

**Lk. 16:10-12** [Jesus speaking] “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?”

## **1. Stewardship**

**Ps. 24:1** The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

**Ps. 50:9-12** [God speaking] I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.

**Hag. 2:8** 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty.

**Jn. 3:27** To this John replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven.

**Jn. 3:27 (GNB)** John answered, “No one can have anything unless God gives it to him.

**1Co. 10:26** for, “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.”

**Dt. 8:17-18** [Moses speaking to Israel] You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

**Mt. 18:23** [Jesus speaking] “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

**Mt. 25:14-30** look up if needed

**Mt. 25:31-46** look up if needed

**Ro. 2:6-11** God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.

**2Co. 5:9-10** So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

**Gen. 39:1-8** Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his

Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

**QUOTE** Please hear me. The heart that's beating inside your chest right now, even *that* doesn't belong to you. You didn't make it. God did. It's his. So is everything you think you own. We are managers not owners. If you view yourself as an owner and not as a manager, you won't have the interests of the real Owner in mind when you manage his stuff.

**Pr. 22:7** The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

**Jas. 4:14** Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

## **2. Tithing**

**Gen. 2:15-17** The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

**Jsh. 6:17-19** [Joshua speaking] The city [Jericho] and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. [I want to note here that the Hebrew term translated as "devoted" refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the LORD, often by totally destroying them.] Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

**verse 26** At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates."

**1Ki. 16:34** In Ahab's time, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken by Joshua son of Nun.

**Dt. 5:12-15** "Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor

your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

**Col. 2:16-17** Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

**Mal. 3:6-12** <sup>6</sup>“I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. <sup>7</sup>Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

<sup>8</sup>“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’

“In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. <sup>11</sup>I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the LORD Almighty. <sup>12</sup>“Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

**Mt. 23:23** [Jesus speaking] “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

**Lk. 11:42** [Jesus speaking] “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

**Pr. 3:9-10** Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

**Ex. 23:19a** “Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.

**Testimony #1** A farmer received a \$100,000 profit on the sale of some land. He was encouraged to give a tithe to his church, but he decided not to do it. Shortly thereafter, he was burning some brush on the back of his property. A strong wind came and blew the fire over his fence and into his neighbor's field. The neighbor sued for damages. The total cost to the farmer was \$10,000.

**Testimony #2** A successful Christian businessman listened as his neighbor explained how sick their baby was, how their car had broken down, and how a series of other unexpected expenses had come upon them. The businessman asked this Christian neighbor, “Are you tithing?”  
The neighbor replied, “We can't afford to tithe. We are barely meeting our bills now.”  
The businessman encouraged him to make the following analysis: “Why don't you add up all of the unexpected bills that you received during the past months and see if they don't equal the tithe that you have not been paying.”

The neighbor checked over his expenses of several previous months. He itemized all of the unexpected bills. To his amazement, he discovered that it was almost exactly the same amount that his tithe would have been.

This neighbor was experiencing the truth of God's principles regarding the tithe. If we fail to give the tithe, God does not rebuke the devourer.

- both of these testimonies are taken from Men's Manual, Volume 2, published by the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts

**Testimony #3** Some years ago, a woman from our church made \$20 dollars a week babysitting children. When she heard what the Scripture says about tithing, she asked God, "God, do you really need my \$2 every week?" To which the Lord replied, "No, but I want your obedience." She started tithing and was greatly blessed because of it.

### **3. Giving**

**QUOTE** Once we've acknowledged that God owns everything, once we've taken the sacred portion, the tithe, and brought it into the storehouse, the local church, once we've done those things we're free to give offerings, alms, and other gifts from the remaining 90% as God would lead us by His Holy Spirit.

**Jn. 3:16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**1Pt. 1:18-19** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

**2Sa. 24:24** But the king [David] replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my god burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

**Ac. 20:35** [the Apostle Paul speaking] 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.'

**2Co. 9:7** Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**2Co. 8:11-12** Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

**Mt. 6:2-4** [Jesus speaking] "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Mt. 6:19-21** [Jesus speaking] "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.