

The Treasure Principle Part 2

Key # 1 : God Owns Everything

Job 41 : 11

- Everything belongs to God, we own nothing
- God has never revoked or surrendered His claims to ownership

Stewardship

Stewards manage assets on behalf of the owner, and carry no sense of entitlement to those assets. We are just stewards of what belongs to God.

Psalm 24 : 1; Ezekiel 18 : 4

- Not only do all resources and possessions in the earth belong to God, this also stretches to people
- God is the real owner of every single human being including our soul

Haggai 2 : 8

- Even money and wealth ultimately belong to God
- Even the money that we invest for our future or use to buy things belongs to God

God uses money for our benefit in various ways :

1. **God uses money to strengthen our trust in Him.** It is often through money that God can clearly and objectively show us that He is in total control, if we will trust Him and accept our positions as stewards and managers of His possessions (see Matthew 6:32-33).
2. **God uses money to develop our trustworthiness.** This principle is important because our lives generally revolve around making, spending, saving, and using money. If He can trust us with money, He can trust us with greater responsibilities and His true riches (see Luke 16:11).
3. **God uses money to prove His love.** Scripture tells us that God assumes the responsibility of providing the basic necessities for everyone who trusts in Him (see Matthew 7:11). By transferring all money to Him, He often uses money to meet those necessities of life.
4. **God uses money to demonstrate His faithfulness.** Moses reminded Israel that it was God who would give them the power to make wealth. Our security is in God, not in our bank accounts. Discovering His faithfulness though financial needs encourages reliance on Him.
5. **God uses money to unite Christians in blessings.** God will use the abundance of one Christian to supply the needs of another. Surplus money in our lives has been given by God for the purpose of helping those who are in need.
6. **God uses money to provide direction.** There is probably no way God can direct our lives more meticulously than through the abundance or lack of money. Too often we believe God directs our lives through the abundance of money, but He also will lead us by withholding money.

7. **God uses money to cultivate self-control.** One of the fruits of the Spirit is self-control, a key aspect of successful money management.
8. **God uses money to clarify spiritual maturity.** Many temptations clamour for Christians' attention. A great deal can be learned about our personal character and spiritual maturity by noticing how we handle money and determine financial priorities.

God will not use money to :

1. **Worry us.** If Christians are worried, frustrated, and upset about money, God is not in control. God said that wealth without worry is His plan for our lives. In addition, He promises to meet the needs of those who trust in Him (see Matthew 6:25).
2. **Corrupt us.** Many Christians have fallen into Satan's trap and are being corrupted. Christians whose financial life is characterized by greed, ego, deceit, and other worldly snares are at enmity with God and His plan.
3. **Build egos.** Frequently, Christians are trapped by financial ego in that they use money in an attempt to build self-worth and ego. However, in Christ all are financially equal because all wealth will pass away. What will remain will be those things that have been laid up in heaven—the true wealth.
4. **To satisfy our personal whims or desires.** God does not expect His people to live in poverty; however, He also does not endorse lavishness. Surplus is provided so that God's work can be funded and those in need can be helped. If the surplus is hoarded or wasted on lavishness rather than used for His plan and purpose, chances are the surplus will be removed.

Genesis 4 : 3-4; 14 : 18-20

- These passages demonstrate that God has always had a standard that his people would give a portion of their assets back to him in one way or another
- The Old Testament Law included tithes as well but these passages show that giving to God came before the law and is not limited to just the old law

2 Corinthians 9 : 7

- God wants his people to give back to him out of gratitude and joy for his provision not out of compulsion
- When we think of giving to God to support the work of his Kingdom and his church we should think of words like joy, exciting, wonderful
- This doesn't mean we should give only when we are feeling cheerful
- If we are giving out of guilt or due to accountability, then we are completely missing the point of stewardship and being able to give to God
- This does not, however, mean that we should opt out of giving because we don't desire to do so - the joy often comes during and after the act of obedience, not before it
- Don't just wait until you feel like giving; it could be a long wait