

Northridge Baptist Church

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Financial Stewardship

Money always gets our attention. Life is much more enjoyable when we manage money God's way. God made everything and owns everything. God lets us use and enjoy the things He owns. A steward manages someone else's property or money. Basic financial principles from Scripture can help us manage God's money properly, making our lives less complicated and more pleasing to the Lord.

From Whom do we receive our resources? Ps. 24:1

God is the source. I am a steward, a manager of God's resources. God owns everything. James 1:17 it says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." Haggai 2:8 it says, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."

What are God's Financial rules?

1. Giving is a command. Luke 6:38
I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

There are three main ways to give to God:

- A.** Tithes-When we tithe, we are returning 1/10 of our increase to the Lord. First fruits principle is Deuteronomy 26:10-11 & Proverbs 3:9-10. In the Old Testament, the Jews were to give their first fruits. This meant that they gave ten percent of all they received before anything was removed. This teaches us that we should tithe on our gross income (what we receive before taxes and other payroll deductions.)
- B.** Responsibility Malachi 3:8-10. It's as simple as A, B, C:
Assess your increase. Be aware of everything God has given to you and calculate your tithe. **Bring** the tithe to the house of God. **Commit** it to the Lord by placing it in the offering plate. This shows our honesty and integrity toward God and our submission to His commands.
- C.** Reason; Tithing provides for God's work and His workers. I Timothy 5:18. And privately, it teaches us to fear the Lord. The fear of the Lord allows us to become consciously aware of His presence. In Deuteronomy 14:22-23 it says, "Thou shalt

truly tithe all the increase of thy seed...that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.”

D. Reward (How does God respond?) Malachi 3:10-12

When I tithe, God promises me:

1. He will “rebuke the devourer” and protect my property.
2. He will open the windows of Heaven to bless me.
3. I will have what I need when I need it.
4. I will realize God’s presence in my life.

There are 2 other types of giving:

1. Offerings-giving beyond the ten percent shows our love and gratitude to God. Alms-This is giving to others in need within my sphere of influence.

2. Go to work. Proverbs 22:29, II Thessalonians 3:10, Proverbs 6:6-11

“Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth,” Ephesians 4:28

The greatest motivation for work is hunger. To smile in the harvest, I must sweat today. Laziness results in poverty, instability, and illegal activity.

3. Guard against debt. Proverbs 22:7

Debt creates additional masters in your life. Stay free to serve God and others. If you cannot pay, do not charge it. Pay off what you owe right away. Get serious about debt before debt controls you. You can do more to reverse debt in month when you are serious than you can do in a decade when you are only casual about it. Debt discourages, distresses, divides and disqualifies us.

4. Gain contentment. Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:11

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content,” I Timothy 6:6,8. Learn to want what you have, not what you do not have.

Contentment is recognizing that God has already given you everything you need for your present happiness.

5. Get on a Budget. Proverbs 27:23, Luke 14:28-29. Let your budget be your boss.

6. Live off of 80% Proverbs 21:20. The Joseph Principal. Learn to save something for difficult times.

7. Be generous with God and others. I Timothy 6:18, II Corinthians 9:7.

God always commends generosity and giving and condemns greed and covetousness.

“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.” Proverbs 19:17

Reason We Have Money

1. Take care of the needs of others
2. Help Others
3. Do the Work of God
4. Enjoy Life