

## The Priority of Giving

### *The Life of Faith*

When it comes to a person's real nature, money is of first importance. Money is an exact index to a person's true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a person's character and how he handles money... "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." (Mark 6:24; Luke 16:13)

We are under the illusion, in our culture, that we own possessions, and because we've bought into this deception, possessions own us. Luke 12:15-21

1. We have been entrusted with God's possessions as stewards.  
(Matthew 25:13-30; Luke 12:40-48, 19:11-27)

A steward is someone entrusted with another's wealth or property and charged with the responsibility of managing it in the owner's best interest. A steward's primary goal is to be found faithful by his master as the steward uses the master's resources to accomplish the tasks delegated to him. (1 Cor. 4:2)

2. We are seek/invest in God's kingdom, reaping eternal rewards.  
(Luke 12:22-31, Matt. 6:19-33)
  - A. Proclaiming the gospel (Matthew 24:14, 28:18-20; Luke 4:17-19)
  - B. Providing for the poor (1 John 3:17, 1 Timothy 6:17-19)

If you have sufficient food, decent clothes, live in a home that shields you from the weather, and own some kind of reliable transportation, you are in the top 15% of the world's wealthy. If you add to this some savings, two cars, a variety of clothes, and your own house, you have reached the top 5%.

3. We are to give towards God's kingdom:
  - A. Generously & Cheerfully (2 Corinthians 8:1-4, 9:6-11)
  - B. Sacrificially & Secretly (Mark 12:38-44, Matt 6:1-4)

None of us can enthrone the true God unless in the process we dethrone our other gods. If Christ is not Lord over our money and possessions, then he is not our Lord. It is a matter of the heart; it is a matter of allegiance and devotion.

### **Resources**

*Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, by Randy Alcorn

*The Treasure Principle*, by Randy Alcorn

*The Law of Rewards*, by Randy Alcorn

*Fields of God*, by Andy Stanley

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