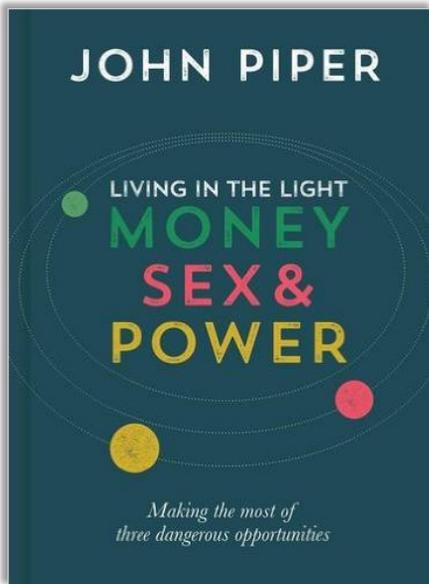


# book of the month

# Living in the Light Money, Sex, and Power John Piper



I have read almost every single one of John Piper's books, and in my opinion, this is one of his best and most helpful. He keeps the book short and to the point but does not skimp for a second on profound and practical theology. In just six chapters, you will learn why money, sex, and power are so associated with sin. Yet, when these three are viewed properly in relation to the One who created them, we can see how money, sex, and power are, at their core, great gifts designed to magnify God, not things to avoid.

"God did not conceive and create money, sex, and power simply to be a temptation. He had good purposes in mind," Piper writes. Money, sex, and power are wonderful gifts, but they make horrible gods. As we have been learning as Scott preaches through Romans 1, sinful humanity refuses to honor God or give Him thanks, but rather with darkened hearts, we foolishly exchange the glory of God for things that He created. "The way you think and feel and act about money, sex, and power puts your heart's treasure on display—either God or something He made."

Power is a capacity to pursue what we value, money is a cultural symbol that can be exchanged in pursuit of what we value, and sex is one of the pleasures that we do value. So at the heart of our sin problem is a problem of seeing the surpassing value of God and ordering our lives accordingly. Piper gives very practical helps in the fight against sin and the pursuit of glorifying God by calling our attention away from these lesser pleasures. Our sinfulness against God doesn't require a slight change of direction, rather, our fight against sin needs a radical reorienting of our heart in relationship to God. We must "wake up to the all-satisfying glory of God. If that could happen—if the blazing beauty of the sun could be restored to the center of the solar system of our lives—then money, sex, and power would gradually, or suddenly, come back into their God-glorifying orbits, and we would discover what we were made for. We would escape the broken solar system we made when we exchanged God for something else." When this happens, items that we abused for sin, become enjoyed more fully with increased pleasure because they have been restored to their proper place.

I cannot commend this book more highly. It is easily read in one month; however, the going might be tough. These are weighty truths that must not merely be understood. You must not merely know that God is all satisfying, but rather find your satisfaction in Him and reorder your relationships to lesser pleasures. I recommend you get a reading partner and go through this book together, speaking regularly about what you are learning and resolving. –Jacob Hantla

## Suggested 1-Month Reading Plan

### **Week 1: 22 pages**

Intro  
Ch. 1- Definitions & Foundations

### **Week 2: 52 pages (~7 pages/day)**

Ch 2 – The Pleasure-Destroying Dangers of Sex  
Ch. 3 – The Wealth-Destroying Dangers of Money

### **Week 3: 28 pages (~4 pages/day)**

Ch. 4 – The Self-Destroying Dangers of Power  
Ch. 5 – Deliverance: The Return of the Sun to the Center

### **Week 4: 32 pages (~4 pages/day)**

Ch 6 – Deployment: The New Orbits for Money, Sex, and Power  
Conclusion  
Pursue Application

## Heart-Shepherding Aids

1. **Pray.** The contents of this book are pretty easy to understand but require supernatural intervention in our hearts to live out. Apart from God's Spirit at work in our lives we will continue in these suicidal, idolatrous exchange.
2. **Write:** Take notes as you read. When you are done with each chapter, write or verbalize. This is where a reading partner might be helpful:
  - a. **A summary of the chapter's content**
  - b. **One or two practical changes in your thinking or practice.**
  - c. **A prayer asking for help**
3. **Implement:** Communicate some very specific changes that need to happen in your life and thinking to your spouse, parents, roommate, or other influential friend. Make specific plans and implement.