

Intentional Giving

SERIES: THANKS & GIVING – Part 3

“Tell people to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they’ll be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.” 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (LB)

GOD’S 5 ETERNAL INVESTMENT FUNDS (INTENTIONAL Giving)

1. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS TREASURY FUND

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Matthew 6:19-20 (NIV)

“Give up your lust for money... Then the Almighty himself will be your treasure!” Job 22:24-25 (NLT)

HOW?

By using some of my money to: EXPRESS WORSHIP

“Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income...” Proverbs 3:9 (LB)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

WHAT KIND OF GIVING IS “WORSHIP GIVING”?

- It is UNDESIGNATED GIVING

“You may not take back what you have unconditionally dedicated to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:28 (TNV)

- It is given WHEN AND WHERE I worship

“On every Sunday, put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for the offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn.” 1 Corinthians 16:2 (LB)

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first.” Deuteronomy 14:23 (LB)

2. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS MUTUAL FUND

“Love one another with mutual affection.” Romans 12:10 (RSV)

HOW?

By using some of my money to ENCOURAGE FELLOWSHIP

“Share what you have with God’s people who are in need. Show hospitality.” Romans 12:13 (GN)

“Think of ways to encourage one another with outbursts of love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24 (NLT)

WHY?

“This service of giving not only helps the needs of God’s people, it also brings many more thanks to God. It is a proof of your faith. Many people will praise God because you obey the Good News of Christ – the

gospel you say you believe—and because you freely share with them.” 2 Corinthians 9:12-13 (NCV)

“When you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible.” 3 John 1:5 (MSG)

“How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.” Psalms 133:1 (MSG)

3. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS GROWTH FUND

“Grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18 (LB)

HOW?

By using some of my money to: ENHANCE MY CHARACTER

“The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin.” Proverbs 10:16 (NLT)

“Buy truth and don't sell it for love or money; but wisdom, buy education, buy insight.” Proverbs 23:23 (MSG)

“Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength... and does you no good? Listen, and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul!” Isaiah 55:2 (MSG)

“It is better – much better – to have wisdom and knowledge than gold and silver.” Proverbs 16:16 (GNB)

“Take your everyday, ordinary life –your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.” Romans 12:1 (MSG)

4. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS EQUITY SERVICE FUND

“They gave as much as they were able and even more than they could afford. No one told them to do it. They pleaded with us to let them share in this service for God's people.” 2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NCV)

HOW?

By using some of my money to: EXPAND MY MINISTRY

“...I want you to excel in this gracious ministry of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)

“We must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35 (NRSV)

“The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.” Proverbs 11:24 (MSG)

“Give to the poor and you will never be in need. But if you close your eyes to the poor, many will curse you.” Proverbs 28:27 (TEV)

“When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back.” Proverbs 19:17 (TEV)

“Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, ‘God bless you! Stay warm! Eat well!’ but then you don't give them any food or clothing. What good does that do? Faith that doesn't show itself

by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless.” James 2:15-17 (NLT)

5. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS GLOBAL FUND

*“The Lord said ‘...I’m setting you up as a light for the nations so that my salvation becomes global!’”
Isaiah 49:6 (MSG)*

HOW?

By using some of my money to: EXTEND MY MISSION

“Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.” Luke 16:9 (NIV)

“You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing...” 2 Corinthians 9:13 (GW)

God says, “Ask, and I will give you all the nations; the whole earth will be yours!” Psalm 2:8 (TEV)

HOW CAN I AFFORD TO MAKE THESE INVESTMENTS?

*“If you are untrustworthy about handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”
Luke 16:11 (NLT)*

“God gives seed to the farmer to plant ... He will also give you ‘seed’ and multiply what you generously plant. In your lives He will increase the things you do that have His approval.” 2 Corinthians 9:10 (GW)

THE PRAYER OF AGUR

“Lord...don't let me become too poor or too rich. Give me just what I need. If I have too much, I might forget about you; and if I don't have enough, I might steal and disgrace your name.” Proverbs 30:7-9 (CEV)

“If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done!” Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)

THE KEY PURPOSE DRIVEN GIVING

“...they first gave themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives.” 2 Corinthians 8:5 (MSG)

*“The people were overjoyed that the leaders gave so generously and wholeheartedly to the Lord. King David was also overjoyed, and he praised the Lord while the whole assembly watched. David said, “Greatness, power, splendor, glory, and majesty are Yours, Lord, because everything in heaven and on earth is Yours. The kingdom is Yours, Lord, and You are honored as head of all things. You rule everything. You hold power and strength in Your hands, and You can make anyone great and strong. So our God, we thank You and praise Your wonderful name. But who am I and who are my people that YOU ENABLE US to give so generously? Everything comes from You. We give You only what has come from Your hands.”
1 Chronicles 29:9-14 (GW)*