

*Principles  
Of  
Biblical Stewardship*

*Can God Trust Me With More*

*Week One We Asked The Question:*

*ARE YOU MAXIMIZING*

*The Time, The Talent and The Treasure*

*That God has ENTRUSTED With You*

*4 Key Principles*

*Awareness of Ownership*

*Awareness of Capacity*

*Awareness of Accountability*

*Awareness of Rewards*

*In Week Two...We Examined  
Are You **MAXIMIZING**  
**The Time** That God has **ENTRUSTED** With You*

*How?*

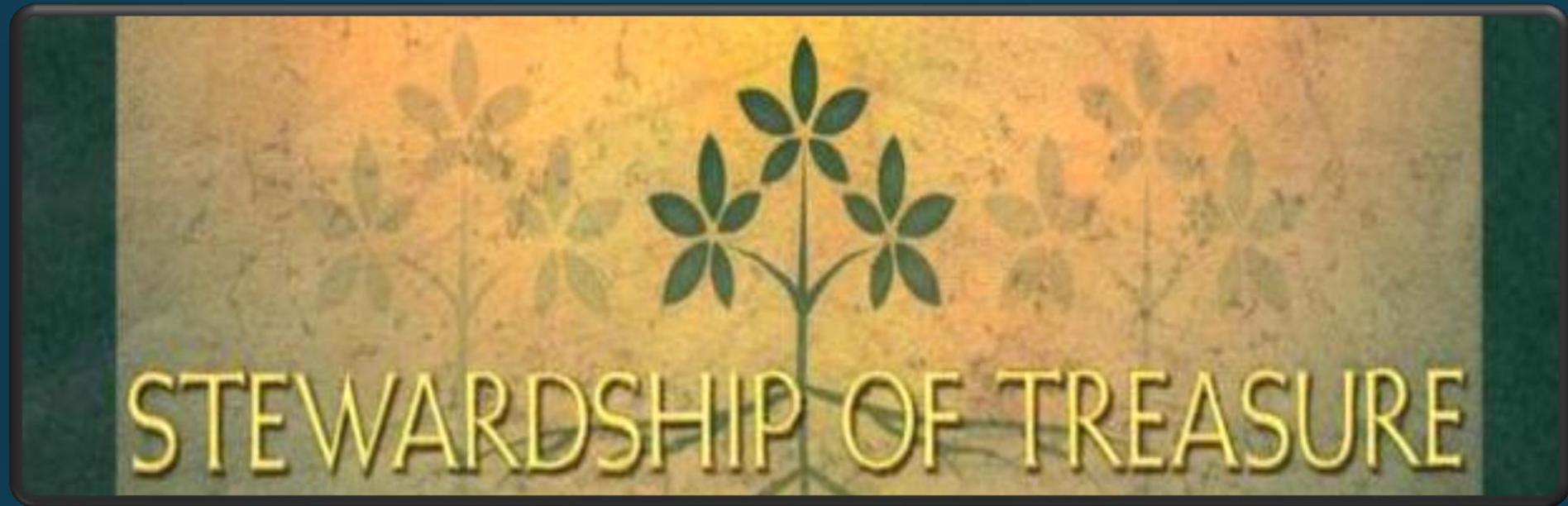
*It Begins With Understanding **Purpose***

*My **Perspective** Must Change*

*I Must **Prioritize** My Time*

*I Must **Plan** My Time*

*I Will Be **Productive** With My Time*



*Key Verse*

*Wherever your **TREASURE** is,  
there the **DESIRES OF YOUR HEART** will also be.*

# Introduction

*Many churches fail to discuss **MONEY OR FINANCES**... Many people within the body of Christ cringe when leaders begin to talk about money... “It’s always about money”... “They always want my money”*

*While the Bible has about **500 verses on prayer** and **fewer than 500 verses on faith**, there are over **2,300 biblical verses that deal with money and possessions**. Jesus said more about money than He did about any other subject. Over 10 percent of the New Testament relates directly to financial/possession/material matters. 11 of the 39 Parables deal with money and possessions...*

## *3 Reasons why so much emphasis*

- 1. We spend a great amount of time **earning it**, **spending it**, and **thinking about it***
- 2. Money/Material has a profound effect on interpersonal **RELATIONSHIPS***
- 3. Money is a real **MEASURE OF OUR COMMITMENT** to Christ and the Kingdom*

## Introduction

Not sure where or when the connection of **Poverty and Christianity** took place...  
But as you journey through Scriptures... God's design has always been for **THE KINGDOM TO PROSPER...**

### Walk Through Scriptures

#### Because of Disobedience ~ Man's Original Curse/Punishment Was Struggle

##### Genesis 3:17-19 (NLT)

17 And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will **STRUGGLE TO SCRATCH A LIVING FROM IT.**

19 **BY THE SWEAT OF YOUR BROW** will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."

#### Obedience to God's Word/God's Law alleviates the Struggle

##### Proverbs 3:9-10 (ESV)

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce;  
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

##### Malachi 3:10 (ESV)

10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

##### 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (ESV)

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.  
7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

# God is not Opposed to Wealth and Being Prosperous

*Abraham* ~ We talk a great deal about *Abraham's Faith and Belief in God...*

*Genesis 13:2*

*2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.*

*Isaac* ~ We talk about *his obedience to God* and being the father of Jacob and Esau...

*Genesis 26:12-13*

*12 And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him,  
13 and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.*

*Job* ~ We talk a great deal about *Job's suffering and his patience....*

*Job 1:2-3 (ESV)*

*3 He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants,  
so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.*

*In The New Testament*

*Mary Magdalene, Joseph of Arimathea, Barnabas, Ethiopian Eunuch, and Lydia*

*3 John 1:2 (NKJV)*

*2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

*The Problem is not with God's people having wealth... but when the WEALTH has possession of us....*

# *From The Very Beginning God's Desire Is To Release From Bondage With Material Blessings*

## *Exodus 3:7-8 (ESV)*

*7 Then the Lord said, "I have surely **SEEN THE AFFLICTION OF MY PEOPLE** who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to **BRING THEM UP OUT OF THAT LAND TO A GOOD AND BROAD LAND**, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.*

## *Exodus 3:19-22 (NLT)*

*19 "But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand forces him. 20 So I will raise my hand and strike the Egyptians, performing all kinds of miracles among them. Then at last he will let you go. 21 And I will cause the Egyptians to look favorably on you. **THEY WILL GIVE YOU GIFTS WHEN YOU GO SO YOU WILL NOT LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED.** 22 Every Israelite woman will ask for articles of silver and gold and fine clothing from her Egyptian neighbors and from the foreign women in their houses. You will dress your sons and daughters with these, **STRIPPING THE EGYPTIANS OF THEIR WEALTH.**"*

## *Exodus 10:24-26 (NLT)*

*24 Finally, Pharaoh called for Moses. "Go and worship the LORD," he said. "**BUT LEAVE YOUR FLOCKS AND HERDS HERE.** You may even take your little ones with you." 25 "No," Moses said, "you must provide us with animals for sacrifices and burnt offerings to the LORD our God. 26 All our livestock must go with us, too; not a hoof can be left behind. We must choose our sacrifices for the LORD our God from among these animals. And **we won't know how we are to worship the LORD until we get there.**"*

## *Exodus 12:31-32 (NLT)*

*31 Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Get out!" he ordered. "Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the LORD as you have requested. 32 **TAKE YOUR FLOCKS AND HERDS**, as you said, and be gone. **GO, BUT BLESS ME AS YOU LEAVE....** 35 And the people of Israel did as Moses had instructed; they asked the Egyptians for clothing and articles of silver and gold. 36 The LORD caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites, and they gave the Israelites whatever they asked for. **SO THEY STRIPPED THE EGYPTIANS OF THEIR WEALTH!***

## *FREE But With A DIFFERENT MASTER*

Now that they were *FREE from Egyptian Bondage...*  
Now they must wrestle with *A DIFFERENT MASTER...*

*In the Wilderness they are constantly thinking about the possessions in Egypt*

*In the Wilderness they build a Golden Calf with their possessions*

*After crossing over the Jordan, they lose battles because they take possessions that belong to God*

*Saul is removed from King, because he does not follow God's instructions concerning possessions*

*They are constantly serving other gods...*

*Malachi says, they are bringing God what's left over...*

*The challenge now becomes....WHO IS YOUR MASTER*

*Matthew 6:24 (NLT)*

*24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other;  
you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve BOTH GOD AND MONEY.*

*We have to DECIDE... Which master we are going to serve.*

# *Your **TREASURE** Is A Good Indicator of Your **MASTER***

*Matthew 6:21 (NLT)*

*21 Wherever your **treasure** is, there the **desires of your heart** will also be.*

***T**reasure Is Connected To Your **HEART***

***R**iches Can **Lead Us Astray***

***E**verything We Have **Belongs To God***

***A**ttitude is More Important Than **Amount***

***S**owing And Reaping Is A **Permanent Principle***

***U**nderstand The **Benefits of Good Stewardship***

***R**eturn Is **Greater Than Your Investment***

***E**xpect God To **Fulfill His Promises***

## Principle #1

# Treasure Is Connected To Your HEART

Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)

19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 *Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*

C.S. Lewis says... *Show me your bank statement...*  
I can tell where your *passion and priorities* reside

### 3 Biblical Examples

In Luke 3, John the Baptist came preaching REPENT for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand  
The people asked, *what must we do... to show we have repented?*

Luke 3:11-14 (NIV)

11 John answered, "The man with two tunics should *share with him who has none*, and the one who has *food should do the same.*" 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" 13 "*Don't collect any more than you are required to,*" he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "*Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay.*"

# Treasure Is Connected To Your HEART

In Luke 18, Zacchaeus came to see Jesus...*He was a crooked tax collector...*

*Luke 19:8-10 (NIV)*

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now *I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.*" 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

In Mark 10, a Rich Ruler came to Jesus asking *What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life....*

*Mark 10:21-22 (NIV)*

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "*Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.* Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because *he had great wealth.*

God will never get **THE TREASURE IN YOUR HAND** until you **TREASURE HIM IN YOUR HEART**  
You cannot practice **Biblical Principles** until your **HEART IS CONVERTED**

*A Thankful Heart Provides a Giving Spirit*

*2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV)*

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. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

# Treasure Is Connected To Your HEART

## A GRATEFUL HEART Will Be CONTENT

*1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NLT)*

6 Yet *true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth*. 7 After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. 8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. 9 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

*Philippians 4:11-12 (NIV)*

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for *I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances*. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. *I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

*Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV)*

5 Keep your lives *free from the love of money* and *be content with what you have*, because God has said, "*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*" 6 So we say with confidence, "*The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*"

## Principle #2

# Riches Can Lead Us Astray

Job 36:18 (NIV)

18 Be careful that no one **entices you by riches**; do not let a large bribe turn you aside.

1 Timothy 6:17-18 (NIV)

17 Command those **who are rich in this present world** not to be arrogant nor to **put their hope in wealth**, which is so uncertain, but to **put their hope in God**, who richly **provides us with everything for our enjoyment**.

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)

10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, **craving money, have wandered from the true faith** and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

When we begin to **SEEK after RICHES**... we tend to go astray from the things of God

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

33 But **SEEK FIRST** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Proverbs 8:17-19 (NIV)

17 I love those who love me, and **those who seek me find me**.

18 **WITH ME are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity**.

19 My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.

## *Principle #2*

### *Riches Can Lead Us Astray*

*How can I Prosper If I Never Pursue Riches/Wealth*

*Maximize the Gifts that God has Given You*

- 1) Identify your Gift/Talents/Special Abilities*
- 2) Identify your Purpose and Passion*

*2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)*

*3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.*

*My Spiritual Gifts ~ Administration and Teaching*

*7 Streams of Income*

- 1. Pastor ~ A salary*
- 2. Writing ~ Bible Studies and Teachings*
- 3. Speaking Engagements ~ Share the Goodness of God*
- 4. Conferences ~ Teach Others what works for me*
- 5. Counseling ~ Help Others Become Spiritually Complete*
- 6. Working Out ~ Start a Business that aligns with my Passion*
- 7. Working Out ~ Help others get in shape {Isagenix}*

## *In Conclusion...*

*God is Not Opposed to Wealth and Being Prosperous*  
*We have to decide... WHICH MASTER we are going to serve*  
*Your Treasure IS CONNECTED To Your Heart*  
*A GRATEFUL HEART Will Always BE CONTENT*  
*Seeking Riches Can Lead Us Astray*

## *Next Week....*

*Everything Belongs To God*  
*Attitude Is More Important To Amount*  
*Sowing And Reaping Is A Permanent Principle*