

Biblical Financial Stewardship

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A steward is a person who manages the finances of another person. A Godly steward is one who manages God's money. A Godly steward is one who says "God everything I have is yours, thy will be done in my life and my finances." When you have this type of attitude God can trust you with His prosperity. Remember, He created everything, everything was made for Him and by Him (Col. 1:16). Some ministers have given a bad name to God's prosperity because they have misused His funds and the devil made sure to let the whole world know.

The Unrighteous Steward

And he said also unto his disciples, **There was a certain rich man (GOD), which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods (Mismanaged Finances). And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship** (Admitted He Was Guilty): I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. (Luke 16:1-3)

We are responsible for managing all the money that God puts in our hands. There is power in money to effect people. Money gives you power to do good, or power to do evil. There are even evil spirits that control money. Some of the most ungodly anti God people are filthy rich. God said; money itself is not evil, **it's the love of money that is evil** (1Tim. 6:10)! God wants to Bless His children with every comfort they need and more, as long as they use it correctly for His Kingdom and His Glory (promote the Gospel and feed the poor). Money is a powerful tool for good when used correctly by the will of God. The opposite is also True when money is used incorrectly by a lost or satanic person. Abortion (the selling of baby parts), Hollywood movies, Fake news and Universities are some of the richest institutions in America. We must remember money is a temporary thing here on Earth. God will judge you on how you used all the money He gave you on Earth. How you used God's money here on Earth will have eternal consequences at the Judgment seat of Christ. If your money funded great ministries and missionaries that brought many to salvation, and Light to dark places your reward will be great and eternal. No one can steal your reward in Heaven. In eternity, many people will come by your mansion to thank you for their salvation.

Then you will tell them; “but I didn’t preach the message that saved you,” and they will reply; “True, but you funded the missionary that did and that’s how I got saved!”

GOD is “Jehovah - Jireh” Not Jehovah El Cheapo

God want’s to Bless you with good things as long as you use them correctly and Not for your own glory. The power of money in a Christian’s life is to bless others in need. Your money will soon cease to exist on Earth but the people you blessed with salvation, healing families, comforting children, fixing broken homes, feeding the poor, will last forever and ever in God’s Kingdom. Your financial investment in the Kingdom of God will last for eternity. Many will come by your mansion to personally thank you for your Earthly spiritual investment in their lives.

It is God Who Gives you Power to get Wealth

But **thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers,** as it is this day. (Deut. 8:18)

God does not give you wealth, He gives you power to get wealth. You have to be wise and work it out. He does not grow money on trees! God is the source of your property. Many think God didn’t give them anything it was by their own efforts and work that they have money. They don’t realize it is God who gave them the talents, strength, and abilities to make money. All that God has to do is stir the chemicals in your brain and I guarantee you, you’d become an idiot. God is the source of your health, protection, well being, and wealth. Whether you believe it or not. We are just stewards of God’s money here on Earth. It’s God’s money and He allows you to use it for your benefit and His Glory. God wants His children to have nice cars, nice houses, and nice things for your family. It is God’s will to prosper you!

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. (Psa. 35:27)

God will always lead you to give. Although God does Not obligate us, the scriptures tell us to give and it shall be given back to you pressed down shaken together and running over. (Luke 6:38): You can never out give God. God is extremely generous with those who do what is right in His eyes. Scriptures tell us the least amount one should give away is **10%** of your income. As you mature and are blessed you are to give more (offerings).

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD. (Lev. 27:30):

Some might want to squirm out of this Truth by saying; "well that's in the Old Testament we are now in the New Testament;" well okay, but what about these scriptures?

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

(Matt. 23:23)

But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. (Luke 11:42)

The foundation is Love (agape Love). If Love is not the motive for your giving money, it is better not to give anything at all.

God Told Abraham; "I Will Bless You to be a Blessing to Others

And I will make of thee a great nation, and **I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.** (Gen. 12:2,3)

Notice what God said, I will Bless you first and then make you a Blessing. You can't Bless anyone if your poor. If you can't even feed your family or pay your bills, how can you be a Blessing to anybody? God Blesses us to make us a Blessing to others. God does not Bless you so you can grab all the money like a vacuum cleaner and spend it all on yourself without Blessing other people in need. The reason God Blesses you is so that you can be a Blessing to others.

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. And he spake a parable unto them, **Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.** (Luke 6:38-40)

God gave all He had for humanity, He Gave His Only SON

Money is all about building the Kingdom of God and accomplishing His will on Earth!

God's stewardship is not about getting a bigger house, an expensive car, diamonds and precious jewels etc... it is to build up the poor, the lame, the weak in His Kingdom. There are many many millionaires around the world that see people struggling and in need and yet they don't give them one dollar. The most they do is maybe pray for them, friend that is ridiculous, they need food not your prayers. And God probably can't use your prayers anyway because they are false! These poor miserable rich people have no idea of what the Great White Throne is all about. If they really knew they would help the poor.

But this I say, **He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.** And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:** (As it is written, **He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.** Now **he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;**) **Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.** Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. (2 Cor. 9:7-15)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, **so that you by his poverty might become rich.** And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. **So now finish doing it as well,** so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. (2 Cor. 8:9-11) ESVS

Your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, **“Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”** (2 Cor. 8:14,15) ESVS

Jesus was not poor. Jesus had an entire fortune given to Him (his family) at His birth by Great Kings. Jesus had a lot of money in His missionary journeys. He even had a personal treasurer, and was supplied by many rich women that followed Him. When you have a full time treasurer you have a lot of money to manage. Unfortunately his treasurer was a thief and a liar, that's a whole other story we won't discuss here. But when Jesus said; "I have no where to lay my head" (Luke 9:58): He wasn't saying He was poor and couldn't afford it, He was saying He had to urgently teach and preach the Gospel to every town and village. He was a missionary and an itinerate minister, that was His mission.

The Reason for Work is to Give to Those in Need

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. (Eph. 4:28)
Jesus said; the reason you work is to have to give to him that needs. Jesus is NOT saying to give away everything to others and become poor, He simply says, I will Bless you so that you can Bless others. Many people today give to God after all their bills are paid, that is if there is anything left over. God wants you to manage your money correctly and put Him first in your giving. God comes first before anything else! (Matt. 6:33) Begin to plant what you want to receive, it's the law of God. If you need corn then plant corn, if you need love then plant love, if you need money then plant money, etc...

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Gal. 6:7-10)

Jesus will Judge Quality Not Quantity

And he looked up, **and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.** And he said, **Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.** (Luke 21:1-4)

It's not the amount of money you give, it's the percent of what He has given you. There has been a lot of false teaching in the Church regarding financial matters. Simply put, a good steward uses money wisely to Bless others not himself. Prosperity is a law of God. It cannot be broken. If it is God's will to keep you poor, then how can you Bless others? That doesn't make sense, you cannot out give God. If you really believe something you will practice it for yourself. Talking to much is stupid, and talking and no doing is worst.

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (John 5:44) ESVS

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

(Heb. 11:6)

Jesus used Money to Illustrate What is Truly in a Person's Heart

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.** And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!** And the disciples were astonished at his words. **But Jesus answereth again,** and saith unto them, **Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.** (Mark 10:21-25)

Jesus exposed what was really in the man's heart. He was a rich good man but had a covetous problem. Second, he did not recognize that Jesus was God, he asked ; "what must I do to attain eternal life;" that's the wrong question. It's what Jesus did for him that he should of understood. You can't buy or pay for your salvation, it's a free gift from God. Sorry Catholics your totally wrong. Paying indulgences will not get you to Heaven. In this parable; Jesus was not saying that if your rich you won't go to Heaven. He was simply warning us to be careful with the riches here on Earth because they can deceive you and corrupt your heart. Many of the great Bible movements have been funded by rich men that loved Jesus. It all boils down to where your heart is. What does your heart Trust in? Is your Trust in Jesus, or is your trust in money!

And Jesus answered and said, **Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.** (Mark 10:29-31)

God want's your heart not your money. God will reward you extravagantly if you obey Him. Godly prosperity is from the Lord Himself. But I must also give you this warning. The devil can also prosper you but know that he will destroy you in the end!

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)

Covetousness is Idolatry

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, **and covetousness, which is idolatry:**
For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:
(Col. 3:5,6)

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. (Ex. 20:17)

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Ex. 20:3)

People today are full of idolatry; they worship movie stars, sports heroes, and Money more than God! This is great idolatry.

And Finally my Personal Testimony

*I have been tithing and giving offerings since I was saved (1981). I've had my ups and downs but God knew my heart and was faithful to keep my faith strong through some very hard circumstances. Let me tell you, if you really believe God is real and Truly love Him, you will finish your race till the very end. God will see to that. (Phil. 1:6) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: *God has been so good and faithful to me I have nothing negative to say.**

Here is something we must all learn. It takes time for God to mature a person into the image of Christ. You don't grow a tree in one day. It takes years before that tree begins to bare fruit. First, that tree must grow a deep and stable root system so it's enemies (wind, snow etc..) won't knock it over. It also must be cared for (watered and weeded). Watered by the Word and weeded by the Holy Spirit.

All That Glitters is Not Gold

This is something very important I had to learn and understand! Especially today where there is so much deception in the Churches. We must follow the Holy Spirits instructions (discernment) if we want to be a Blessing to others and in turn be Blessed by God. There are only three types of good ground (Matt. 13:8). Some grounds will return 30% of what you planted, others will return 60% of what you planted, and some will give you a return of 100%. I always try to plant in the 100% ground, but at times out of compassion I will plant in the 30 or 60 %. But I will never plant anything in a ground that is spiritually fruitless. To do so would be to waste my money in that worthless ground and realizing that God will not produce a harvest on it. Yes we are to give freely and abundantly, while using wisdom and spiritual discernment to walk out God's will.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

(Psa. 37:23)

Also read the parable of the Talents it also is important: (Matt. 25:14-30).