



We are living through a season of unprecedented deception, and we need some basic biblical ideas regarding money, resources, assets, and the handling of them because, financially, our nation is in a mess. We are presently 35 trillion dollars in deep, desperate trouble—a probable fraction of our true debt. In the face of this, hope instead of despair will only come through the faith of God's people, not because of the integrity of those over us. They are not leading with integrity, or we would not be 35 trillion dollars in debt.

Now, many of us don't want to talk about this in church because we're concerned someone wants our money. We'd rather talk about the Gospel of Luke. We will do that in this study, but if your faith does not impact the world in which you live, you only have a theoretical faith, which is not useful. Our faith must be understood in the context of the culture in which we live. It's not about parities or politicians. It's about the impact of the people of God in our world. You see, what we do with our resources is as much a part of your spiritual life as our other biblical boundaries. We are Christ-followers across the breadth of our lives, or we're not Christ-followers at all. Church, we need a biblical perspective on our money to stand firm in the days ahead of us.

*"As long as the earth endures, **seedtime and harvest**, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*  
Genesis 8:22

**\*Seedtime and harvest are a biblical principle of sowing and reaping. Share some examples from your life or someone you know who sowed good seeds or bad seeds. What was reaped as a result?**

## I. THE FORCE OF GIVING —FORGIVENESS, MERCY, TIME, ATTENTION, MONEY ...

Luke 6:37–38 <sup>37</sup> *"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. **For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**"*

### A. Give God Your Best

Exodus 12:3, 5 <sup>3</sup> *Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ... <sup>5</sup> The **animals you choose must be year-old males without defect**, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.*

Genesis 4:2-7 <sup>2</sup> *Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. **The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.** So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."*

### B. Jesus, "The Lamb of God"

Hebrews 9:14 (NASB®) ... *how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Romans 8:31-32 (NASB®) <sup>31</sup> *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

1 Peter 1:18–19 <sup>18</sup> *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

**\*Who in your life is someone that you would consider a generous person (i.e. with time, attention, resources)? What traits or values do you notice as they serve others? How would you like to grow in being generous to others?**

### C. Giving As Worship

Malachi 3:8-11 (NASB®) <sup>8</sup> *"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup> "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. <sup>11</sup> "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.*

1. Tithes & Offerings
2. Blessings & Curses

**\*How has giving been a way for you to praise and worship God? How has it brought you closer to the Lord?**

#### D. Windows Into Generosity

##### 1. Helping Others (Private)

Matthew 6:2–4 <sup>2</sup> *"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

##### 2. Giving to the Lord (Public)

Exodus 36:4–7 <sup>4</sup> *So all the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done." <sup>6</sup> Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: "No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more, <sup>7</sup> because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.*

1 Chronicles 29:1–5 <sup>1</sup> *Then King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. <sup>2</sup> With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. <sup>3</sup> Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: <sup>4</sup> three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, <sup>5</sup> for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord?"*

##### 3. Sacrifice vs Surplus

Luke 21:1–4 <sup>1</sup> *As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

**\*How would you respond to someone that says, "I need to be prosperous before I can be generous"?**

##### 4. Attitude Matters

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 <sup>6</sup> *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, **not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.** <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

**\*What are some practical ways you can serve others in your daily life this week?**

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You are my Creator, Sustainer, and Provider. You have blessed my life with abundance. You are my strength, my wisdom, and I know You hold the future. I choose to honor You with my life. You have given me everything necessary for a Godly life; teach me to walk uprightly before You. May I be pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' name, amen.