


God's View of Money

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Part of Dollars & Sense

July 14, 2024

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Dollars & Sense

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God desires financial freedom for you and me, because, unfortunately, too many of us know all too well what it's like to experience financial bondage.

If you've made some mistakes with money, join the crowd.

*1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
... 27So God created human beings in his own image. In
the image of God he created them; male and female he
created them.*

—Genesis 1:1, 27 (NLT)

The Bible tells us God is the Creator of everything, including human beings, and He owns everything.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world

and all its people belong to him.

—Psalms 24:1 (NLT)

In the big picture, all I'm really doing is using for a time some of God's matter, with resources God provided me in the first place.

...What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?

—1 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

The biblical view of our existence is that everything has been created by God.

A steward is one who manages the property of another.

Stewardship is the process of managing that which belongs to another.

Money is a place where the values of God's Kingdom and the values of this world often come into conflict.

17If you start thinking to yourselves, "I did all this. And all by myself. I'm rich. It's all mine!"—18well, think again. Remember that GOD, your God, gave you the strength to produce all this wealth....

—Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (Message)

The essence of this mentality is our sinful nature that puts me first.

God didn't create things to be first in our lives or give us the answers; He didn't even create people to be first in our lives.

1Then God gave the people all these instructions: 2"I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. 3You must not have any other god but me. 4You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 5You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods...."

—Exodus 20:1-5 (NLT)

Throughout the Bible, God shows us there are destructive consequences when human beings worship other gods.

Jesus: 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.

—Matthew 6:24 (NLT)

Money in and of itself isn't evil, and God entrusts it to us to do lots of good, but it so easily entices us, leading us to believe it will solve all our problems.

For the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. Some have been so eager to have it that they have wandered away from the faith and have broken their hearts with many sorrows.

—1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)

The love of money too often lures Christ followers off the path God has for them.

God has commanded His people to give a portion of all the resources He has entrusted to us as a visible reminder and affirmation that money is not our god.

Returning to God a *portion* of what He has first given to us acknowledges He is our God – it's an act of obedience.

Honor GOD with everything you own; give him the first and the best.

—Proverbs 3:9 (Message)

Giving is always a spiritual issue, because it's about our hearts – do we believe God, do we trust Him, is He first in our lives and our God?

30One tenth (the tithe) of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy. ... 32Count off every tenth animal from your herds and flocks and set them apart for the LORD as holy.

—Leviticus 27:30, 32 (NLT)

The tithe is not just any gift to God but the *first ten* percent of our income, while gifts are that which we give above and beyond the tithe.

Christ followers *also* give out of gratitude and as a sign of our trust.

What can I give back to GOD for the blessings he's poured out on me?

—Psalm 116:12 (Message)

There's no way we can ever earn or repay God for what He's done for us, but we give our lives and our resources, especially the tithe, as an act of gratitude and a tangible act of trust that we believe God and His promises, and this act of trust grows us spiritually, as disciples, in ways nothing else can.

My tithe is an act of obedience, an act of gratitude, an act of trust, but it's also an act of stewardship.

God only asks for ten percent back, allowing us to join in His mission of saving the world and all its people.

Investing in God's work is the only way to invest in eternity.

Jesus: *19Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. 20Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. 21It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.*

—Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)

6 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. 7You 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." 8And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

—2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)

God desires our giving to be because we want to and not because we *have to*.

*...and you will always be rich enough to be generous.
Through our action such generosity will issue in
thanksgiving to God*

—2 Corinthians 9:11 (NEB)

Most of us in here have been blessed by the faithfulness and generosity of those who've gone before us, and we have the opportunity to continue that legacy through our own generosity and giving.

Blessings sometimes are financial, but more often, we feel joy in seeing lives transformed, discover God's peace because we learn we really can trust God, and experience contentment.

11Actually, I don't have a sense of needing anything personally. I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. 12I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. 13Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.

—Philippians 4:11-13 (Message)

God understands how big a challenge tithing is.

God invites us to test Him in this one area.

*8Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!
"But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. 9You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. 10Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"*

—*Malachi 3:8-10 (NLT)*

90 Day Tithing Challenge: <https://gateway.cc/give#90day>

📖 Next Week: Dollars & Sense: God's View of Saving Money