

GROWTH TRACK  
Lesson Three  
The Local Church

God and Money

1. Misconceptions about money.

a. Money is evil. **1 Timothy 6:10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

b. Money is amoral, the use of money can be immoral.

2. God wants people to be blessed financially.

a. **3 John 1:2** Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. , it is God's will.

b. **Deuteronomy 8:18** "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. , God gives power to create wealth.

c. God wants people to have a full supply. **Philippians 4:19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

3. We are managers, God is the owner.

a. **1 Corinthians 4:1-2,7** Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful... For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

b. God owns it all. **Haggai 2:8** 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts.

**Psalms 50:10** For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills

4. Tithing.

a. Tithing one tenth of our income puts God first in our lives. **Proverbs 3:9-10** Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

b. Tithing is a test of trust. **Malachi 3:8-10** "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me!

But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

- c. Tithing is a bill we owe, just like a utility bill.
  - d. Tithing goes to the storehouse. **Malachi 3:10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.
  - e. Spiritual leaders are dependent on the tithe. **Numbers 18:25-26** Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 26 "Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: 'When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the Lord, a tenth of the tithe.
5. Offerings are designated by you.
- a. Giving beyond tithe is a matter of God leading you. **Proverbs 19:17** He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given.
  - b. Offerings are seeds we sow that bring a harvest. **Luke 6:38** Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."
6. Give systematically.
- a. **1 Corinthians 16:2** On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. , on the first day of the week.
7. Give cheerfully from the heart.
- a. **2 Corinthians 9:7** So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
  - b. **Matthew 23:23** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.. Giving should not be done because it is required, but as an act of love and concern for God's work and others.