

GOD AND MONEY



Learning to trust Him and be like Him

If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands.

You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

Deuteronomy 28: 1-13

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Matthew 6:24-27

'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 10: 6-8

1. God is a person of blessing. He wants you to know His blessings in your life.
2. He wants His children (us) to be a blessing towards others too.
3. In order for this to happen His way, we need to learn to trust Him and copy Him.
4. Money is one of the main areas of our lives where He wants to teach us this.

As we learn to trust Him, He wants to make us the head and not the tail...

Head

We do not worry about money

We know He will provide

We are content when we have much or little

We have learned to enjoy generosity

Tail

Money causes us lots of stress

It is all down to us to provide

We are never content - we always want more

Giving is difficult and painful

In the Bible there are two main kinds of giving. One is so we learn to trust Him and the other is to learn to be like Him:

Tithes: A 'first fruit', given straight away from our income, to the church. In the OT this was 10%. *This is about giving up control and learning trust.*

Offerings: Money we give out of a sense of thanksgiving, compassion or generosity to the poor, to missions, to projects, to others etc. Can be planned or spontaneous. *This is about copying our heavenly Father and learning the joy of generosity.*

1. Start to **give**
2. Start to **plan** what you give
3. Start to **tithe** what you earn
4. Start to **enjoy** giving hilariously with offerings

As you do this, you are learning to **trust God** and you are learning to **be like Him**. You will move into freedom - the head and not the tail.