So why talk about money?

A. Because the BIBLE talks a lot about money.

B. Because many people are STRESSED over money.

C. Because if we don't CONTROL money, it will CONTROL us:

D. How we manage our money is a key INDICATOR of our spiritual health.

Matthew 6:21 *"For your heart will always be where your riches are." (GNT)*

Matthew 6:24 *"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." (NLT)*

THE FOUNDATION FOR MONEY MANAGEMENT

1. God OWNS EVERYTHING.

Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (NIV)*

Leviticus 25:23 *"The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in the land as foreigners and strangers." (NIV)*

Deuteronomy 10:14 *"To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it." (NIV)*

1 Chronicles 29:11 *"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours." (NIV)*

Psalms 24:1-2 *"[1] The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; [2] for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters." (NIV)*

Psalm 50:10-11 *"[10] … for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. [11] I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine." (NIV)*

Haggai 2:8 *"The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the Lord Almighty." (NIV)*

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 *"17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth …" (NIV)*

1 Chronicles 29:14-16 *"14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 15 We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 16 Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you." (NIV)*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *"19 … You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price …" (NIV)*

2. I am God's STEWARD of what He owns.

Genesis 1:27-31a *"27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beats on the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that He had made, and it was very good …" (NIV)*

Randy Alcorn, ***Giving Is the Good Life***:

"Simply put, a steward is someone an owner entrusts with the management of his assets. The steward's job is to handle the owner's asset with integrity, making sure to consult the owner about what he does with his owner's belongings." (pp156-157)

The Bible talks about a variety of things that we are to be stewards of:

(1) The EARTH

Genesis 1:28-29 *"[28] Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." [29] The God said, "Look! I have given you every-seed bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food." (NLT)*

(2) TIME

Psalm 90:12 *"Teach us to **realize the brevity of life**, so that we may grow in wisdom." (NLT)*

(3) My SPOUSE (relationships)

Proverbs 19:14 *"Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is **from** the Lord." (NIV)*

(4) CHILDREN

Psalm 127:3 *"Children are **a gift** from the Lord; they are a reward from Him." (NLT)*

(5) SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Peter 4:10 *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. **Use them well** to serve one another." (NLT)*

(6) THE GOSPEL – The good news about Jesus.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 *"[1] People should think of us as servants of Christ and **managers** who are **entrusted** with God's mysteries. [2] **Managers** are required to be **trustworthy**." (GWT)*

(7) PEOPLE

Titus 1:7a *"For the overseer must be above reproach as God's **steward** …" (NASB)*

(8) My BODY

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *"[19] Do you not know your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." (NIV)*

(9) MONEY

Luke 16:10-12 *"[10] Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. [11] So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? [12] And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own." (NIV)*

BOTTOM LINE: God OWNS EVERYTHING and He expects me to be a FAITHFUL MANAGER of the resources He allows me to use.

Ken Hemphill—*How would your life change if you agreed with God's Word about this fundamental truth of creation—that everything belongs to the Creator and was designed by Him to serve His kingdom purpose?*

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 *"[1] This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. [2] Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. [3] I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. [4] My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. [5] Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God." (NIV)*

Romans 14:12 *"… each of us will give an account of Himself to God." (NIV)*