

God talked about money and possessions over 2,000 times in the Bible. Why is this subject so important to God? Because how we use the wealth He has entrusted to us is an outward picture of our inward heart condition - and God wants your heart. And so before you seek the advice of professional financial advisors, we encourage you to allow the Lord to speak to your heart with the biblical stewardship principles below.

Acknowledge God's ownership of everything you are and everything you have.

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)

Planning is a spiritual journey, not merely a mechanical process.

"But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well." (Luke 12:31)

Honoring God is foundational to our planning.

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." (Proverbs 3:9-10)

The value of any asset God has given you is in how you use it.

"The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'" (Matthew 25:20)

As God's money managers, we have been given a sacred trust over which God holds us personally responsible.

"So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

God wants to bless you and others through your stewardship of His resources.

"Command [those with wealth] to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

Don't store up what you can't use when you can give it to someone who can.

"Then [the property owner] said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.'" (Luke 12:18)

Making provision for our loved ones is an important part of our responsibility.

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Timothy 5:8)

Be cautious about leaving large inheritances to children.

"An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning will not be blessed at the end." (Proverbs 20:21)

Good managers use tax savings to free up more resources for the Lord's work.

Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." (Matthew 22:21)

Spreading the gospel is an essential purpose for God's resources.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

