

Wealth, or Eyesight?

In 1997, *The New York Times* reported on a conference in which Bill Gates, founder and CEO of Microsoft, gave an address.

In the question-and-answer session that followed his talk, a medical doctor asked Gates whether – if he were to lose his sight – he would exchange all of his wealth to have his sight restored.

Interesting question! How would you respond?

Well, at that time, 1997, Gates was worth \$35 billion. Gates' answer? He said he would indeed exchange his wealth to have his sight again.

Microsoft's stock's highest-ever selling price was \$119.75. If Gates had never sold any of his original Microsoft stock, on the day of that highest share price, he would have been worth \$384.3 billion! We can assume by his answer he would have traded all that to regain his sight as well.



Commenting on Gates' financial worth and his answer to the question, Dr. David Jeremiah – author and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, offered a compelling observation: “Did you know that those numbers pale in comparison to another set of riches that were exchanged that we might have sight? The riches of Christ's glory in heaven were exchanged that our spiritual eyes might be opened and we may recognize the love and forgiveness of God (Philippians 2:5-8).

“We may never have many of the world's riches,” Dr. Jeremiah added, “but we have been given riches of grace beyond comparison.”

The riches of grace are not affected by the stock market or economic conditions. They represent wealth we cannot lose.

And in an uncertain world, that is a grand assurance!

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7.MEV).

– Beecher Hunter