

# Gotta Have Money

Money... Money... Money...

Money—the most talked about... the most sought after... the most worried about... the most fought over in developed nations. In the third world, the desire to be able to, one day. The lack of... or the excesses of... causes the most apprehension.

All for good reason.

Money can be as basic as developing the skills to kill for meat or grow and harvest a crop. The one with marketable skill, to accumulate food beyond their survival, can now barter their excess food... or their skills. No one in the tribe is going to bite the hand that feeds them... if they're smart!

Food means... life!

Money means... life!

What do I mean?

I see money as a “medium”. Yes, money can cause grief and destruction like the spiritualists and psychics that we tend to associate with the word. Money can also have a positive side... just like the spirit world.

Some of the definitions of “medium” from the American Heritage Dictionary are:

- An intervening substance through which something else is transmitted or carried on.
- An agency by which something is accomplished, conveyed, or transferred.
- A means of mass communication.

It's the “vehicle” through which a transaction or transfer takes place.

Is this not what money is and accomplishes?

I hear a lot about money most days through the financial information I am exposed to. I read the other day... the ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle, defined “good money” to have the following characteristics: durability; portability; divisibility, and intrinsic value.

(Too bad the current generation of Greeks don't remember this... and, I say this being a Greek. Now, I know why my paternal granddad left Greece when he was seventeen and never wanted to go back.)

- Durability—must withstand the pressures of time and gravity, rot and decay... within reason.
- Portability—can be carried on the person with ease—I don't need a boat load of it to buy groceries for supper.
- Divisibility—I don't need dynamite, or a jack hammer, to split off what I need to buy supper. Or, the supermarket clerk can't force me to take a year supply of bacon, pork chops, beans, and coffee because he can't give me change for the cow I brought to him. I really don't need to trade for food if I have a cow but beef on its own can become boring.
- Intrinsic value—the value is contained in the “medium” itself—it cannot be valued on any other object besides itself... or my neighbor... or my government. Funny, I can have my “paper value” hidden in my neighbor or government with debt though... if they are willing to vouch for me, or simply lend to me. “Today, get your low interest loan... even without collateral”, they say. My lack of “intrinsic value” is not apparent... I show the trappings... until they take my “bling” through foreclosure. The “true value” of my labor is exposed when inflation hits—I can no longer make the mortgage payment.

Why the talk about money?

There is talk, with the debt and financial instability of nations, of strategies to prepare. You hear recommendations of... hold money in the form of domestic or foreign companies (the stock)... real estate (here or abroad)... commodities... foreign currency... bitcoin... art... or, a combination of.

Are we sure we can navigate the future and keep our money intact with the various approaches? To “bank on” exactly how the future unfolds...is anybody's guess... pun intended. Reminds me, I heard that an Irishman once said, “If I knew where I was going to die, I would sure avoid going near there.”

Does a sound strategy exist... a margin of safety?

A margin of safety is an allowance or adjustment you make before making an investment so if the investment doesn't go as you planned... you will be okay... you will not be wiped out. Another way of expressing it... *you do not know what you can sell something for, but you do know what you will pay for it.* Don't lose more than you can afford and... make sure there is upside potential. Kind of like... I don't want to take the “ride down”, but I also want to know I have a ticket reserved for “going up”.

I believe... *there is no new thing under the sun* (Ecclesiastes 1:9)\*. The mysteries, observations, and principles the great “thinkers” discuss... God has already figured out. Aristotle’s view of money is what I see completely fulfilled in what I call... “the other gold”.

I believe “the other gold” is the only true and stable form of wealth... money... the “medium” of transfer... margin of safety... that exists. It can’t be massaged by man, or governments, into fiat value or credit... inflating or deflating it.

What do I mean?

“The other gold” is... Gold tried by fire... the Life of Jesus Christ... the Holy Spirit of God.

**Durability:** the Holy Spirit will be with the person that accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior... forever. As Christ said... *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee* (Hebrews 13:5)... *I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever* (John 14:16). The Holy Spirit is everlasting... eternal.

**Portability:** the Holy Spirit is at home in the “Heart of Flesh of the New Covenant” given to the believer in Jesus Christ’s sacrifice at the Cross to wash them clean from their sins... *Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts* (2 Corinthians 1:22). The Holy Spirit cannot be taxed by the tax collector, or confiscated by the border guard... and, is not dictated by emotion, lust, and greed—He acts, and teaches, according to the written word of God... kind of like, to be civilly governed by our American Constitution and not by the “prevailing winds of emotion” from the majority, is for our protection from tyranny. Where the possessor of the Spirit goes... so does the Holy Spirit.

**Divisibility:** the Holy Spirit can be received by anyone who believes in Jesus Christ’s Grace and forgiveness of sin, that He shed His Blood at the Cross as the Son of God for this very reason. The supply of the Holy Spirit is not limited and will “divide to increase” at the choice of the individual who accepts God’s offer of Salvation through Christ. If I understand the Word of God correctly, the Holy Spirit is Peace, which... *the increase of... there shall be no end* (Isaiah 9:7)... to.

**Intrinsic value:** the Holy Spirit is the real deal. God is Spirit... the Holy Spirit... the Life of Jesus Christ... the Life of God... no more, no less. There is no greater value to receive than the Creator of the Universe. A “value” that cannot rust... rot... depreciate—God will always be God... He said... *I AM THAT I AM* (EXODUS 3:17).

The Holy Spirit is the “medium” that God uses to commune with us. Christ said He is in us through the Holy Spirit... *we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us* (1 John 3:24). God lives with us... talks to us... teaches us... accepts us... gives us a future—all through His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit that completely fulfills the attributes of... “good money”.

The Holy Spirit is the only money... wealth... investment... worthy of wholehearted pursuit! To pursue something in addition, this dilutes, weakens, and destroys our possession of “good money”—this is expressed by... *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where*

*moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal* (Matthew 6:19). This is Wealth built on “intrinsic value”... not cheap credit.

At least I think so.

Is it easy? No!

Every cell of the body screams to setup “the combination”. Now, there’s considerable time and brain power spent on wondering about how to protect it... not to mention, a heart that’s now troubled. The source of our honesty, integrity, innovation, and productiveness is corrupted and reduced to worry and preservation of saving our skin.

I’m learning from the financial world... that preparation when you’re calm, keeps you from acting out of your fears when everyone is freaking out around you. If you’ve proven your rules... your “constitution”... you default to them when you’re tempted to “swing at every pitch”.

One could use this same logic for “the combination” ... and if they have, I believe they will default to it. The only problem... *thieves break through and steal*... and if they defend against, it will consume their life in the process. Then, they’ve run out of options... they will be wiped out. Of course, there’s the warning from our Creator... *Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it* (Luke 17:33).

If my only default option is the Holy Spirit... I have something to work with. But, it’s not easy. The “prudent flesh” shrieks... *lay-up treasures upon earth*... while the Holy Spirit quietly admonishes... *lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... where thieves do not break through nor steal* (Matthew 6:20)—there’s a war waged between.

After all, Jesus Christ, the Life the Holy Spirit represents, is the one that pulled a coin out of the mouth of a fish to pay a tax. We’re more valuable than a sparrow... so, I’d say we’re also more valuable than a... tax.

I have not written to ridicule... but to remind myself.

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\*All scripture phrases in *italics* are King James Version. You can do a search at [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com) to see them in context.

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