

# Spiritual Thoughts on Material Things Preface

There has been a philosophy dating back centuries that teaches that all things material are evil and all things spiritual are good. Hence, according to this thinking, if you really want to be spiritual, you will divest yourself of all your material possession, take a vow of poverty, and separate yourself as much as is humanly possible from the evil, material world. This thinking believes that money, not the *love* of money, is evil, and those who have successfully amassed a sizeable fortune are carnal, dishonest, and greedy.

Most pastors and ministers avoid teaching a proper perspective on material possessions because they themselves are not sure exactly what they believe about wealth. Having attended eight years of Bible college and seminary and having taken hundreds of hours of Bible and theology classes, I can say from personal experience that a biblical worldview on material things is not being taught at any of these levels of Christian education. Hence the silence on the subject in churches is almost deafening.

I have written this book to break the silence. I will speak plainly about your material things and challenge you to think spiritually about them. However, this book is not intended to only change the way you think, but even more importantly, to change the way you live—to give you a new perspective which will lead to a new way of handling the material things in your world.

I did not write this book to be read in one sitting. It is a thirty-day book. I would challenge you to give each daily reading the opportunity to soak into your mind and your heart. Allow time for the Holy Spirit to speak to you and for you to contemplate the thoughts for that day before you move on. At the end of each daily reading are three *Food for Thought* Questions to help you consider the truths and applications of that day's reading. They are questions that may be hard to answer honestly. However, let me assure you that answering them honestly is a great way to begin to “take hold of that which is life indeed” (1 Timothy 6:19).

**May this book provide you an abundance of new spiritual thoughts on your same old material things.**