

## **Being happy with your wealth**

How much money would make you wealthy thus making you happy? A million dollars? Two million dollars? Let me share a little story with you. There was a king who wanted great wealth. This king heard of a man who had a lamp with a genie inside that would double any wish you asked for. The king sent out an army to take this lamp and gave strict orders not to return without it. The army went out, got the lamp, and returned it to the king. The king took the lamp, went to his chambers, locked the door, and proceeded to rub the lamp. Instantly a genie came out and said, "Your wish is my command". The king thought about it and said, "I want a million dollars." The genie replied, "Such a great king as you should have more than 1 million dollars; wouldn't my king rather wish for 2 million?" The king said to himself, "This is great. It's true!" and then said, "Yes, your king would rather wish for 2 million dollars." The genie said "Only 2 million my Lord; why not 4 million?" This went on for days and weeks with the king never leaving his chambers. Eventually, the king starved to death with his greed. Money is not the root of all evil as some may think. It is the love of money which is the root of all evil. The king's greed did him in. Let us look at wealth in a different light.

Try to figure out how much you need (not want, but need) to pay for shelter, food, transportation etc... If you had investments that provided a monthly return in the amount you already calculated, you would be financially wealthy. Put a little aside each payday into an account for a 'rainy day' fund. This 'rainy day' fund is for car repairs, home repairs and other emergencies. Once the rainy day fund has, for example, \$1000 in it, you are then able to start saving for 3-6 months of living expenses. This is the monthly amount you calculated earlier times 3-6 months. Once done, you can start saving a "fun money" account. This money is for vacations, trips, nights at the movies, etc. You have your expenses covered and when an emergency pops up you are covered. If you lose your job, you still have 3-6 months of living expenses that you can live off of. These accounts not only cover you financially when something goes wrong, but also save you from the stress you would have if you did not prepare for the inevitable "what if's..."

Wealth is a mindset. If you have the inevitable "what if's" covered before they happen, and still have money to have fun in life, wouldn't that be a truly wealthy and happy experience?