



January 7, 2018
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MONEY MATTERS

Stewardship Principles for Christ-Followers

Lesson One • Proverbs 3:1-18

The Wisdom Principle

What Is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the MANAGEMENT of the wealth (material and monetary) God has entrusted to me for His glory, other people's good, and my joy.

Godly Wisdom for the Stewardship of Wealth

1. See Wealth with the Right PERSPECTIVE!

*Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.
Ecclesiastes 5:19 NIV*

- Wealth is a poor source of HAPPINESS.

Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Proverbs 3:13-15 NIV

Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed. Proverbs 3:16-18 NIV

- Wealth is a rich source of TEMPTATION.

*Better the poor whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse.
Proverbs 28:6 NIV*

2. Use Wealth for the Right PURPOSE!

*Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.
Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV*

- Purpose: to HONOR the Lord with your wealth.
- Practice: we honor the Lord with our wealth when we faithfully give our FIRSTFRUITS.

The Practice of Giving Firstfruits

Activates our FAITH and magnifies God's WORTH.

“So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me.” Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. Deuteronomy 26:8-10 NIV

- Promise: if you honor God with your wealth, God will honor YOU with His provisions.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33 ESV

And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 ESV

The Key Question: Will I TRUST God?

God is worthy of our trust in every circumstance of life, including the practice of giving the firstfruits of our income.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

How to Get Started in Honoring God with Your Wealth

- Decide you are going to give the firstfruits of your income to God through LifeBridge.
- Define the amount God is leading you to give back to Him through LifeBridge (tithe = 10%).
- Discipline yourself to give faithfully throughout the year (consider setting-up a recurring gift online at WeAreLifeBridge.com).