

The Most Abundant Life

Live Generously

Genesis 8:22 (NIV)

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

I. The Force of Giving

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

³⁸ 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 12:3-6 (NIV)

³ 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. . . . ⁵ **The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect**, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

Leviticus 22:17-20 (NIV)

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, ¹⁸ "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites and say to them: 'If any of you--either an Israelite or an alien living in Israel--presents a gift for a burnt offering to the LORD, either to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, ¹⁹ **you must present a male without defect from the cattle, sheep or goats in order that it may be accepted on your behalf.** ²⁰ Do not bring anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf.

B. Jesus, "the lamb of God"

Hebrews 9:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ 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)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? ³² 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?

C. Giving as Worship

Malachi 3:8-11 (NASB)

⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. ⁹ "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!* ¹⁰ "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. ¹¹ "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

II. Counsel RE: Money Matters

A. Generous

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)

²⁵ A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

B. Accumulate (true) Wealth

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they **will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age**, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

C. Wealth and Wisdom

Luke 16:9-13 (NASB)

⁹ "And I say to you, **make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness**, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰ "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. ¹¹ "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you? ¹² "And if you have not been faithful in *the use of* that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

D. Seek God & Receive

Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

III. Financial Ten Commandments

Just as there are Biblical principles for sexuality, marriage, forgiveness, etc. If you embrace God's principles . . . you reap Kingdom benefits. If you ignore God's principles you reap destruction.

There are many indications that we do not embrace Biblical principles re: the management of our resources.

A. Work Hard

B. ESTABLISH A PLAN

C. AVOID DEBT LIKE THE PLAGUE

D. DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WANTS AND NEEDS

E. DETERMINE WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your generous provision for my life. You have given generously that I may live abundantly. Forgive me for selfish ambition and greed. Today I offer myself as a living sacrifice. May the invitations of God be more real to me than the invitations of "this world". I choose to live for the glory of King. I lay down all anxiety and stress. My future is secure and my provision complete because I rest in the hands of the Creator of All Things. In Jesus' name, amen.