

Billions or Sight?

Forbes magazine lists Bill Gates, founder and CEO of Microsoft, as the world's richest man in 2004, with wealth estimated at \$46.6 billion. What is all that money really worth to him?

According to Carey Goldberg in an article in the *New York Times*, Gates spoke to 1,500 people in Seattle at the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in February 1997. After his speech, Dr. John Cantwell Kiley, a medical doctor with a Ph.D. in philosophy, stood up and asked a question:

If Bill Gates were blind, he asked, would he trade all of his billions to have his sight restored?

The reply of Bill Gates shows where true value lies. He said that he would trade all his money for his sight, and then he offered his e-mail address for further discussion.

If we have nothing else, if we have our sight – or our hearing, our mobility, our hands and fingers – our health, we have much to be grateful for. Life and health, you see, are priceless gifts from God that we should never take for granted.

--Beecher Hunter