

Watch out for the 'honey' effect...

Proverbs 25:16 says "**Hast thou found honey? Eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.**" This is not just creative imagery at its best but you can actually imagine someone who has found this gigantic bee hive just dripping with sweet, nourishing honey. If you don't like honey then just picture someone unattended with a delicacy of your choice with no restrictions or boundaries to your appetite but the ones that you put on yourself. Can't you almost hear the gorging sounds and the sighs of delight over how wonderful the found treat is and how lucky they were to find it? This wonderland usually ends with sickness, regret and an eventually to unpleasant trip to the bathroom. Vomiting is a common reward of this action. When a person vomits, they still have what they ate but it has lost its purpose, savor and nourishment value. It literally will not profit them in anyway to have it in them and relief will only come when it is gone. That which started as a blessing somehow ends like a curse with the original becoming unsatisfying and looking for a way out. Though the sickness ends with the vomit, the aftermath is a mess and is more work than the eating.

An inordinate and ungodly affection for money has this same effect on people. That found bag of unattended, unmarked and unclaimed money or the big ten trillion dollar lottery win is a common fantasy shared by many. We live in a world plagued by violence, neglect, abuse and immorality and all many people hope for is a bag of free money to change their world. Children are being molested and kidnapped to the point where we have prime time news and cable shows devoting series to them. The faces of the missing are so common that even when we see them on milk cartons and post cards, we barely take a cursory glance. We are too busy reading the caption on some junk mail that starts with "*You may have already won...*" This is when the Honey effect begins to take over.

The honey effect happens when we take what is a simple resource that has a specific purpose and use it beyond its intended use and above its safe capacity. Whipped cream can kill you, if you eat too much. Money is a resource, like a seed, that is meant to be planted and cultivated and the fruit is meant to be shared. When we hoard money and refuse to take care of the needs of others around us, then we are gorging on a God given resource that is meant to go through us to accomplish Kingdom work. We are to enjoy it, like honey, but sharing avoids the sickness that comes with eating too much. God uses wealth to establish His Kingdom in the earth and to show his kindness and provision to His people in time of need. **Deuteronomy 8: 18** says "**But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get WEALTH, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.**" When we do not value money as a kingdom resource to be used for the King's divine purpose and begin to see it as a shield against life, we are exhibiting faith in the resource and not the *Source*.

These are difficult times and believe it or not, God's people do not need security. We have Christ. Because of that revelation we are the security of the world. We actually have it all because of our ability to ask and receive from the source of all prosperity. The secret

to our joy is the knowledge that we have a hidden treasure chest. **Matthew 6:19-21** says **Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and RUST doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: " But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor RUST doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also".**