

GUIDE TO FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

God established a partnership with humanity when He created the world and gave people dominion over it (see Gen 1:26). The people He created failed to follow basic principles of stewardship. The result was a chaotic economic situation that still prevails. The Bible restates God's principles and promises in one sentence ***"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"*** (Matt 6:33). ***"These things"*** means your physical needs (see Matt 6:19-34). If you put God's kingdom first, He puts your needs first. God wants to supply all of your needs (see Phil 4:19). Have you withdrawn from your economic partnership with Him by not living His principles? Financial problems may signal that one or more of God's economic principles have been violated. This guide will help you establish or renew a partnership with God. **Initial** each principle by which you are currently living.

STEP 1: Accept the Principles for Recognizing God's Ownership

_____ **God** is the sovereign Creator, owner, and ruler of everything. (see Ps 24:1).

_____ **God** has made people the stewards, or overseers, of all creation (see Ps 8:6).

_____ **God** meets all needs of the steward who faithfully manages all God has entrusted to him or her (see Phil 4:19).

_____ **God** will judge the steward on the basis of what this person has rather than what he or she does not have (see 2 Cor 8:12).

STEP 2: Practice the Principles of Responsibility

_____ I glorify God by the way I manage the possessions He has given me to oversee (see 1 Cor 10:31).

_____ I properly manage my finances (see 1 Tim 5:8).

_____ I manage my finances in order to tithe through my church (see Mal 3:8-11).

_____ I give more than the tithe (see 1 Cor 16:1-2).

_____ I give to the government by paying taxes (see Luke 20:25).

_____ I properly administer the funds I have so that I can take care of my family, give to my church, and pay taxes without defrauding any of these groups.

Knowing the preceding principles heightens your sense of responsibility but practicing them brings victory. The following steps will help you practice God's principles.

STEP 3: Respond to the Principles of Reliance by Believing in God's Ability

_____ I trust God to bless the righteous (see Ps 37:3-4).

_____ I trust God to bless the person who prays (see Matt 7:7-8).

_____ I trust God to bless the diligent worker (see Prov 10:16).

_____ I believe that I should limit my desires to what God provides (see Phil 4:11-12).

STEP 4: Invest According to the Principles of Reward

_____ I will invest my possessions in God's economy because it will bring no sorrow (see Prov 10:22, this verse means that when God blesses you, you will have no regrets about investing in His kingdom).

_____ I will invest my material resources as a demonstration of my faith (see Heb 11:6).

_____ I will rely on God to bless according to His promises (see Luke 6:38).

_____ I will depend on God to take care of an inheritance for my children and grandchildren (see Prov 13:22).

STEP 5: Change Your Lifestyle According to the Principles of Restoration

_____ I repent of failing to follow God's principles and ask for restoration (see Ps 32:1-7).

_____ I will immediately begin practicing biblical stewardship by tithing and giving gifts through my church, paying taxes, and managing financial records according to scripture.

_____ I will eliminate nonessentials until I can pay all of my payments to creditors (see Prov 22:1).

_____ I will arrange to repay my creditors by the fairest means possible as soon as I can (see Prov 11:3).

_____ I will patiently continue to get my financial matters in order until I can live a Christian lifestyle that pleases God (see Prov 21:5). I will remember that it may take as long to get out of financial difficulty as it did to get into it.

God has stated His principles and has committed Himself to them. I commit myself to full financial partnership with God. I will be a good steward of all He entrusts to me and will depend on Him to supply my needs.

Signed _____ **Date**
