

Biblical Financial Stewardship

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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, (ministry) will last forever and ever in God's Kingdom. Your financial investment in the Kingdom of God will last for eternity, and God will greatly Bless you here and now!

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. (3 John 2)

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 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).*

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. (Luke 6:38)

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):

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! Now, no doubt He will greatly Bless you along the way as you obey! Look at Solomon.

And God said to Solomon, **Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.**

(2 Chron. 1:11,12)

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, so 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.

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)

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 with faith, prosperity, health, and spiritual victory. God will see to that. God has been so good and faithful to me I have nothing negative to say.

Why has the Church Failed to Honor God in Tithes and Offerings

*Very simple; Lack of Faith and Trust in His WORD, and False Christians in leadership who misused or stole God's money! Scripture is very clear on Tithing and Offerings. Satan has tried everything in his book of deceptions to blind the people of the blessings of God. Although this evil serpent has managed to deceived most of the world, God still has a remnant of people that know Him personally, that Obey and Believe His Word. You've heard it say that there are **Believing Unbelievers!** They believe for a while but when the going gets tough they quit. They tithe for a while but when God doesn't answer their prayers like they want they quit. They say things like; "well I've been giving God my tithes now for 1 year, 3 years, 5 years, etc... and He doesn't Bless me or answer my prayer." Friend, **this is Not Faith and Trust in God!** Trusting in God's Word means you follow it No matter what happens, because deep inside you know God is perfect, He loves you deeply, and cannot make a mistake.*

God is Trying your Faith which has Great Recompense

Who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Pet. 1:5-9) ESV

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. (Heb. 10:35-39)

Will a Man Rob GOD?

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Mal. 3:8-10)

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” says the LORD of armies to you, the priests who despise My name! But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’ “You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is to be despised.’ “And when you present a blind animal for sacrifice, is it not evil? Or when you present a lame or sick animal, is it not evil? So offer it to your governor! Would he be pleased with you, or would he receive you kindly?” says the LORD of armies. “But now, do indeed plead for God’s favor, so that He will be gracious to us. With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?” says the LORD of armies. “If only there were one among you who would shut the gates, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar for nothing! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD of armies, “nor will I accept an offering from your hand.

“For from the arising of the sun even to its setting, My name shall be great among the nations, and in every place frankincense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name shall be great among the nations,” says the LORD of armies. “But you are profaning it by your saying, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.’ “You also say, ‘See, how tiresome it is!’ And you view it as trivial,” says the LORD of armies, “and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I accept it from your hand?” says the LORD. “But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King,” says the LORD of armies, “and My name is feared among the nations.” (Mal. 1:6-14) NASB

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, rain, etc..) won't knock it over. Then it must be cared for (watered and weeded). Watered by the Word and weeded by the Holy Spirit.

Wrong Usage of Wealth by the Wise and Sadly, even the Stupid

For he sees that even wise people die; The foolish and the stupid alike perish And cleave their wealth to others. Their inner thought is that their houses bare forever And their dwelling places to all generations; They have named their lands after their own names. But man in his splendor will not endure; He is like the animals that perish. This is the way of those who are foolish, And of those after them who approve their words. Selah Like sheep they sink down ato Sheol; Death will be their shepherd; And the upright will rule over them in the morning, And their form shall be for Sheol to consume So that they have no lofty home. (Psa. 49:10-14) NASB

The Unrighteous Steward

He also said to the disciples, **“There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.**

I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses. So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." (Luke 16:1-13)

ESV

Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were ridiculing Him. And He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the sight of people, but God knows your hearts; because that which is highly esteemed among people is detestable in the sight of God. (Luke 16:14,15) NASB

The Right Usage of Wealth

Praise the LORD! Blessed is a person who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on the earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, And his righteousness endures forever. Light shines in the darkness for the upright; He is gracious, compassionate, and righteous. It goes well for a person who is gracious and lends; He will maintain his cause in judgment. For he will never be shaken; The righteous will be remembered forever. He will not fear bad news; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is firm, he will not fear, But will look with satisfaction on his enemies. He has given freely to the poor, His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted in honor. The wicked will see it and be vexed, He will gnash his teeth and melt away; The desire of the wicked will perish. (Psa. 112:1-10) NASB

Furthermore, as for every person to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also given him the opportunity to enjoy them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God. (Eccl. 5:19) NASB

Who is like the LORD our God, Who is enthroned on high, Who looks far down to The heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the garbage heap, To seat them with noblemen, With the noblemen of His people. He has the infertile woman live in the house As a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD! (Psa. 113:5-9) NASB

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 from your heart you will practice it for yourself. Talking to much is stupid, and talking and not doing is worst.

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)

Lastly, Beware of Fake and False Churches

I've said a lot of Truth through the Scriptures, but let me be totally honest and tell you the other side of the story. I have never and will never serve or plant my hard earned money on a dead lifeless Church who doesn't belong to the LORD!

*That is like planting or working hard to plant your costly seeds in a lifeless field that will not produce a harvest because its ground is dead (useless). You'd be a fool to work hard and plant there because your money will be wasted before the Lord and get nothing in return! **Selah!** Remember the Shrewd Unrighteous Steward!*

“Hear then the Parable of the Sower:”

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” (Matt. 13:18-23) ESV