



Biblical Foundations

How Much is Enough?

*Keep deception and lies far from me,
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
Feed me with the food that is my portion,
So that I will not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?"
And that I will not become impoverished and steal,
And profane the name of my God.*

— **Proverbs 30:8-9 (NASB)**

God has been exceedingly generous to His children. In addition to many other blessings, He has entrusted a great deal of financial and material resources to many of us. Have you ever wondered why He has chosen to do so?

One of the reasons God bestows His resources to His people is to provide for our needs. I also believe that, as a loving Father who cares deeply for us, He desires to go beyond just our needs and enjoys fulfilling our desires, as well. (See 1 Timothy 6:17b.)

Have you ever wondered, "How much is enough?"

As responsible stewards, it is important to determine how much of God's resources we should spend on ourselves and how much should be used for others. We need to ask ourselves the question, "How much is enough for my needs and enjoyment?" And "Why has God given me more than enough?"

God does not entrust His resources to us just to satisfy personal needs and desires. He also intends to bless us by inviting us to be conduits of His blessing to others.

Human nature tends to focus on self. As a result, we can become possessive of God's resources. We sometimes seek not only to tend to our needs, but also to fulfill our increasingly excessive wants and desires. We assume more things will bring us greater happiness.

Jim Carrey, Canadian-American actor, comedian, writer, and producer, discovered from firsthand experience that this assumption is false. After acquiring success, celebrity status, and great wealth, he stated, "I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer."



Agur ben Jakeh, the writer of Proverbs 30, understood this principle as well. He wanted neither scarcity nor excess, as he discovered that happiness does not come from possessing much. It does not come from great wealth and material things. Instead, happiness comes from being content with that which God has given us, enjoying a life of moderation, and using His resources in a way that honors Him.