

Community of Faith Bible Church Money Management Seminar

Money, Wealth and God's Agenda

Definition of Money: A COMMODITY used as a medium of exchange or a designation of value. In the OT money took different forms including metals, goods, and livestock. In the Apocrypha and the NT coined money, legally authorized by governing bodies, became the standard of exchange for goods and services.¹

Definition of Wealth: Abundance, usually of money or material goods, whose value is ordinarily expressed in terms of some understood unit, such as a national currency.²

I. How we handle money and wealth God has allotted to us exposes our spiritual condition.³ (Luke 12:15-20, James 2:14-17)

- A. How we handle money and wealth exposes if our heart is set on the treasures of this life or treasures of the life to come with Jesus Christ. (Matthew 6:19-21)
- B. One who is not being rich towards God is one who is depending on money and wealth for his security while having no trust in God for salvation. This person is not using allotted resources for God's agenda; this person is considered foolish.
- C. One who uses and increases in money and wealth that God has allotted without honoring God through the use of it, is considered foolish.
- D. One who is rich towards God is one who is trusting God for his salvation and is using money and wealth allotted to him not only for self, but for God's agenda. Money and wealth is being used by this person in such a manner that God's grace is shown to others. This person is considered wise.

¹Achtemeier, Paul J. ; Harper & Row, Publishers ; Society of Biblical Literature: *Harper's Bible Dictionary*. 1st ed. San Francisco : Harper & Row, 1985, S. 647

²Elwell, Walter A. ; Comfort, Philip Wesley: *Tyndale Bible Dictionary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House Publishers, 2001 (Tyndale Reference Library), S. 1297

³Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle* (Sisters, Or.: Multnomah Publishers, 2001).

II. We must consider the principles of grace giving in relation to our money and wealth (2Corinthians 9:6-11).

- A. The Principle of Reaping and Sowing: The way we give to meet the needs of others and support the work of the ministry will impact how we receive (v6) (Proverbs 14:24-26).⁴
- B. The Principle of Intent: We must plan to give out of what we have in love to meet the needs of others accordingly and to support the work of ministry practically not out of obligation or with resistance (v7).⁵
- C. The Principle of Sufficiency: As we give out of love to meet the needs of others accordingly and to support the work of ministry practically, God will make sure our needs are met so that we may continue to give to support accordingly (v8-v9).⁶
- D. The Principle of Righteousness: As we give out of love to meet the needs of others accordingly and to support the work of ministry practically God will cause our righteousness to grow resulting in temporal/eternal blessings and rewards (v10-v11).⁷

III. God does not provide money and wealth for our personal use and satisfaction alone, but also that we may share our money and wealth with others for the advancement of God's agenda as outlined in Scripture. (2Corinthians 9:1-11, 1Timothy 6:17-19)

- A. Money and wealth is not for our comfort alone, but also that God may show comfort to others as is deemed proper by Scripture through the money and wealth He has allotted to us.
- B. God did not create us to live for ourselves therefore, the resources we have were not meant to be for ourselves alone, but to be shared with others as is deemed proper by Scripture.
- C. If God should so choose to allow our standard of living to increase, then our standard of giving for God's glory should increase accordingly.⁸ When our standard of giving does not increase with our standard of living we must evaluate our spiritual condition.

⁴ Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

- D. As we give generously as is deemed proper by Scripture, He will give to us generously so that we may continue to give generously, not just so we can live comfortably.

IV. Therefore we can practice grace giving through 4 basic “M”s.

- A. The giving of money and wealth should be done to support the members of God’s family in need, ministers of God’s kingdom agenda, ministries of God’s kingdom agenda, and the meager in the culture. (Acts 2:42-43, 1Corinthians 9:1-14, 3John 1:1-8, Proverbs 28:27)
- B. Giving to support the members, ministers, ministries, and meager should be consistent. (2Cor 9:6-7)
- C. Giving to support the members, ministers, ministries, and meager should be in proportion to your ability even if your ability is minimal. (2Cor 8:1-4, 2Cor 9:6-7)
- D. Giving to support the members, ministers, ministries, and meager should be generous. (2Cor 9:6-7)
- E. Giving to support the members, ministers, ministries and meager should be planned and intentional. (2Cor 9:6-7)
- F. Giving to support the members, ministers, ministries, and meager should be voluntary and cheerful. (2Cor 9:6-7)

V. The 4 Basic “M”s should be practiced at Community of Faith Bible Church accordingly.

- A. At Community of Faith, you can practice grace giving by providing materials and money to support the ministries of evangelism and discipleship happening there according to what you have been given by God and have purposed in your heart to give. (3John 1:5-8)
- B. At Community of Faith, you can practice grace giving by providing materials and money to help the members in need in the body of Christ there in that local assembly according to what you have been given by God and have purposed in your heart to give. (1John 3:16-18).
- C. At Community of Faith, you can practice grace giving by providing materials and money to help the meager in need in that local community as the church reaches out to do so according to what you have been given by God and have purposed in your heart to give (Proverbs 19:17).

D. At Community of Faith, you can practice grace giving by providing materials and money to support the ministers of evangelism and discipleship there in that local assembly according to what you have been given by God and have purposed in your heart to give (Galatians 6:6, 1 Timothy 5:17-19, 1 Corinthians 9:1-14, 3 John 1:5-8).

VI. Even if we do not have abundance of money and wealth, we are to participate in using our resources for the Glory of God. (2 Corinthians 8:1-24, Mark 12:41-44, Romans 15:22-29, Acts 2:43-47, Ephesians 4:28, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-16)

- A. What we have does not determine if we should give to God's Kingdom business; It determines how much we can give to God's Kingdom business.
- B. All of us are not expected to give the same amount to God's Kingdom business because we were not all allotted the same amount of money and wealth from God.
- C. If every individual within the Body of Christ would give what they can out what they have, no one in the Body of Christ would lack for resources.
- D. If every individual within the Body of Christ would give what they can out what they have, the only individuals within the Body who would lack for resources would be individuals who have chosen to live undisciplined/ lazy lives.

VII. Therefore, we must settle key issues in our hearts in relation to money and wealth.

- A. Money and wealth are not for our personal use only but for the advancement of God's Kingdom purpose.
- B. Don't trust in the money and wealth granted to you. Instead, trust God who granted the money and wealth to you by using it to advance God's Kingdom purposes and not just use it for yourself. To proclaim to have a new life in Jesus Christ our Lord, but use the money and wealth allotted to you in the same selfish manner you did before you were a Christian, conveys that you need to make changes so that your use of money and wealth matches your profession of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C. Don't allow negative past experiences with pastors, churches, or certain individuals to keep you from using portions of the money and wealth granted to you to advance God's Kingdom purposes. Learn from those experiences, study God's Word to get the proper interpretations of those experiences and get back in step with God's Kingdom agenda with the money and wealth He has allotted to you. Don't neglect present opportunities to be a blessing because of past experiences.

D. If you do not feel that's God's Kingdom Agenda is being advanced in the church you are in, do not stop giving, or give less than you can yet continue to go to that church. Stop going there and start going to a church where you see God's Kingdom Agenda is being advanced. Go there and share your time, talents, spiritual gifts, money and wealth with a full commitment not a partial one. Don't punish the new church with partial commitment in giving your time, talents, spiritual gifts, money and wealth because of issues you had with the old church. Settles those issues of the past church and serve whole heartedly in the present church!

Money and Wealth Covenant

I acknowledge the fact that God has full ownership of me and everything He has entrusted to Me.

I will manage myself and everything entrusted to me according to God's Word and make the necessary corrections in my lifestyle to do so.

I will use the money and wealth entrusted to me to take care of food, clothing, shelter, and all other basic needs of my immediate household/family before seeking to take care of anyone else outside of my immediate household/family. I will give to individuals in need apart from immediate household/family when it does not lead me to neglect the needs of my immediate household/family nor promote sin and laziness within those individuals.

I will set aside \$_____ in money and _____ in wealth entrusted to me to give on a regular basis to support the work of biblical ministry within the local church I attend, those who are in need within the local I tend , and those who take a salary as workers of biblical ministry within the church I attend. I will give to other biblical ministries outside of the church I attend when feasible without taking from the money and wealth I will give to the local assembly I attend. I will increase the amount of money and wealth I will give as God increases the money and wealth entrusted to me.

I will make the necessary adjustments to pay what I owe in relation to debt I have incurred. I will make sure that when it comes to getting loans and using credit cards I will consider the pros and cons, making sure I can and will pay back what I owe. If I recognize that I will not be able to pay back what I owe, then I will refrain from getting loans and using credit cards.

I will use the money and wealth entrusted to me to enjoy things in this world knowing God has allotted this money and wealth not only to share with others but to enjoy as well. I will not allow God's blessing of money and wealth to become a cursing by spending more on personal enjoyment than feasible resulting in spending less and lacking in appropriate money and wealth for family responsibilities, biblical ministry responsibilities, helping others, and debt repayment responsibilities. Doing this will lead to irresponsibility with God's resources and I desire to be a good steward over what He has allotted to me.

Signed: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____