



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).