

MONEY & the HEART

YOU WERE MADE TO BE AN INVESTOR

- **YOU HAVE A TREASURE TO INVEST**
 - God has given you something, be it large or small
 - He has put it in your heart to spend this treasure on what you love
- **YOU CAN INVEST IT WISELY OR NOT:** Matthew 6:19-20 NLT - "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.
- **YOUR INVESTMENT ALIGNS YOUR HEART:** Matthew 6:21 NLT - Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
- **INVEST SUCH THAT IT ALIGNS YOUR HEART WITH GOD'S: IF YOU GIVE TOWARD THAT WHICH GOD LOVES, YOU WILL LOVE THAT WHICH GOD LOVES**

6 COUNTERFEITS of GODLY GIVING

These reasons for giving will malign your heart from God's

1) GOD NEEDS MY MONEY

- **YES, God wants us to give to Him:** Psalm 50:8 NLT - I have no complaint about your sacrifices or the burnt offerings you constantly offer.
- **BUT, God already owns it all!** Psalm 50:9-10 NLT - But I do not need the bulls from your barns or the goats from your pens. For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills.
- **INSTEAD, giving is a reflection of our gratitude and obedience toward God:** Psalm 50:14 NLT - Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God, and

keep the vows you made to the Most High.

- **TRUTH: God's heart is not lacking in anything**

2) THE CHURCH NEEDS MY MONEY

- **YES, we should give to the church:** 1 Corinthians 16:2 NLT - On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.
- **BUT, ministry is not dependent on money:** Philippians 4:16-17 NLT - Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.
- **INSTEAD, we give to be fellow partakers of the ministry:** Philippians 1:4-5 NLT - Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.
- **TRUTH: God's heart is not limited by money**

3) I AM REQUIRED TO GIVE

- **YES, we are encouraged to give:** Proverbs 3:9 NLT - Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.
- **BUT, giving is only accepted when it is done eagerly:** 2 Corinthians 8:12 NLT - Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.
- **INSTEAD, give because you want to:** 2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT - You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."
- **TRUTH: God's heart is not to force you love Him**

4) I WANT A FINANCIAL BLESSING IN RETURN

- **YES, God does offer this blessing:** Proverbs 3:9-10 NLT - Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.
- **BUT, desiring riches is harmful:** 1 Timothy 6:9 NLT - But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.
- **INSTEAD, use the blessing to continue generosity:** 2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT - And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.
- **TRUTH: God's heart is not for greed**

5) MONEY IS BAD FOR ME

- **YES, The love of money can cause problems:** 1 Timothy 6:10 NLT - For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.
- **BUT Getting rid of money won't help:** Colossians 2:23 NLT - These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.
- **INSTEAD, contentment is the antidote to greed:** Philippians 4:11-12 NLT - Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.
- **TRUTH: God's heart is not in fear of money**

6) I MUST APPEAR TO BE GENEROUS

- **YES, it is good to be generous:** Deuteronomy 15:8 NLT - Instead, be generous and lend them whatever they need.
- **BUT, giving for appearances sake is selfish:** Matthew 6:2 NLT - When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do--blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get.
- **INSTEAD, give out of love for others and for God:** Matthew 6:4 NLT - Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.
- **TRUTH: God's heart is not for arrogance**

6 WAYS TO GIVE LIKE GOD GIVES

LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES

- GOD HAS A HEART FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU: INVEST IN IT!
- GOD HAS A HEART FOR THE NEEDY: INVEST IN THEM!
- GOD HAS A HEART FOR THE GOSPEL: INVEST IN ITS PROCLAMATION!

LOVE LIKE GOD LOVES

- GOD HAS A HEART FOR PURE LOVE: INVEST ONLY OUT OF LOVE!
- GOD HAS A HEART THAT DOESN'T HOLD BACK: INVEST LAVISHLY!
- GOD HAS A HEART TO WORK WITH OTHERS: INVEST AS A TEAM!

REFLECTION:

- DO I LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES?
- DO MY INVESTMENTS REFLECT THIS?
- WILL I ASK GOD TO CHANGE MY