



A Better Investment

December 4th, 2016

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, BUT YOU CAN SEND IT ON AHEAD!

[Lay] up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. - Matthew 6:20 ESV

Investment Principle #5:

WE INVEST BY GIVING AWAY.

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back. – Luke 6:38 NLT

“You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” – Acts 20:35 NLT

Financial Reciprocity

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. – 2 Corinthians 9:6-8a NLT

- **GOT A NEED? PLANT A SEED!**

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. – Proverbs 11:24 ESV

- **ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING!**

GIVE DELIBERATELY.

GIVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

GIVE VOLUNTARILY.

GIVE CHEERFULLY.

Investment Principle #6:

GOD PROSPERS ME, NOT TO RAISE MY STANDARD OF LIVING, BUT MY STANDARD OF GIVING.

Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others...¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.¹¹ Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

– 2 Corinthians 9:8b-11 NLT

Excel In Giving...

Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. – 2 Corinthians 8:7 NLT

- THE TRAINING WHEELS OF TITHING

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce.

– Proverbs 3:9 ESV

- THE TOUR DE FRANCE OF OFFERING

All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord. – Exodus 35:29 ESV

Next Steps

- Memorize [Matthew 6:20](#).
- I will embrace an attitude of deliberate, cheerful generosity in my life.
- I will think seriously about shifting my standard of living in light of God's standard of giving.
- I will put my trust in Jesus Christ for the very first time.

Walk The Talk

A Growth Group Guide

1. Are you a spender or a saver? How could each become a problem?
2. Read Matthew 19:16-30. What did the rich young ruler miss out on? In contrast, what did the disciples gain? What made the difference?
3. Read Matthew 13:44. What motivated the man to sell everything he had? In light of all of the information in the story, was he making a sacrifice?
4. Name some benefits of giving. Name some obstacles to giving. Why do Christians give more weight to the obstacles than the benefits?
5. What are some practical ways that you could excel in giving? What keeps you from doing it?
6. Share some stories of the power and blessing of generosity in your life—either when you were the giver or the recipient.