



Depth Perception™

Commentary from Design For Ministry™
Los Angeles - Milwaukee - Philadelphia - Tampa

The 9th reason 30 October 2005

The 9th reason money has a god-like power is that money has the power to transform a life (see the 15 October 2005 issue of *Depth Perception* to read about the other eight). One can convert to it and order their life around it just as they would a Messiah. One simply does not interact with it and come away unchanged. I must thank a stock broker and Lutheran layman from Indianapolis for this keen insight.

The Scriptures do not neglect this message either. Jacob mistreated Esau in order to gain his birthright. King Ahab lusted over Naboth's vineyard and his wife orchestrated murder to get it for him. Ananias and Sapphira manipulated their giving report to make themselves look more generous than they really were. Simon the Magician tried to purchase the gift of healing instead of understanding it as a special grace from God.

But money transformation does not have to be negative. We also have examples of the poor rejoicing in the Lord through the giving of others.

Zacchaeus rejoiced in his interaction with Jesus and vowed to give half of what he owned to the poor. He also pledged to lavishly repay any claims against him. The apostle Paul also used the tentmaking trade as a means to support his missionary journeys.

Having more or having less will transform perspective. Whether the transformation harms or helps is largely connected to whether we are tapped into God's grace and have already been transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1). Then we can see money for what it is ... and what it isn't.

"Money has the power to transform your life ... but money transformation does not have to be negative."

- mark I. vincent