



**Bicycles,  
Roller Skates,  
& Peanut Butter**

**Contemplative  
Verse #8**



## The True Use of Wealth (poem)

*Money, like eyes and feet, can be a tool for good or vanity.  
Locked away or spent in pride, while the needy are denied.*

*To waste on clothes that glitter bright, while others shiver  
through the night, is akin to keeping eyes and hands, while  
others' lives are lost in sands.*

*Indulgence in what has no need, instead of helping those  
who plead, is madness pure, a foolish play, when blessings  
could be given away.*

*Once our needs are met with care, what's left should be a  
gift to share. A heart that sees beyond the self and uses well  
its given wealth. For giving is the wisest art, to comfort souls,  
to heal each heart.*

*So let our fortune bless the poor, And open wide each  
kindness door. For true reward in Heaven's gaze, is found in  
love, in all our days.*

*Each exhortation, clear and bright, Commands us to use  
wealth aright. For in our spending, faith should lead to meet  
the world's and spirit's need.*

*To be religious with our gold, in charity, our hearts unfold.  
For in the wise and just embrace, we find God's love in every  
place.*

*Thus, every coin and note we spend, should follow paths that  
God intends. To help, to heal, to lift, to bless, our wealth  
used well in righteousness.*

*So let us honor every word, Of Scripture's call, divinely heard.  
In loving all, in giving free, Reflecting God's own purity.*

## Wealth of Blessings (poem)

*Our wealth, a tool for noble ends, to help the needy, comfort friends. In every coin and bill we share, Lies the power to show we care.*

*Wasting wealth, a chance we lose, to do the good that we could choose. For in each act of giving kind, Eternal treasures we can find.*

*Misuse of wealth, a path to stray, from blessings we could give away. For when we use our gifts with grace, we help to heal, in every place.*

*So let us spend with purpose clear, Our wealth, a blessing, always near. In serving others, we shall see, A path to true felicity.*

### Meaning:

Christianity calls us to dedicate every aspect of our lives to God, including how we use our money and possessions. These are gifts from God, just like our eyes and hands, and should not be wasted or misused.

There are several important reasons to use our wealth wisely:

1. **Impact on Daily Life:** How we spend our money significantly affects our daily life. If reason and religion guide our spending, they will also guide our lives. If our spending is driven by vanity, pride, and whims, these traits will dominate our lives.
2. **Potential for Good:** Our wealth can be used for excellent purposes, such as helping the needy and providing comfort. Wasting money means losing the opportunity to do good and secure eternal treasures in Heaven. Misusing our resources means losing the power to help others and making ourselves truly blessed.

## Our use of wealth (poem)

*In every call to wisdom's light, to reason's path, to hearts  
contrite, Scripture speaks with clear decree, to use our wealth  
religiously.*

*For wants that God Himself would bless, for hearts  
transformed, in holiness, to love our neighbor as our own, to  
mirror love that God has shown.*

*Be wise and just, with open hand, be spiritual in every land,  
for brotherly love and charity, Reflect the heart of Deity.*

*In every chapter, truth is clear, to use our fortune without fear,  
to bless, to heal, to spread God's grace, In every time, in every  
place.*

*For in the heart where God resides, in every soul where love  
abides, there lies the true and holy call, to use our gifts, to  
give our all.*

*One passage clear, one truth to share, in every act, in every  
prayer, to live as Christ, to serve and give, In God's great love,  
forever live.*

*Thus let our riches be a tool, not for self, but for God's rule, to  
lift the low, to feed the poor, in giving, find we have much  
more.*

*To satisfy, as God intends, to mend the hearts that need  
amends, to turn our wealth to love and care, and find His  
blessings everywhere.*

*For wealth is but a passing phase, True treasure lies in  
heaven's gaze, in kindness, grace, and mercy's touch, we find  
a wealth that means so much.*

*So, guide us, Lord, with wisdom's grace, to use our wealth in  
every place, to serve, to love, to shine Your light, In every soul,  
both day and night.*

**Explanation:** *of poem*

**Stanza 1:**

*In every call to wisdom's light, to reason's path, to hearts contrite, Scripture speaks with clear decree, to use our wealth religiously.*

- **Explanation:** This stanza highlights that every call in Scripture to be wise, reasonable, and humble (hearts contrite) includes an instruction to use our wealth in a way that aligns with religious and spiritual principles.

**Stanza 2:**

*For wants that God Himself would bless, for hearts transformed, in holiness, to love our neighbor as our own, to mirror love that God has shown.*

- **Explanation:** Our spending should focus on needs that God would approve of and bless. This means using our wealth to support holiness, love others as ourselves, and reflect the love God has shown us.

**Stanza 3:**

*Be wise and just, with open hand, be spiritual in every land, for brotherly love and charity, Reflect the heart of Deity.*

- **Explanation:** We are called to be wise and just, generous (with open hands), and spiritual everywhere. Our actions should reflect brotherly love and charity, embodying the heart of God.

**Stanza 4:**

*In every chapter, truth is clear, to use our fortune without fear, To bless, to heal, to spread God's grace, In every time, in every place.*

- **Explanation:** Each part of Scripture teaches us to use our wealth confidently to bless and heal others, spreading God's grace everywhere and at all times.

**Stanza 5:**

*For in the heart where God resides, in every soul where love abides, There lies the true and holy call, To use our gifts, to give our all.*

- **Explanation:** When God resides in our hearts and love is present in our souls, we receive a holy call to use our gifts and resources fully and generously.

**Stanza 6:**

*One passage clear, one truth to share, in every act, in every prayer, to live as Christ, to serve and give, In God's great love, forever live.*

- **Explanation:** This stanza emphasizes a clear, universal truth: in every action and prayer, we should live like Christ, serving and giving out of God's great love, living in His grace eternally.

**Stanza 7:**

*Thus let our riches be a tool, not for self, but for God's rule, to lift the low, to feed the poor, In giving, find we have much more.*

- **Explanation:** Our wealth should be used as a tool for God's purposes, not for selfish gain. We should use it to help the needy, and in giving, we find greater fulfillment and spiritual wealth.

**Stanza 8:**

*To satisfy, as God intends, to mend the hearts that need amends, To turn our wealth to love and care, And find His blessings everywhere.*

- **Explanation:** We should use our wealth to satisfy genuine needs as God intends, mend broken

hearts, and convert our resources into acts of love and care, discovering God's blessings in the process.

**Stanza 9:**

*For wealth is but a passing phase, True treasure lies in heaven's gaze, in kindness, grace, and mercy's touch, we find a wealth that means so much.*

- **Explanation:** Earthly wealth is temporary, but true treasure lies in the eternal perspective of heaven. Acts of kindness, grace, and mercy are the real riches that hold lasting value.

**Stanza 10:**

*So, guide us, Lord, with wisdom's grace, to use our wealth in every place, to serve, to love, to shine Your light, In every soul, both day and night.*

- **Explanation:** This final stanza is a prayer asking for God's guidance and wisdom in using our wealth. It seeks to serve, love, and shine God's light continuously, in every situation and at all times.



## A faith that's true, not in mere words (poem)

In times when faith is just a tale, A story old where truths turn pale, where is the heart that truly sees, The Christ-child born, and bends its knees?

If faith were more than history's part, it'd live and grow within the heart. Not just a fact that we confess but love that guide through life's distress.

Modern faith, so often vain, Claims Christ's death yet lives in vain. It boasts of ransom paid by Him, yet clings to sin, where light is dim.

True faith is weak, as never before, though voices claim it, hearts are sore. They argue loud about the name, while missing love, their true acclaim.

For faith is not in words alone, but in the heart where love is sown. A childlike trust, a heart reborn, In Christ's embrace, no longer torn.

So let us seek, with earnest will, a faith that's living, never still. Not just a tale of Christ who died, but in His life, where we abide.

May we find a faith that's true, not in mere words, but in what we do. A love that grows, a light that shines, In every heart, till the end of times.

### Break it down

#### Stanza 1:

*In times when faith is just a tale, A story old where truths turn pale, where is the heart that truly sees, The Christ-child born, and bends its knees?*

- This stanza questions the nature of modern faith, suggesting that it has become a mere story with faded truths. It asks where genuine, heartfelt faith is, the kind that recognizes the birth of Christ and humbly worships Him.
- **Meaning:** This stanza highlights the difference between superficial faith (hypocrisy and flattery) and true faith. Genuine believers are not defined by outward appearances but by inner transformation, where they confront and overcome sin.

#### Stanza 2:

*If faith were more than history's part, it'd live and grow within the heart. Not just a fact that we confess but love that guide through life's distress.*

- Here, the poem emphasizes that true faith is not just acknowledging historical events but is a living, growing force within the heart. It should be a guiding love that helps navigate life's challenges.
- **Meaning:** Simply claiming that Christ has paid for our sins is not enough if we do not genuinely turn away from sin and live a life of new obedience. Without this, any comfort we take in Christ's sacrifice is false and meaningless.

### **Stanza 3:**

*Modern faith, so often vain, Claims Christ's death yet lives in vain. It boasts of ransom paid by Him, yet clings to sin, where light is dim.*

- This stanza criticizes modern faith for being superficial. It claims belief in Christ's sacrifice but continues to live in sin, thus failing to live up to its professed beliefs.
- **Meaning:** True disciples hate sin and find comfort in Christ's suffering. They strive to live according to Christ's teachings, always seeking to do what is right.

### **Stanza 4:**

*True faith is weak, as never before, though voices claim it, hearts are sore. They argue loud about the name, while missing love, their true acclaim.*

- The poem laments that true faith has become weak despite loud proclamations. People argue over religious matters but miss the essence of faith, which is love.
- **Meaning:** Outward displays of faith cannot hide an inner life still struggling with sin. True believers shine from within, reflecting Christ through their actions.

### **Stanza 5:**

*For faith is not in words alone, but in the heart where love is sown. A childlike trust, a heart reborn, In Christ's embrace, no longer torn.*

- True faith is found in the heart, where love is cultivated. It calls for a childlike trust and a rebirth of the heart, finding peace in Christ's embrace.
- **Meaning:** If the soul is pure, this purity will be reflected in one's actions. Boasting about faith while living in sin reveals inner darkness and a lack of true spiritual li

### **Stanza 6:**

*So let us seek, with earnest will, A faith that's living, never still. Not just a tale of Christ who died, But in His life, where we abide.*

- This stanza urges us to seek a dynamic and living faith, one that is active and constant. It emphasizes living in Christ's life rather than just recounting His death.
- **Meaning:** Genuine love and true sincerity are shown through actions. Only those who experience true inner transformation or rebirth can enter God's kingdom.

**Stanza 7:**

*May we find a faith that's true, not in mere words, but in what we do. A love that grows, a light that shines, In every heart, till the end of times.*

- The poem concludes by wishing for true faith that is evident in actions, not just words. It calls for a love that grows and a light that shines in every heart, enduring forever.
- **Meaning:** The divine fire within us brings light to our lives, guiding us to follow God's will. When God's presence is within our minds, His will naturally guides our actions and decisions.

Overall, the poem emphasizes that true faith and transformation come from within and are reflected in our actions. Outward claims and actions are meaningless without genuine inner change. This poem serves as your prayer for others, encouraging them to seek true inner transformation and live according to God's will.

## *Acts of charity and prayer*

If we understand the wisdom and virtue in acts of charity, it also means we should use our wealth wisely. The same logic applies to prayer: if it's wise to set aside time for prayer, then it's equally wise to use all our time well.

Living as if we are in God's presence, using everything as His gift, and letting religion guide our actions should be constant practices. If this were not true, it would mean we never need to act as if God is watching or let religion influence our actions.

Therefore, we should live for God at all times and in all places, not just occasionally. Everything we have and do should be treated as part of our devotion to God. Because wisdom, reason, and piety are always the best principles to follow, no matter the time or place.

If our greatest joy and fulfillment come from having a rational nature endowed with wisdom and reason, allowing us to imitate the Divine, then we must strive to enhance our wisdom and reason, living up to the excellence of our rational nature and imitating God in all our actions to the best of our abilities.

Those who limit religion to specific times, places, or minor practices, and view integrating religion into everyday life as too strict or rigid, misunderstand the essence of religion. They incorrectly believe that life is easier without religion. Similarly, those who don't see the value in being consistently wise fail to grasp the true nature of wisdom.

A person hasn't truly understood piety if they find it excessive to be pious in all actions. Likewise, one hasn't fully understood reason if they don't strive to live in accordance with it in every aspect of life.

## *Acts of charity and prayer (poem)*

*In acts of charity and prayer, Wisdom calls for constant care. To use our wealth and time with grace, Living always in God's embrace.*

*God's presence guides our every way, His gifts we cherish day by day. Religion's light should always shine, In every act, His love divine.*

*Not just in moments or in place but living daily by His grace. For if we need Him now and here, we need Him always, far and near.*

*With reason's wisdom, piety's call, we strive to give our best in all. In every thought, and deed, and word, Let God's commandments be observed.*

*For in our nature, wise and bright, we find our joy, our true delight. To imitate the Divine we seek, In every action, strong and meek.*

*Those who limit God's sweet reign, Miss the essence, seek in vain. For life without Him cannot be, A life of true serenity.*

*To live as wise in all we do, to be pious, faithful, and true. Each moment blessed with purpose clear, in love and reverence, God is near.*

*So let us strive with heart and mind, in every action, God to find. In constant love, devotion pure, a life with God, forever sure.*



## **Living in Divine Service (poem)**

A great part of the world, so free, with time and fortunes at their decree, yet freedom's gift does not bestow, A life to please mere fancy's glow.

No one at work, nor those with time, should live for ends that are not divine. Each action, task, and every plan must serve as worship, hand in hand.

Those with no set work to employ, Are not in greater liberty or joy. Instead, their call is higher still, to live for God, in His good will.

With freedom comes a sacred weight, to choose and act in ways so great. For they are ones who must aspire, to always do what God requires.

Much is given, much required, A higher aim, a heart inspired. To serve with all, in every deed, to meet the call, to fill the need.

In living thus, they find the way, To honor God in night and day. For in each choice, each step, each part, they live for God, with all their heart.

### **Explanation of poem:**

Each stanza emphasizes the importance of using one's freedom and resources responsibly, aligning actions with God's will, and continuously serving and honoring God in every aspect of life.

### **Stanza 1:**

*A great part of the world, so free, with time and fortunes at their decree, yet freedom's gift does not bestow, A life to please mere fancy's glow.*

- **Explanation:** Many people have the luxury of free time and resources. However, this freedom should not be used to indulge in personal whims and desires. It carries a greater responsibility.

**Stanza 2:**

*No one at work, nor those with time, should live for ends that are not divine. Each action, task, and every plan, must serve as worship, hand in hand.*

- **Explanation:** Whether one is busy with work or has leisure time, all actions should be directed towards divine purposes. Every task and plan should serve as a form of worship to God.

**Stanza 3:**

*Those with no set work to employ, Are not in greater liberty or joy. Instead, their call is higher still, to live for God, in His good will.*

- **Explanation:** Those without a fixed occupation are not more free or joyful. Instead, they have a higher calling to live for God and align their actions with His will.

**Stanza 4:**

*With freedom comes a sacred weight, to choose and act in ways so great. For they are ones who must aspire, to always do what God requires.*

- **Explanation:** Freedom brings with it a serious responsibility to make wise and virtuous choices. People with freedom must strive to always act according to God's requirements.

**Stanza 5:**

*Much is given, much required, A higher aim, a heart inspired. To serve with all, in every deed, to meet the call, to fill the need.*

- **Explanation:** Those who have been given much (in terms of time, resources, or talents) have a greater obligation to use these gifts responsibly. They should be inspired to serve God and others in all their actions.

**Stanza 6:**

*In living thus, they find the way, To honor God in night and day. For in each choice, each step, each part, they live for God, with all their heart.*

- **Explanation:** By living according to these principles, individuals honor God in every moment of their lives. Every choice and action reflect their devotion and love for God.

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