The Want of Things

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Links to audio sermon – Windows Media Version is best, MP3 is 2nd best:

TheOnLineWord.com
and
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Pastor Nathaniel: Bow your heads.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You again for another day to serve and be a Child of Yours; and upon this day, dear Father, though the weather be cold on the outside, that the Word and the Fire of Your Spirit flow hot on the inside. And, dear Father, let the Truth flow forth this day, that every person in this building shall leave with at least one thing that shall make a difference in their life. And as I speak upon this day, let that one thing register and take root and from this day forth make change. In Thy Son Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Amen, and amen. First of all, even before I begin, I’d like to thank all of you that came out upon last Saturday to my surprise birthday party and those that gave me gifts. I hardly even mentioned it last Sunday, because I was still in shock from last Saturday. It’s the first time I’ve ever really had a surprise party, and I had no idea. You kept it so secret. And my wife, she orchestrated everything and she worked tirelessly on that thing for about the last three months. And she came to the Dollar and Cents class, and as you all know, the first class, for those who came faithfully for one year and were not late one single minute, they got $1,000. And Puddin’ took every penny of that $1,000 and put it into that birthday party, and that’s a great testimony. It’s good when the Church gives the pastor an appreciation; but to be very honest about it, the Church doesn’t really know the pastor (laughing). Just to be in the straight truth about it, even in the vast, vast majority of churches, the Church doesn’t really know the pastor. But that pastor’s wife knows the pastor. If you really want to know a man, don’t look at his resume; ask his wife. If you could get the real truth out of her, the wife can tell you some stuff about the man that you won’t find printed. The wife can tell you what I call the real lowdown about the man. She can really tell you, so I’m really just appreciative of what she so tirelessly worked through, that she sacrificed and gave all the money that she’d worked so hard to earn, she put it into an appreciation for her husband.

People, that’s an example. I mean, that’s an example. And you can see more in what is done than what is said virtually all the time. That is an example. It’s nice for somebody to tell you, “I love you, Baby,” and they don’t do a thing for you. But she worked tirelessly and spent that which she had earned to show love and appreciation unto her husband. I do thank her for that, and I thank all of you who appreciated me and gave me gifts and attended that celebration.

As you know, I have been speaking for the last few weeks from the general category of breaking of family and generational curses. And as you know, I’ve told you there are seven general categories of curses. In the order in which God listed them in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, number one was the curse of money; number two was the curse of lack or loss of children; number three was the curse of confusion of mind, spirit and direction; number four was the curse of disease; number five was
the curse of enemies; number six was the curse of loss of honor and respect; and number seven was the curse of bad marriage.

As I’ve told you, I would take each one of these and deal with each one of these separately. And several people have asked me as I had been speaking and basically giving background; before I could even get into the first one. Since that first curse was the curse of money, of all the curses, there are more verses devoted to it than any of the other categories. Some people had asked me, “When are you going to get to that money?”

Open your Bibles to the book of Matthew, in the 6th chapter of the book of Matthew. As we begin today just dealing with the curse of really the lack of money, I won’t be able to deal with all of that today, because God gave me some revelation that was a little bit different than, first of all, what I had figured on. In Matthew, Chapter 6, beginning at the 24th verse, I’ll be reading the NIV translation of Matthew, Chapter 6, beginning at Verse No. 24: “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow? They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat’ or ‘What shall we drink’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has trouble enough of its own.”

This series of verses, I preached from this perhaps a couple of years ago. And that first verse that I read, Matthew, Chapter 6, Verse 24, is what I term the roughest verse in the Bible. I don’t know any verse any rougher than that. And let me give you a graphical illustration about what I mean by this. It is the roughest verse that I can find in the Bible. First of all, I want you to, number one, understand who Jesus was talking to when He said that. Some of you may think, “Well, He was just talking to the disciples.” If you look in Matthew, Chapter 4, Verse 25, where Jesus begins His teaching, you’ll find it continues right through, and it tells you who He was talking to. It says in Matthew, beginning of Chapter 4:25: “And there followed Him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan. And seeing the multitudes,
He went up into a mountain; and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him: and He opened His mouth, and taught them, saying”; then begins the beatitudes. And He began to teach the multitudes of the people. The disciples were there, but the multitudes were there. And Jesus began to teach the multitudes of the people these things. That’s where He begins with the beatitudes, and He goes right down the line. So He was talking to everybody!

But, people, that first verse of Matthew 6:24 is the roughest verse in the Bible. You look at it and say, “I don’t see what’s so rough about that, ‘No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money’. I don’t see what’s rough about that.”

Let me give you a graphical illustration. Brother James, I want to ask you to be the representation for God. Brother Kelvin, I want you to be the representation for Money. Do you mind if, when folks look at you, they see money (laughing)?

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So if you can imagine that Brother James is the representation of God and Brother Kelvin is the representation of Money, every time you look at Brother James you see God; but every time you look at Brother Kelvin, you see Money. He just looks like money; he smells like money; he walks like money; he talks like money -- everything! You know, some folks are like that; some folks look like money. They can look like they’re loaded with money. When they’re talking and when they get in their car, you just see money all over them. Well, just imagine for a minute. That’s not a terrible image, is it, s of Reverend Kelvin? Just imagine when you look at Reverend Kelvin, all you can see is just money. Imagine him as the image and the representation of Money, and imagine Reverend James as the representation of God. You know, some people carry a godly air, and every time you look at them, you can see the spirit of God all over them. You can go places sometimes, and people will never notice you are a minister. Yet somehow, they will ask you. And there is just something about the way you talk. I’ll go to other cities, and people will ask me if I am a minister, and they have never seen me before. Just after they listen to you, there’s something around you! So I want you imagine that Reverend James represents God and Reverend Kelvin represents Money. This is what the Bible says about that. It says, “No one can serve two masters.” It says either I will love him, and if I love him, I will hate him. It says if I cling to him, I will despise him.

Reverend Kelvin, do you have $20 in your pocket? Pull out $20. Just pull out whatever you’ve got. Let me see what you’ve got. It’s kind of thick in there. Oh, that’s a hundred! There you go, I knew it. I told you he looked like money. All right.
Now, here’s this. Put this on your head. Have a seat, just set it on your head. See, sometimes, folks, you’ve got to put something where people can see it.

The Bible says -- Brother James, hold up your Bible to represent God. The Bible says if I love him, I will hate him. If I cling to him, I will despise him. It’s saying that if I love God, I just hate this. I despise it, because I love God! I looked at that verse over and over and over. I checked it through every translation. I said, “Lord, there’s got to be something wrong here.” I went through every translation to see if there was a different translation. I went through the Aramaic, I went back through the Greek to see. There’s got to be something wrong with it, because the Bible has said if I love him, I’m going to hate him. That’s what the Bible is saying!

People, that’s the roughest verse in the Bible. There may be a verse rougher than that, but I haven’t found it. That’s the roughest verse in the Bible to say that if I love God, then I’ll hate money. I know it’s rough, because I don’t know anybody that’s gotten into it fully. And in reality, I just have to tell you the truth about it. I’m not in full fulfillment of that verse, because I don’t despise and hate money. That’s just the truth about it. I have to be honest about it.

I looked at it and asked, first of all, if you ever have a question about what Scripture means, go and look at the context and look at the action in the Scripture. I said, “Well, maybe Jesus didn’t mean it.” I said. “Let me see what He did.” And, see, you can always get real meaning from action. That’s why I said if somebody really loves you, you can always check their action. You can always get real meaning from action. I said, “Let me see what Jesus did. What did He tell his disciples?”

Every one of the disciples, He told them “Give up what you have, all your money, all your stuff, and come follow Me.” When He sent them out, He said, “Take no purse. Take no money with you.” When I looked at what Jesus did, He followed exactly what He said. And then I had to recognize He meant exactly what He said. The problem with this verse, I don’t know anybody that fully fits into this verse, because I don’t know anyone that hates and despises cash money. Do you? Maybe I just run in too small of a circle. Maybe I’m not around the elevated and spiritual people that you are. Maybe I just don’t know the people that are truly Heavenly enlightened. I haven’t met anybody that hates and despises money! As a matter of fact, I haven’t even met anybody that’s even neutral to money. You know, some things you’re neutral to.

I took my wife out to eat yesterday. There was some herbal tea, and I asked her how she liked it. She said, “It’s all right. I can take it or leave it.” She was neutral. She didn’t either like it or dislike it; she was just kind of neutral. So, see, there are some things that when someone asks you, “Do you want this, or do you want that?” you say, “It doesn’t matter.” That means you’re neutral. People, I haven’t even met anyone even neutral to money.
I remember one night as I was preaching The Weekend Word, I came in, and I had
the song on “For the Love of Money” by the O’Jays. I had a stack of $5 bills, and I
passed everybody in the audience as I came in a $5 no;;. That Church has never
been on fire, it has never had the kind of shouting, kind of dancing and the kind of
hopping up and down as those $5 bills produced that night. I could have walked in
with a cross that hung from the bottom of my chin down to my feet, and it still
would not have produced the excitement that those $5 bills did. Those people were
dancing and swinging all around, and I mean holy dancing. I mean running up
here. Look, this is on Friday night, so you know for folks in church on Friday night,
that was not your pagan crowd. Those were the folks that even went beyond
Sunday; those were the people in church on Friday nights! And they were holy
dancing about that $5. It took me about 15 minutes to get the crowd calmed down.
They were people not even neutral about money.

So this is a rough verse. But it is critical to even understand this verse and to
understand the meaning behind it and to understand what Jesus taught. See, to
fully walk under Jesus’ anointing, you have to understand what He taught, and you
have to walk in some of His ways. When you walk outside of those ways, it helps
bring those curses, and this verse is one of those critical verses to understand. If
you’ve got a curse of money, you needed to know what Jesus said about money. But
that’s a rough verse.

I only know of one group or one religion that even halfway follows it, and that’s the
Hindus. The Hindus have in their religion during the latter part of the person life in
the last third; they give away all of their Earthly possessions, and they wander the
land with nothing but a bowl that they go beg food in and they spend all day in
prayer, and only a small amount of Hindus even do that! It’s even in their religion,
and it’s only a very small sliver of the Hindus that even when their religion tells
them at a certain point in their life to give up all their material stuff, there’s only a
few of them, and the few that do it don’t have much.

So it’s a difficult thing in the flesh. Where’s that money, Brother Kelvin? It is a
difficult thing in the flesh. Regardless of what the Bible says, it’s a hard thing to
hate Ben Franklin.

See, all of us talk about the Presidential election; those are dead Presidents. You
may not give a hoot about the live Presidents. You may not give one iota about the
live Presidents, but you sure do care about those dead Presidents! Those dead
Presidents, you have sacrificed, you worry over; they keep you up at night, they stay
on your mind. They stay on your mind! Those dead Presidents stay on your mind!

So it is critical and it is important for us to understand that we are supposed to be
right here; but most of us are right here; and even the best of us are about right
here. See, I’m not fully over here yet. And God gave me one command about preaching to the people. He said this: “Don’t you tell the people to do anything you can’t do.” So, people, I’m not going to tell you to hate money. I’ll tell you to hate money as soon as I get to the point where I hate it.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I can’t do it. Now, C. Elijah, do you hate it? I haven’t asked you lately (laughter). How much do you hate it? Let me ask you that. First of all, I said I didn’t know anybody that hated it; I hadn’t asked C. Elijah. So, C. Elijah, do you hate it? See there? He doesn’t even hate it (laughing). So I’m wondering, who in the world is it that does hate it? Even the holiest and the most sanctified of people, I have never found anyone that truly hates or despises money. And yet, that’s what Jesus said. In every translation, that’s what He’s saying.

So it’s critical for us to understand what He talks about as we move into the curse of money. Last Monday, the day after I had preached, I was there early in the morning, a little bit after 5:00 a.m. in the morning. I was praying and was asking God, “Lord, tell me what to tell the people about the curse of the lack of money. Show me the proper teaching, so I can tell them how to get out from under the curse of the lack of money.” And what God spoke to me was not what I expected. How many of you have ever had God do something in your life, and it wasn’t what you expected? Many times, not only was it not what you expected; it wasn’t even what you wanted. So as God answered me, it was not what I expected.

This is what God told me as I sat there in prayer in the early darkness of the morning, asking God, “Lord, what do I tell the people about the curse of the lack of money?” I wrote it down, and I’m going to read it to you exactly verbatim as He spoke it.

God said, “For most, the curse is not the lack of money, but the want of things.” He said, “For most, the curse is not the lack of money, but the want of things.” I speak to you today from that title, “The Want of Things.” And as I began to absorb that and look at it and analyze it, and as I even went back to read through the curses and Deuteronomy, as I looked over most of the curses that related to money and provision, most of those curses related to the exact things that Jesus talks about in Matthew. They related to food and the things that produce food and clothing. And if you look back over the curses, it talks about the cattle; it talks about the water, the rain, your crops, your baskets. It talks about food, and it talks about cattle. Now, that can be inferred that that also relates to money, because as your herds are large, that’s where a farmer’s money comes from: it comes from his crops and his herds. So it can be inferred that that relates to money; but the bottom
line is, virtually everything that God dealt with, it really related in its raw essence: to your food; the animals which produce the clothing, the wool and the leather. It related to your basic necessities. The drought, He said He would make the land hard. When the land got hard, no crops would grow, and you’d have famine in the land; you wouldn’t have enough to eat. Both Jesus and Paul said, “Having ye food and raiment, you ought to be content.”

As I began to look at that thing and to understand it, there’s hardly anyone I know that fits into the category where they lack basic necessities. We don’t have a problem in this country in the vast, vast, vast majority of cases where there has been a lack of food and clothing. As a matter of fact, not only is there not a lack of food and clothing, most people have too many clothes. One of the biggest problems we have right now is closet space. Most of the women right now before you could come to church, you stood in front of your closet trying to figure out what dress to put on and what shoes to wear. It wasn’t a problem that you didn’t have a dress or you didn’t have any shoes; your biggest problem was trying to figure out which dress to wear and which shoes to put on!

Most of our problem in this country, most of us don’t even know a person that does not have sufficient food; but the majority of people that we know need to go on a diet. Not only do we not have not enough food, we’ve got too much food. Our biggest problem in America is not getting food; it’s going on a diet! For every one person, if you even know one person who’s short of food, you know a hundred that need to go on a diet. So our problem, really, is not dealing with the basic necessities that God was talking about in Deuteronomy. There is a portion that deals with overflow, but the majority of it deals with basic necessities. And God was trying to say, “For most, the curse is not the lack of money; it is the want of things.”

As I began to look at that thing and as I began to analyze it and God began to show me some things, do you know the want of things is far more of a problem than basic necessities? It’s the want of things that gets most of us in our financial problem. I don’t know anybody that’s gotten in financial trouble because they were trying to put food on the table or trying to buy clothes. It just doesn’t happen. It happens in rare instances, and that’s why God says, “For most” -- not all, but for most -- “the curse is not the curse of a lack of money; the curse is the want of things.”

When you look at Jesus and when you look at what He taught, that’s why when you go back and read not just this roughest version in the Bible, but Jesus is even talking about it. So often we have taken the verse, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you,” we think, “Jesus was talking about He’s going to add unto me fancy cars and big houses and fancy clothes.” That’s not what Jesus was talking about. Read it! He tells you what the things were, and we have gone in and put all this stuff. Jesus never said that. When you look at it, He tells you exactly what the things were. He was talking
about the things. That's why he was talking about the clothing. He said even Solomon wasn't arrayed as one of the lilies and the food. Jesus was talking about basic necessities! And He said, “Your Father in Heaven knows that you have need of them.” God knows you need food and clothing, at least since we got out of the Garden of Eden. Now, we didn’t need them while we were in the garden; but right now people, we need clothes. So God knows that you need your basic necessities; but it is rare, almost unheard of, where basic necessities get the majority of people in trouble. The thing that brings the curse on most people is not basic necessities; it’s the want of things.

This whole society is geared to making us want more and more and more and, people, there’s no end to it. When you get into the mentality of this, there’s no end to it. Have you ever wondered how the big entertainers can make millions and millions and millions of dollars each year and then they end up going bankrupt? I say to myself, “How in the world can they make $10 million a year and go bankrupt?”

I was watching a special, and they were talking about Wayne Newton. Wayne Newton was making $250,000 a week and went bankrupt! Then you say to yourself, “How in the world?” Listen, I’m making $250 a week, and I’m making it. And this man is making $250,000 a week, and he goes bankrupt!” You have to ask yourself and scratch your head, wondering, “How in the world did a man making that much money …” -- and you can go right down the line with all of them.

MC Hammer, as much money as MC Hammer made, his house had to be foreclosed on. What was the big song MC Hammer had? “Can’t Touch This.” They touched him, alright. As much money as MC Hammer made, MC Hammer lost his house; and you have to ask yourself, “How in the world can a man that has made all these millions of dollars not have enough?” There is absolutely no limit to the want of things ... no limit!

I have seen so many things. I guess from as long as I can remember, people have always said, “If I can only just make this, then ... ” and it never worked. I never will forget people telling me, “I make $12,000 a year. If I can just make $25,000 a year, all my problems will be solved; my money will be in good shape, I'll never have to worry about anything.” And it never works, folks, because of the want of things. What’s going to happen when you make $12,000 a year, you want $14,000 a year worth of stuff. When you make $25,000 a year, now you want $30,000 a year worth of stuff, because your level changes. When you walk on the car lot, you’re now no longer making $12,000. And, see, when you were making $12,000 and you walked on the car lot, you were going to get a six-year-old Toyota Corolla. Now you’re making $25,000, and you’ve moved up to a Maxima. The thing changes! When you make more, you want more. The problem is and the reason we run into that curse that brings on the lack is that we want more than we’ve got!
How many of you right now want more than you got? You don’t have to raise your hands, because you know it already. You want more than you have. The thing brings on and it brings in. See, we have grown up in households just like that. We always saw mama and we saw daddy go right up to the limit, and they wanted more than they had; they lived not up to the limit, they lived beyond the limit.

I didn’t believe it. See, people, that’s why some things I read and I know from the Word of God and other things, I read and I see. I never will forget when my wife started out about three years ago. She was selling a nutritional product, and the product came with a tape. She bought a whole bunch of tapes, and she put them in mailboxes throughout southwest Atlanta. She only went to big, fancy houses. She went to them, because the kit cost $100. So she went to big, fancy houses, no little houses. She didn’t go to any house that looked like it cost under $150,000. She only went to $150,000-and-up houses, because she knew she wouldn’t have any problem with them. She put them in mailboxes all throughout southwest Atlanta, probably about 100 or 200 houses. She had six people call her who wanted the product. All six of the folks -- not five out of six, all six of the folks -- did not have the $100. Am I telling the truth, Puddin’? All six of the folks did not have the $100. They said, “I want the product. Can I give you $50 now and $50 in two weeks?” Then the second one said, “I get paid in another week. I’m going to bring it by seven days from now.”

It was one story after another but all six of the folks did not have $100.

When my wife told me about that and said she couldn’t understand it, I said, “Are you sure, Puddin’?” She said, “Yeah! I only put them in these big houses! They had two cars in the garage, two nice cars! So I put them in houses where I knew people had plenty of money.” Not one out of the six had $100, and it showed me this even in the fancy homes with those fancy cars! Now, people, if you’ve got two fine cars out there and you are in a big old house and you don’t have $100, you are in some problem! And it meant the budgets were so tight.

People, that puts you in chains, and it puts you under a bondage. You’ve gotten hooked into this thing of the world, and what has happened, you have moved over there. And, you see, there is a part of that that you must understand. That’s why curses come in so many different forms. Your father was like that, your mama was like that, and you came out of a household where people were put into bondage; and most of America is moving to that. That’s why the devil has most of the folks. That’s why the devil is on this side. And that’s why we have to love Him. And, see, people, when you have all of this stuff and you don’t have $100 free in your budget, you are under some bondage. You are under some bondage. You can’t sleep at night, because every first of the month you’re going to be tight. With those condos floating around, you’re going to be tight. It is not the lack of money that has gotten the people in the problem; it is the want of things. The world has you poisoned and blinded, because that’s their job.
I own a company myself. I work and basically manage two companies. I handle a lot of the advertising, creation and development. It’s my job to make you want the products. It is my job in that company to get to your money. And to get your money, I have to create a desire. I have to make you feel that you need this thing -- not just that you want it, but you need it. I have to make it where all marketing really is just a subconscious thing down in the gut. You don’t really market to the logical mind; you market to the spirit! You market to the part of the man that says, “There’s something about this thing that when I buy this thing, it will make feel good about me,” and you can sell them.

Folks didn’t necessarily need the big house. A nice Volvo doesn’t drive any different than a Corolla! But you feel better getting out of it. My Mercedes doesn’t drive any better than my Jeep! But you look different and you walk different stepping out of the Mercedez. There’s something about it. I don’t care who you are and I don’t care how elevated you are, that stuff affects you.

I’ll never forget, I went somewhere in a limousine. Someone sent a limousine to pick us up and we got out at the place; I wanted everybody seeing me getting out. There was just something about it! And I don’t care. I’m just telling you the truth, folks. And if you went somewhere in a limousine, you’d hang around the door, wanting somebody to see you getting out, too. So don’t look at me like I’m so odd, because you’d do the same thing! That stuff affects you!

And what happens is that you start putting the value of who you are, and you start getting it from the stuff. It’s my Armani suit that makes me who I am. That isn’t what makes you who you are! That’s why anytime you will find those in a depressed position, that’s why the African-Americans, that’s why we are so brand-conscious of so many things, because we’ve gotten to where we feel so bad about ourselves, we have to put on a pair of Calvin Klein to make us feel good. Calvin is not going to make you feel good.

So we do things and we get in stuff, because we feel inferior about ourselves and we want to take this and let this make us who we are. Some of you want Reverend Kelvin, because you think Reverend Kelvin will look good on your arm -- “I’ve got a good, strong man” -- and you need that to make you who you are. Well, people, all you need is this. And the more you move from the side of money to the side of God, the more you will move from the want of things.

People, I’m going to tell you from personal experience, that’s a rough transition, and I still struggle with it; and it’s a day-by-day struggle. I had to ask God as I began to understand this and as I began to look at Jesus’ walk and how He led the disciples. I said, “Lord, look. How do I keep from getting attached to money? I’m in business! And you just can’t be nonchalant about money in business, or you’ll go out of
“Look, how do I handle my business?” The Bible tells you to be prudent in your business. I said, “Lord, how do I handle my business, and how do I stay on this side and not move to this side, because it’s easy to move to that side. So, Lord, how do I do that?”

God gave me three laws, and this is personal. Anytime God tells an individual something that’s not exactly written that way in the Bible, that’s a personal thing. So you can’t take what God gave me and apply it to your life specifically, because that’s personal; but He gave me three keys and three commands for me to follow in order for me to stay unattached from money.

He said, “Number one, don’t get emotional over money.” And do you know, that’s hard to do, folks, because you can get emotional over money when money goes either way. Not too long ago we got the largest order in the company that we had ever gotten, and do you know it was hard not to get excited about that. I mean, the order came in and was bigger than anything we had ever seen. It was bigger; but I had to listen and remember what God said: “Don’t get emotional over money,” because, see, when you get emotional over the big money, you get depressed over the little money. Money swings. That’s why it’s called “currency”; it flows. Anything that flows always goes in waves. If you ever look at even electrical current, if you look at it on an oscilloscope, you’ll see that electrical current goes in an AC cycle; it goes positive to negative. If ever go out to the ocean or you go to a river, everything that has a current flows and it goes in waves. If you’ve got a money flow, it goes up and down. Sometimes you’ve got an excess, and sometimes you’ll be running a little tight. It goes up and down! And if you let your emotions be attached to the flow of currency, your emotions will go the same way. God was telling me, “Look, My Son, I don’t want your joy attached to your bank account. I don’t want your joy to be up when your bank account is up, and I don’t want your joy to be down when your bank account is down, because if you’ve got currency, it’s going to flow, and anything that flows goes in waves.”

Even the Holy Spirit is like that! You’re not that high in the Holy Spirit all the time. Sometimes it’s on you so strong that you feel that can go out and deal with every demon in Hell! Then other times you’re looking for the Lord, wondering where in the world the Lord’s gone. It flows! It’s not on everybody all the time with the same intensity. It flows. And God was telling me, “Don’t put your joy attached to your flow of money.”

The second thing He told me is this. He said, “You can never take more than 50% of the profit from your company; the other 50%, you must distribute among the people.” It was dealing with that power that grips so many of us of greed. You see, that’s the problem. Even when God starts blessing some of us, the more we get, what? The more you want. It’s the way it works. The more you get, there is a gripping power that causes it. When God starts to prosper you, there’s something
about it, you get greedier and greedier and greedier and greedier; and that’s the thing of the flesh, and God knows that it exists in every single person walking around in the flesh. That’s why He gave me the command, “Do not take more than 50% of the profit for yourself.” When excess money comes in, you must distribute it. So I had to look at it. I looked at all the income of the company, and I can’t take more than 50%. It’s my limit! So God puts that as a restriction to fight greed.

It makes you also give and share. And, see, whenever you get a giving and a sharing spirit, you move more from this side over to this side. He had to give me some firm laws. Now, that’s my command. If you start a business, that may not be your command; you need to ask God what you need to do. Those were my commands.

Ad the last thing He told me is this. He said, “Do not let your basic expenses exceed 50% of your income.” That’s my command. If I add up everything I have to pay every month, it cannot go over 50% of my income. The other 50%, I can do what I want to do; but that first 50%, I cannot have any regular bills that I have ever get to the point where my basic expenses exceed. Now, that’s my command. Most people can’t live off what they don’t want to. They live off 50% of their income. But that’s my command, and God explained it this way. He said, “If you let your expenses equal your income, then you will need all of your income.” And He said, “Anything that you need, you’re automatically attached to.” See, if you’ve got a house note and your house note is $2,000 a month, you need $2,000 a month. There’s just no two ways about it. If you’ve got a $2,000-a-month house note and $1,000-a-month car note and $500 a month of other utilities and other expenses, you got $3,500 a month. You need $3,500 a month. There are no two ways about it, there’s no leeway about it; you need that much money! So whenever your expenses get to a certain level where your expenses always equal your income, you need it.

Grab hold of me real tight, Brother Kelvin. See, as much as you try to pull away from the side of money, every first of the month you need that money. You need it! And though you try to get over here to God, you need it. See, need, if you have a bill that’s due every month, you need it. I want to go to church. I really want to be a churchgoer. But I’ve got to work today, because my note is due. I want to go to church, but I need it. And it will start you to even make some compromises in your morality. You’ll start to do things. If you’re a salesperson, you may say something that you know is not quite accurate; but it will get you the sale, because you need it. That need will pull you over to the side. God knew He had to, first of all, free me from need, because need will put a chain around you. That’s why it’s a curse.

I’ve told you this before. At a place where I used to eat, a fellow that was working there asked me if he could get a job with our company, because he needed to get a second job. He said, “I need a second job.” I said, “Why do you need a second job? This is a good job.” He said, “Well, I just bought a car, and I need a second job so I can pay for my car.” I said, “My goodness! You mean to tell me you have now bought
a car, and this car is going to cause you to have to work that much?” He wanted a fulltime second job. I don’t know how big his note was, but it looked like it was a whopper. He needed a fulltime second job, just to pay his car note. I said, “Man, you work eight hours a day here. You want a second job working eight hours a day. You need eight hours’ worth of sleep. You’re going to take at least 15 to 20 minutes to get to work each way.” I said, “You don’t even have enough time to sleep, because the car has grabbed ahold of you.” He’s going to be so tired that he’s not going to feel like going to church. He might drag in on Sunday; but you know he’s not going to be there on Friday, because the want of things has grabbed ahold of him.

It is the first part of dealing with that portion of the lack of money that you understand it’s really not so much the lack of money that is the problem in most of our financial lives; it’s the want of things. When you really go back and look at it, if you examine yourself from the inside, you’ll see that you’re oftentimes buying things to impress people. More often than not, you really don’t even like it that much. Do you know, folks, someone that you really, truly love where you are really close, you aren’t buying things to impress them. Think about the personal. I mean, your genuine friends, the people that you really are close to, you don’t have to put on for them. When they come over to your house, you don’t have to rush trying to clean up. You understand what I’m saying? I mean, your real good friends, when they come over, you say, “Come on in. Just don’t mind all these stuff.” That’s your real good friends!

But if it’s somebody that you know at work and they kind of talk about you and they come, you’ll say, “Let me get this stuff and sweep it up and mop and dust” You see what I’m saying? When you really stop and think about it, the people that you really buy the stuff to impress really are not that close to you in the first place. Those who are close to you, those that you have genuine love between and genuine friendship, you don’t even have to go through all that foolishness. They accept you as you are. That’s why you are good friends. They know all of your mess. That’s why you’re good friends. The real people that you are close to, you don’t even have to go through all those hoops for.

The Want of Things, the want of things get so many of us in financial trouble to where we even give Christianity a bad name, because we won’t pay our debts.

I want you to turn over to Romans, Chapter 13, as I conclude with this verse. And it is important, people, that we represent Christ in all areas of our lives, because people will watch what you do 100 times more than they will listen to what they say. In Romans, Chapter 13, beginning at the 1st verse -- I’m reading the NIV version -- it says this: “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will
bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and He will commend you, for he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for He does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit yourself to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you must pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to government. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law.”

This passage has two factors in it. First, it says to obey the government; and, second, it says to pay people what you owe them. And, you see, Christians sometimes have a problem. We don’t want to pay our taxes. Do you know they have a major problem with ministers with that? When it comes to it, they don’t want to pay taxes with what they get paid. Major problem with that! And they had a crackdown on the churches. Churches have to go to make sure they get a Social Security number, because the ministers won’t pay taxes. And the Bible says just as plain as day, you ought to pay what you owe!

Reverend Kelvin, pull that $100 out again. Reverend Kelvin, I’d like to borrow that $100, and I promise to pay you this back. Now, I get Reverend Kelvin’s $100. And then what I do is go in and get $5 out and give $5 to the church, or $10 to the church or maybe $20 to the church. So I have double-tithed off his $100. And then I said, “Hallelujah! Hallelujah! I have double-tithed, and my debt is forgiven. So, Reverend Kelvin, the $100 that I promised to pay you, prrrrt!”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: The Bible says, pay what you owe. It’s as simple as that. And, see, that brings a curse where we get bad credit records. And you’ll be surprised how just even a good credit record, when that follows you, says something about character. The Bible tells you that, and sometimes we get all of that. And, see, what it will do, going down on my record that I didn’t pay Reverend Kelvin and then I’m standing up, talking about the Word of God, got Reverend Kelvin’s $100, talking about, Lord, hallelujah, I put $20 of it in the church and told Reverend Kelvin, “Prrrt!” Then Reverend Kelvin says, “That man is a liar, and the Lord isn’t in him, because he got my money and won’t pay me back.” And unfortunately, so many of us in the Christian world have developed that reputation.

I remember when I went and bought townhouses 13 years ago, and the developer there owned a whole lot of units. He said, “Mr. Bronner, let me give you three folks
that you do not rent to.” He said, “Don’t rent to friends, because they won’t pay you.” He said, “Don’t rent to artists, because they won’t pay you.” And he said, “Don’t rent to preachers, because they won’t pay you.” When I heard him, I said, “It’s awful for the man to say that about the men of God.” I said, “That’s just horrible! He has no respect for the men of God, telling me not to rent the townhomes to the men of God! Surely a man carrying the Bible is going to pay his rent.” Prrtt! That was before I had some more experience. See, that man, I don’t even think he was a Christian. He hadn’t read the Bible in I don’t know how long. He was talking from experience. And what it did, it cast in his mind, and he would not go to church because preachers wouldn’t pay him. And he said, “Man, when you sign the contract and even if you sign a loan or if you sign a credit card or whatever, if you get a cell phone, you sign an agreement, and on the agreement if you read it, it is called a promissory note. And it’s saying, ”I promise -- this is my word -- to pay you.” Then you don’t pay the man. As a result, it casts a whole bad light, and the developer that showed me the townhouse said, “If that’s what Christianity is about, I don’t want any part of it, because the folks won’t keep their word.” The want of things, people.

I am rich. I’m a very rich man. And when I say that, you must understand that the word “rich” is a relative term. I went to the Amazon several years ago, back in the jungle, and the guide was saying, “Tonight, we’re going to the rich man’s house in the village.” They just referred to him as “the rich man, the rich man, the rich man.” When we got to the rich man’s house, the rich man’s house was a shack; but the rich man had a commode and a generator. When everybody else’s hut was dark, the rich man had some light in his. When everybody else was going out and leaning over the river to use the bathroom, the rich man had a commode. All he had was a toilet bowl and a generator; but he was what everybody called ”the rich man.” If any of us had gone and live in that shack and had to pull the cord on the generator at night, we would have said, “That was the most horrible thing in the world.” And it wasn’t a fancy bath; it was just a commode! But he was “the rich man.” So, first of all, “rich” is a relative term, and it is a state of mind that can be summed up perhaps in this. About two or three weeks ago, my wife Puddin’ asked me, “What do you want for Christmas?” I thought about it for a minute, and it was taking me a long time to come up with an answer. She said, “Look, now. I don’t have a huge budget, so you can’t go outside of my budget. So what do you want for Christmas?” I thought about it for a minute, and it was taking me a long time to come up with an answer. She said, “Look, now. I don’t have a huge budget, so you can’t go outside of my budget. So what do you want for Christmas within my budget?” I still was scratching my head. And then I told her, I said, “Puddin’, I don’t know what I want, because there’s nothing that I want that’s within your budget.” And then as I began to think, I said, “Well, let me think about something that I want that’s outside your budget.” And I thought and I thought and I thought. And I said, “Puddin’, even if I had $1 billion in the bank right now, there’s nothing I want. There’s nothing that I’m missing. There’s nothing I feel a whole lot about. There’s no overwhelming desire for anything in the material world.” I said, ‘Puddin’, there’s nothing I want. Even if I had $1 billion, there is not one thing I can think of that I want.”
Now, people, don’t you know there’s a whole lot of stuff I could buy. I mean, I don’t live an extravagant life. There’s a whole lot of stuff. There’s a whole lot of desires. There’s no limit to that. But there’s something about it that the closer you move to God, you find yourself wanting less and less out of the material world. Now, it doesn’t mean that you won’t have stuff, because I have a whole lot of stuff. But I don’t want anything. And by the want, it means desire. I just don’t have craving desire for anything of the material. I’m satisfied! And, people, when you get to the point where you are satisfied, you’re rich. And whenever you get to the point where you’re unsatisfied, it has nothing to do with your bank account, because so many people have millions of dollars in the bank and they are still in turmoil, they’re still unsatisfied; they still want this, they still want that. They’re rich, and they want, they want and they want. It doesn’t mean that you don’t move; it doesn’t mean that you don’t achieve. It doesn’t mean any of that. It simply means that you’re over on this side, and you’re focused and you are not chained to money.

Most are not under the curse of the lack of money, but the want of things. You need to go and look at your life. If you’re having money problems, most of the time when we have money problems, our focus is on trying to get more money; and that’s not where your answer is. Even most of our modern preachers have spoken all this heavy want situation, because we’re talking about all this prosperity this, prosperity that; your car this, your clothes this, your big houses. That’s not what Jesus said. Jesus said, “Yes, seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven, and all these things, which were food and clothing, would be added unto you, because your Father knows you have needs. Your Father knows you need some food, and your Father know you need some clothes, and you’ve got them. You don’t know you need a Mercedes, because nine out of ten times, you don’t need a car. I don’t need one! You don’t need it. A modest car is fine. If you’re blessed with a car, so be it. But you have the best transit system in the world, and this is the second-best; so you’re blessed! And when we understand that and we can get the want of so many things out of our life, we lack so much fulfillment because we want so much, because the world has given you movies and commercials and televisions. It’s shown you The Love Boat that you get a perfect romance in an hour. And we want a perfect romance in an hour … the Want of Things.

What do you want for Christmas? That will say a whole lot about where you are. What do you want for Christmas? And the more satisfied you are and the closer you are to God, the harder and harder and harder it will be for you to seek of a material thing. What do you want? People, we’ve got to get the chain of wants off if we ever going to get rid of some of the curses.

The first part of my final point is that I read those verses about even the government. And I am speaking even on breaking family curses. There’s something I want you all to understand even about this election. When I got home on November the 7th that evening, Puddin’ asked me, “Who’d you vote for?” And I told
her, I said, “Bush.” She said, “What!?” And some of you will be upset with me right now because I said that. She said, “You voted for Bush!? What in the world were you thinking!? What in the world did you vote for Bush for!?” And I told her, I said, “Puddin’, it was spiritual. I walked into the voting polls preparing to vote for Gore. As I was three people away from the voting booth, I just thought, ‘I haven’t asked the Lord who to vote for. I’ve looked at all of the fact in terms of what I can see, and from what I can see, I need to vote for Gore. But I have not spiritually asked who to vote for.’ So I stood there in line three people away from the voting booth, I bowed my head, and I asked God. I said, ‘Lord, who do I vote for? Who am I supposed to vote for?’ And He said, ‘Bush.’ It shocked me, but I went right up there and pushed Bush and walked right on out.”

Now, my vote didn’t make any difference, because Bush won Georgia by a landslide. So whether I voted for Bush or Gore, my vote made no difference whatsoever. Some of you don’t understand this, but God has always put the kings in office. And you may not know all that’s going on, like I don’t -- my logical mind would have said Gore, but there was something about God -- and I still didn’t know who was going to win; but I knew who God told me to vote for, and I voted for him.

As I thought about it this morning as I was teaching on the curses and breaking family curses, the flip side of that is family blessings. Bush’s daddy was President. Bush’ daddy was President! And Bush’s daddy was President, it got (inaudible). The highest officer in the land, his daddy was President. And there’s something about it. If Bush gets in office, you’ll be able to see what I’m talking about generational blessings and curses: his daddy was President, and as a result, you’ll see what happens, good or bad. I don’t know what kind of President he’s going to be. Sometimes God will put a President or a king for one of two reasons: to either prosper the land or bring judgment on the land. I don’t know which one it is. But I can see the generational pattern: George W. Bush, Sr., and then George W. Bush, Jr. That’s generational, folks. That’s as plain as you can see it. Sometimes most people will not be able to see it in that, but it’s generational. Just as what the daddy was, so is the son going to be. And whether he wins or not, he’s trying to be what his daddy was.

People, when you’ve got children, I want you to look at Bush, and I want you to understand, your child is going to try to be what you are. Whether you like Bush or not, that’s not the point. Your son and your daughter are going to try to do what they see you do! If they see you trying to be President; they’re going to try to be President. They see you messing around and messing up and cursing God and doing all kinds of rough stuff, that’s what they’re going to do sooner or later. It may not come out right now; but sooner or later, way down the road, they may be 50 years old … and I don’t know how old Bush is; he looks like he may be about 50; however old he is, something is going to come out in him: “I want to be like my daddy.”
That’s what Jesus did. I can do nothing but that which I see my Father do. So even in that election, don’t get worried or concerned about who wins that election, because God is in control of that election, not you and not me. God is in control of it. And He’s going to put on that throne who He wants for His purpose. But what I want you to see is the generational pattern of father and son. And we are going into a four-year period that very likely is going to be the epitome of the representation of the transfer of the mantle from father to son. It’s the same thing and it’s the same principles that are going to be in your house. Whatever you want your children to be, you better be that, because they are going to be what you are, multiplied, guaranteed. Bow your heads.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You upon this day for Your Word and for Your Guidance. And dear Father, the one thing that struck everyone, let them grab ahold of that one thing. No matter what it was, there was one thing that hit everyone. And for so many, it was a different point; but there was one thing. Let that one thing, whether it be from the beginning of simply the wife showing appreciation for the husband or whether it be at the end with the father being the image of the son, the one thing, let the people grab ahold of and put into their lives to bring change. And dear Father, as we continue, as I have been instructed to unfold the ways of breaking these generational curses that have for so long and so tightly gripped us and our families, give us the strength and the wisdom to see the Truth and the strength to do the Truth. Dear Heavenly Father, upon this day, let this Word leave with the people. And, Father, I know that upon this day, this was not a popular word. To move away from things and the want of things is not a popular teaching, for it is not what people want to hear. People want to hear how to get more stuff. They don’t want to hear that they may need to want less. Today was not a popular teaching, but it was sitting in the dentist’s chair as it drilled away from dead and decaying things that cause us pain. Let this Word and the one thing for every person sink in, and don’t let the door of their hearts and spirits be closed. I pray, dear Father, that You go with them and guide them and let them through the want of things. In Thy Son Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.