1 Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

For years, I remember living paycheck to paycheck, it seemed to be a way of life and the norm. Then over time, GOD has blessed me with really good jobs and pay, and I no longer live paycheck to paycheck, and haven't for years now. Now I am not saying this to brag on what I have, but really to brag on the Lord and what He has blessed me with.

But this is not really about how much I make, but more about how Christians sometimes think its wrong or bad for a Christian to have a lot. They put people that are blessed by the Lord into a category of wasting their money and not helping others.

Here is a word of caution for those who think or feel that way. You have no idea what that person does with their money, and who they give to, as well as how much they tithe, and the reason you don't know is because they don't brag about it, but rather they live scripture.

- **Matthew 6:3-4** ***But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.***

And my biggest joy is not in what I have, but in what I can do for others with what I have.
But here is another thing, and that is that the bible does not say that you can't have nice things or have money or even be rich. The Bible does not forbid us having things, but it does forbid things having us.

If you read in the Old Testament, some of the great men in the bible were actually rich. Abraham was rich, King David was rich, King Solomon was not only the wisest man, but also the richest man to walk the earth. Job was rich, Joseph was rich, and these were all Godly men who were rich, because they had riches, but their riches did not have them.

Even in the New Testament, there is only one recorded case of Jesus telling someone to give up his riches.

- **Matthew 19:21-22** ***Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.***

Jesus knew that this man's riches had him. We know this because it says that "***he went away sorrowful***." And why did he go ***away sorrowful***?

Because he wanted to sleep in on Sundays and he would have to give it up if he followed the Lord?
No, how about because he didn't want to miss his favorite TV shows?
Or, what about he didn't want to give up his friends?
Nope again, the reason was that "***he had great possessions."*** And once again, no where do I read of Jesus telling anyone else to give up their riches.

Abraham was rich, but God didn't tell him to give up his riches or wealth, but rather what was most precious and important to him, which was his son Isaac.

Satan robbed Job of his riches, and even his children, yet none of those things had him, because when everything was taken from him (including his children), he didn't have a pity party because he lost his stuff (riches/entire business) because his stuff did not have him, but he rather glorified God, because GOD was the most precious thing in his life, not his stuff.

- **Job 1:20-22** ***Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.***

Today's verse is also evidence that it's ok to have things as long as they don't have you:

- "***Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy."***

See it? "***God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy."*** Not so we can feel bad because we have a lot and others have nothing, because that would not be enjoying God's blessings. It's all a matter of priority, or who has whom?

Do you have and own your stuff, or does your stuff own and have you? If you have to worry about giving or doing for others, then your stuff owns you and you are like the rich man that we talked about earlier: "***But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."***

But if you can live this next verse, that we all know, and if you are truly willing and HAVE given away freely to others, then your stuff does not control or own you, but you own and control it.

- **2 Corinthians 9:7** ***So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.***

- **Hebrews 13:16** ***But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.***