Giving And Our Relationship With God

Intro: Listen to Solomon’s wisdom: “Honour the LORD with thy substance [possession—NKJV], and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty; and thy presses shall burst out with new wine” (Pro. 3:9-10). When we honor God with our money, God will bless us. Thus, how we obtain our money and possessions and what we do with them are an important part of our relationship with God.

I. WHO (WHAT) HAS PRIORITY?
   A. No one can serve two masters
      1. Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
      2. Luke 16:13 “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
      3. Mammon means worldly wealth, property, or riches.

   B. Christians are to trust in God.
      1. Pro. 3:5 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”
      2. Psa. 37:3, 5 “Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.... Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

   C. Christians are not to be covetous.
      1. Luke 12:15, 20 “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.... But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”
      2. Col. 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”
      3. We must not allow possessions (money) to possess us; we must possess them.

II. STEWARDSHIP OR OWNERSHIP?
   A. Definition of stewardship:
      1. A steward is one who is a manager or supervisor.
      2. The Greek word has reference to the management of household affairs.

   B. God owns all things.
      1. Psa. 24:1-2 “The earth is the LORD’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.”
      2. Psa. 50:10-12 “For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.”

   C. We are to administer that which God gives us responsibly.
      1. 1 Cor. 4:1-2 “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
      2. Luke 12:42-48 “And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever
much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will
ask the more.”

D. Our giving will not be what it should till we have a proper view of God’s ownership of
all things.

III. GIVING
A. Produces fellowship among brethren
1. Acts 4:32 “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any
of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.”
2. 2 Cor. 9:13-14 “Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed
subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;” And by
their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.”
   a. The Jewish brethren doubted the conversion and spirituality of the Corinthians.
   b. The giving of the Corinthians erased that doubt.

B. Results from love.
1. God loves; He gave
   a. The Father gave His Son; John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   b. Jesus gave Himself; Eph. 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the
church, and gave himself for it;”
2. We love; we give
   a. Giving proves that we love.
   b. 2 Cor. 8:7-8, 24 “Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge,
and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. “I speak not by
commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your
love...” Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our
boasting on your behalf.”

C. As we purpose
1. 2 Cor. 9:7 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of
necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”
2. Purposeth is simply to decide beforehand.
   a. You make a decision ahead of time based upon how God has blessed you as to the
amount of the contribution.
   b. As circumstances change, the purposing will change.

D. As God blesses us
1. 1 Cor. 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath
prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
2. God will pour out blessings to those who give.
   a. Mal. 3:8-10 “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole
nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove
me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour
you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”
   b. 2 Cor. 9:8 “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all
sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”
   c. We can never out-give God.
3. We give liberally.
   a. 2 Cor. 8:3, 7 “For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;... Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”
   b. 2 Cor. 9:6-7 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

E. With the right attitude
1. A ready and willing mind:
   a. 2 Cor. 8:11-12 “Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.”
   b. 2 Cor. 8:4-5 “Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”

2. An attitude that is willing to sacrifice for the cause of Christ; 2 Sam. 24:24 “And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”

Conclusion: Through proper giving we lay up treasures in heaven; Mat 6:19-21 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” What does your giving say about your love for God? Are you truly giving as God has prospered you?