

## **Accelerating Our Spiritual Growth, Part 6**

October 18, 2009 Pastor Bill Bump

If we are going to grow spiritually, we have to know how to manage our money.

Money is a tool.

We are to use money and we are to love people.

I Timothy 6:18 (NLT) Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them.

Money is a test.

It is a test of our faith, our priorities, and our values.

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

### **HABITS FOR FINANCIAL BLESSING**

#### **1. RECOGNIZE GOD AS MY PROVIDER**

Philippians 4:19 (NLT) And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

The bottom line in money management starts with: Who do I trust?

Psalm 24:1 (NLT) The earth is the Lord's and everything in it...

Romans 11:36 (NLT) For everything comes from him; everything exists by his power and is intended for his glory...

#### **2. GIVE GOD A TITHE**

God blesses whatever places him first.

Proverb 3:9-10 (LB) Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns...

Malachi 3:10 (NCV) "Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn...Test me in this," says the Lord. "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need."

Deuteronomy 14:23 (LB) "...The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives."

### 3. KEEP GOOD RECORDS

Proverb 27:23-24 (LB) Riches can disappear fast...so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flocks and your herds...

We can't deal with reality unless we are aware of reality.

Proverb 23:5 (LB) Riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird!

Proverb 23:23 (LB) Get the facts at any price, and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get.

Four facts we need to know:

- what I own
- what I own
- what I earn
- where it goes

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (you are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?