Foundations

Track 1: Believer To Disciple
Lesson 13: Financial Stewardship

What does it mean to be a steward of God?

1 Corinthians 4:1,2

1 Peter 4:10

Steward

Gr. Oikonomos
Oikos = house, nomos = a law

The manager of a household or estate, governor, treasurer. Some one made responsible for something that is not his own.

The steward of a household must ensure that

- Things are functioning as appropriate
- Things are profitable

The steward of a household must ensure that

- Everything is accounted for
- Things are protected/safeguard what is in his care

The steward of a household must ensure that

- There is continuity, i.e. train up a successor

Faithful

1 Corinthians 4:1,2
Luke 16:1-12
1 Timothy 1:12

Be faithful in little things – God will set you over many things

Faithful

- Be faithful in money – God will entrust you with true riches
- Be faithful in what is another man’s – God will give you your own

Characteristics of a good steward

Foundations
Financial Stewardship

Wise

Luke 12:41-48

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Financial Stewardship

We are stewards of all that God has given to us:

Time, energy, skills/talents, knowledge, opportunities, money/material possessions, etc.

God does bless us materially

Deuteronomy 8:18,

Psalm 1:3, Psalm 112:3,

1 Timothy 6:17

Material blessings does not make us 'better' that others.

The more we have, the greater the responsibility to be a good steward of the resources given to us.

Giving is an expression of our financial stewardship.

1. As an act of worship

Psalm 96:8,
Proverbs 3:9,10 ,
1 Chronicles 29:10-14,16

2. Giving is an act of obedience and trust

Malachi 3:9-10,
Luke 6:38

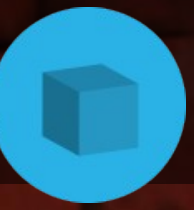
Giving recognizes God’s Lordship over ALL you have.

Giving shows your trust in God as your Provider.

3. Giving is an act of sowing/releasing blessing to others

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Philippians 4:15,16,19



Tithes, Offerings, Gifts

1. Tithe

Genesis 14:20

Abram gave his tithe.

Malachi 3:8-11

Tithing is simply giving back to God one tenth of what you have received.

Tithes, Offerings, Gifts

1. Tithe

- Covenant blessings in your finances
- Tithing opens heaven over your finances
- Tithing protects you against the enemy of your finances
- Tithing releases material blessings

Tithes, Offerings, Gifts

The reason we still need to tithe today

A, Tithing was practiced even before the Law, and hence is not because of the Law

B, Tithing did not end at the Cross

C, Jesus, our New Covenant High Priest receives tithes

Tithes, Offerings, Gifts

2. Offerings

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

This is seed you sow generously.

Anything above your tithe (10 percent) that you give for the work of the Lord is

Tithes, Offerings, Gifts

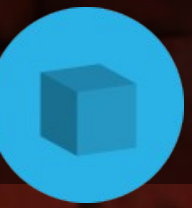
3. Gifts and Alms

Matthew 6:1-4
Matthew 25:40

It is giving to those in need who are part of the household of faith, or ‘lending to the poor’, intended to assist poor and

The Ministry of Giving

Romans 12:6-8



1. Should the tithe be given to the local church?

Yes, we believe that the tithe belongs to the local church.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Philippians 4:15,16,19

2. Is it alright to support other Christian ministries with your giving?

Yes, once you have given your tithes and offerings to your local church, you can give to other Christian ministries.

3. Should I give financially to help a brother/sister in need?

Yes, we are to help one another as the Lord enables us *(Galatians 6:10)*. Beware of people who exploit "Christian" relationships for their own

4. How can I guard myself from being financially manipulated and exploited by preachers?

- Plan your giving
- Be led by the Spirit of God
- Decide never to give out of compulsion or false promises.

5. Is it alright to save and/or invest money in property, financial instruments (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) or other assets in order to gain profitable returns?

While we save/invest we do not depend on this for security. God is always the Source of our total supply.

Matthew 6:19-24,

Proverbs 6:6-8

While we see warning against usury in the Old Testament *(some examples Leviticus 25:37, Psalm 15:5, Proverbs 28:8)* we understand “usury,” as meaning unlawful or exorbitant interest.

However, we believe that any lawful means to increase wealth that does not exploit of misuse another person is acceptable before God.

For example, the Lord Jesus in His illustration stated, the master as saying "Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'" *(Luke 19:23)*.

Beware!

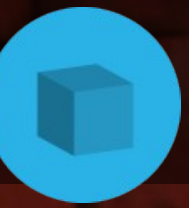
Of the love of money + greed

Proverbs 15:27,

1 Timothy 6:10

Of self-indulgence and selfishness

Luke 12:15-21



Of pride

1 Timothy 6:17-19