

# From the Journal of John Woolman (1720 – 1772)

## **On the Dangers Of Wealth**

*“I saw that a humble man, with the blessing of the Lord, might live on a little; and that where the heart is set on greatness, success in business did not satisfy the craving, but that commonly with an increase of wealth, the desire of wealth increased. “*

Do we feel an affectionate regard to posterity? Are we employed to promote their happiness? Do our minds in things outward look beyond our own dissolution? Are we contriving for the prosperity of our children after us? Let us then likewise builders, lay the foundation deep and by our constant uniform regard to an inward piety and virtue, let them see that we really value it. ... To keep a watchful eye toward real objects of charity, to visit the poor in their lonesome dwelling places, to comfort those who, through the dispensations of divine providence are in straight and painful circumstances in this life, and steadily to endeavor to honor God with our substance from a real sense of the love of Christ influencing our minds is more likely to bring a blessing to our children and will afford more satisfaction to one favored with plenty, than an earnest desire to collect much wealth to leave behind us.

## **Five Questions**

1. What is the author's main point in this passage? **This question gets at what the author's point is, not what you would like it to be.** (Main Point)
2. What new light do I find in this particular reading of this passage of text? **New light may be great or small.** (New Light)
3. How is this passage true **or not true** to my experience? (Truth)
4. What are the implications of this passage for my life? (Implications)
5. What problems do I have with this passage? (Problems)