



## Investing Your Resources

August 13, 2023

### **We are called to invest our resources into the ministry.**

God gives us incentives to invest our resources for His Kingdom's sake:

- Financial security
- Increased health
- Increased happiness
- Increased spiritual responsibility/authority

Our giving can also affect:

- Our house in heaven
- Our treasures in heaven
- Our job for all eternity

### **4 Reasons Most Christians Don't Tithe:**

#### **1. Debt**

The Bible teaches that debt can be a dangerous thing.

*Proverbs 22:7 – "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave."*

#### **2. Unbelief**

*Malachi 3:10-11 – "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the Lord of hosts."*

If we believe that God will bless us as He promised, we should tithe and be generous givers.

God says to test Him in this and see. So many don't because they don't believe He is going to keep His promise.

If we don't do our part and invest in the Kingdom, we are handicapping the church from doing all it could do.

#### **3. Fear**

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8 – "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;"*

This passage teaches that the law of the harvest is also true in the world of finances. Those who give generously will receive something back in return for their generosity. Furthermore, there is a direct correlation between how much you give and how much you get back. The more you sow, the more you reap.

The amount entrusted to you in your life depends on how well you steward what you already have. If you give like you are supposed to, God will give you more, so you will have more to give.

### **It is not only safe to be generous, but it is also the wisest thing that you can do for your future.**

We tend to think that when we give something away, it is a loss, but this passage tells us that generosity doesn't work like that. Giving to God's work is actually an investment. The farmer who sows seed doesn't lose seed, he gains a crop. God will not give him a harvest without him sowing the seed first.

If a farmer plants a lot of seed, he will have a huge harvest. If he plants a little seed, he will have a little harvest. If he plants no seed, he will have no harvest at all.

The Word of God teaches us that that same principle applies to our finances.

*2 Corinthians 9:8, 10-11 – “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed...Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.”*

**There’s only one thing we should fear when it comes to giving: holding back on God to the extent that He is no longer involved in our financial lives.**

#### **4. Greed**

*Acts 20:25 – “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.”*

*Acts 20:32-37 – “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,”*

When he reminds us of the words of Jesus, it is easy for us to miss the importance of what has been said. The English word “blessed” doesn’t carry the impact that is meant by original Greek and Hebrew words in the Bible.

The biblical idea of being “blessed” is a life that is full, whole, and flourishing in every way: physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, relationally, and financially.

The Hebrew word “*shalom*” carries that kind of weight. It is the wholeness of how we were created to live. It is in generous giving that we flourish in life.

So much blessing is not released in our communities and cities and nations because there is greed and covetousness.

Paul is concerned that the Ephesian believers will become greedy and covetous like so many around them. He is concerned about how that would affect them, the church, and the city.

After hearing the four things that can keep us from investing in the Kingdom (Debt, Unbelief, Fear, and Greed), what is your action point? Some examples may include:

- Taking Financial Peace University
- Believing God’s promises and beginning to tithe
- Sowing more so you can reap more

**Let us all be content with what we have because we have more than enough.**