



To live in the zone is to live in covenant partnership with God. It is a life that consistently experiences the favor and blessing of God. There is a lure—it's like a magnet—that pulls at us. In a subtle, yet powerful way, it tugs at our heart, seeking to pull us out of the zone.

This force is materialism. Materialism is like a magnetic field that charges the environment we live in. This field is charged by envy and greed, and it is deadly. Hear these words of Scripture...

*Luke 12:15, Then Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (NIV)*

*1 Timothy 6:10, People who want to be rich fall into all sorts of temptations and traps. They are caught by foolish and harmful desires that drag them down and destroy them. The love of money causes all kinds of trouble. Some people want money so much that they have given up their faith and caused themselves a lot of pain. (CEV)*

*Luke 16:13, You cannot be the slave of two masters. You will like one more than the other or be more loyal to one than to the other. You cannot serve God and money. (CEV)*

## EXITS OUT OF THE ZONE AND INTO MATERIALISM

1 John 2:15-17, *Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.* (Msg)

The **One Way** Street: *I want it my way.*

**Ka-Ching** Avenue: *I want everything.*

The **Ride** of **Pride**: *I want to be noticed.*

Who are you traveling with?

1 Corinthians 15:33, *Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."* (NLT)

## THREE SECRETS TO OVERCOME MATERIALISM

1. Learn to **admire** without the need to acquire.

Philippians 4:11, *I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.* (NIV)

James 3:16, *For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.* (NIV)

2. Develop an attitude of **gratitude**.

Romans 12:15, *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.* (NIV)

3. Excel in the grace of **giving**.

2 Corinthians 15:33, *Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.* (NIV)

## **MATERIALISM IS THE LIFE PHILOSOPHY OF FOOLS**

Matthew 16:16, *YOU FOOL!*