

Getting Your Thinking Straight About Your Stuff

Two key concepts that will help you get your thinking straight about money and possessions:

- **GOD OWNS EVERYTHING, AND I AM HIS MONEY MANAGER.**

- God owns everything.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹²Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:11-13 (NIV)

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth . . . Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (NIV)

for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. ¹²If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Psalm 50:10-12 (NIV)

Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me. Job 41:11 (NIV)

- I am his money manager.

Steward = someone entrusted with another's wealth or property and charged with the responsibility of managing it in the owner's best interest.

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them." Matthew 25:14 (NIV)

When a steward receives wealth, he asks questions: 1) Should I spend this? 2) Should I save this? 3) Should I give this away?

When we use our wealth for ourselves without putting it to work for God's purposes, we are burying God's assets in the ground. (Matthew 25)

- **Action Step:** Transfer the ownership of all your assets to God.

- **WHEN I ACT AS A MANAGER INSTEAD OF AN OWNER, MY LIFE IS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.**

- I am blessed when I give.

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Acts 20:35 (NIV)

Two Ways I Am Blessed When I Give:

- I allow God to shape my heart so that I become more like Him.
- God takes notice of my obedience and supplies my needs.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 (NIV)

- My giving acts as an antidote to the love of money and helps me find contentment in God.

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." ⁶So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV)

- My generosity is rewarded in heaven.

Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. Philippians 4:17 (NIV)

- **Action Step:** Calculate how much of your income and what percentage of what you make is given to God's work.