moves mountains

If your goals are harmful to anyone, they must be avoided for your own good as well as for the good of others.

The more often you repeat the formula: Be still and know that I am God, the more powerful your inner voice will become and the more surely it will guide you.

Chapter Fourteen: In which the young man discovers the secrets of the rose garden

Live in the here and now.

The rose is a symbol of life. The thorns represent the road of experience: the trials and tribulations each one of us must undergo to understand the true beauty of existence.

When your mind has become strong and self-assured through concentration exercises, you will come to realize that life's problem no longer have any hold over you. You will understand that things are only as important as the mind believes them to be. A problem is a problem only if you make it a problem. The stronger your mind is, the more insignificant your problems appear. This is the

source of inner peace, so concentrate. This is one of the greatest keys to success.

Dare to make a request.

Bring your thoughts and actions into harmony.

Don't let fear be your guide.

Our greatest possession is freedom, and wealth can give you freedom.

Discover who you really are, and the truth will set you free.

Chapter Fifteen: In which the young man and the old man embark on different journeys.

From Conversations with God, Book I:

You carry a thought around that money is bad. You also carry a thought around that God is good. Bless you! Therefore, in your thought system, God and money do not mix.

Well, in a sense, I guess, that's true. That is how I think.

This makes things interesting, because this then makes it difficult for you to take money for any good thing.

I mean, if a thing is judged very "good" by you, you value it less in terms of money. So the "better" something is (i.e. the more worthwhile), the less money it's worth.

You are not alone in this. Your whole society believes this. So your teachers make a pittance and your stripteasers, a fortune. Your leaders make so little compared to sports figures that they feel they have to steal to make up the difference. Your priests and your rabbis live on bread and water while you throw coins at entertainers.

Think about it. Everything on which you place a high intrinsic value, you insist must come cheaply. The lonely research scientist seeking a cure for AIDS goes begging for money, while the woman who writes a book on a hundred new ways to have sex and creates tapes and weekend seminars to go with it...makes a fortune.

This having-it-all-backwards is a propensity with you, and it stems from wrong thought.

The wrong thought is your idea about money. You love it, and yet you say it is the root of all evil. You adore it, and yet you call it "filthy lucre." You say that a person is "filthy rich." And if a person does become wealthy doing "good" things, you immediately become suspect. You make that "wrong."

So, a doctor had better not make too much money, or had better learn to be discreet about it. And a minister—woa! She'd really better not make lots of money (assuming you'd even let a "she" be a minister), or there'll surely be trouble.

You see, in your mind, a person who chooses the highest calling should get the lowest pay...

...Remember, thoughts are creative. So if you think money is bad, yet think yourself good...well, you can see the conflict.

Now you, in particular, My son, act out this race consciousness in a very big way. For most people the conflict is not nearly so enormous as for you. Most people do what they hate for a living, so they don't mind taking money for it. "Bad" for the "bad," so to speak. But you love what you do with the days and times of your life. You adore the activities with which you cram them.

For you, therefore, to receive large amounts of money for what you do would be, in your thought system, taking "bad" for the "good" and that is unacceptable to you. You'd rather starve than take "filthy lucre" for pure service...as if somehow the service loses its purity if you take money for it.

So here we have this real ambivalence about money. Part of you rejects it, and part of you resents not having it. Now, the universe doesn't know what to do about that, because the universe has received two different thought from you. So your life with regard to money is going to go in fits and starts, because you keep going in fits and starts about money.

You don't have a clear focus; you're not really sure what's true for you. And the universe is just a big Xerox machine. It simply produces multiple copies of your thoughts.

Now there's only one way to change all that. You have to change your thought about it.

...The usual method of creation for most human beings is a three-step process involving thought, word, and deed, or action.

First comes thought; the formative idea; the initial concept. Then comes the word. Most thoughts ultimately form themselves into words, which are often then written or spoken. This gives added energy to the thought, pushing it out into the world, where it can be noticed by others.

Finally, in some cases words are put into action, and you have what you call a result; a physical world manifestation of what all started with a thought.

Everything around you in your man-made world came into being in this way—or some variation of it. All three creation centers were used.

But now comes the question: how to change a Sponsoring Thought?

Yes, that is a very good question. And a very important one. For if humans do not change some of their Sponsoring Thoughts, humankind could doom itself to extinction.

The most rapid way to change a root thought, or sponsoring idea, is to reverse the thought-word-deed process...

...Do the deed that you want to have the new thought about. Then say the words that you want to have your new thought about. Do this often enough and you'll train the mind to think a new way.