

# Biblical Principles for Stewardship and Fund-Raising

Christian leaders, including development staff, who believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and choose prayerfully to pursue eternal kingdom values (Mt. 6:19-21, 33), will seek to identify the sacred kingdom resources of God's economy within these parameters:

**1** God, the creator (*Gen. 1*) and sustainer of all things (*Col. 1:17*) and the One "who works within us to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine" (*Eph. 3:20*), is a God of infinite abundance (*Ps. 50:10-11*) and grace (*2 Cor. 9:8*).

**2** Acknowledging the primacy of the Gospel (*Rom. 1:16*) as our chief treasure (*Mt. 13:44*), Christians are called to lives of stewardship, as managers of all that God has entrusted to them (*1 Cor. 4:1-2*).

**3** A Christian's attitude toward possessions on earth is important to God (*Mt. 6:24*), and there is a vital link between how believers utilize earthly possessions (as investments in God's kingdom) and the eternal rewards that believers receive (*Phil. 4:17*).

**4** God entrusts possessions to Christians and holds them accountable for their use, as a tool to grow God's eternal kingdom, as a test of the believer's faithfulness to God, and as a trademark that their lives reflect Christ's values (*Lk. 16:1-9*).

**5** From God's abounding grace, Christians' giving reflects their gratitude for what God has provided and involves growing in an intimate faith relationship with Christ as Lord of their lives (*Mk. 12:41-44*).

**6** Because giving is a worshipful, obedient act of returning to God from what has been provided (*1 Chron. 29:10-14*), Christian fund-raisers should hold a conviction that, in partnership with the church, they have an important role in the spiritual maturation of believers (*Jas. 3:1*).

**7** The primary role of Christian fund-raisers is to advance and facilitate a believer's faith in and worship of God through a Christ-centered understanding of stewardship that is solidly grounded on Scripture (*2 Tim. 3:16*).

**8** Recognizing it is the work of the Holy Spirit that prompts Christians to give (*Jn. 15:4-5*), often through fund-raising techniques (*2 Cor. 9:5-7, Heb. 1:4-11*), fund-raisers and/or organizations must never manipulate or violate their sacred trust with ministry partners.

**9** An eternal, God-centered worldview promotes cooperation rather than competition among organizations, and places the giver's relationship to God above the ministry's agenda (*2 Cor. 4:16-18*).

**10** In our materialistic, self-centered culture, Christian leaders should acknowledge that there is a great deal of unclear thinking about possessions, even among believers, and that an eternal kingdom perspective will often seem like foolish nonsense (*1 Cor. 2:14*) to those who rely on earthly kingdom worldview techniques (*1 Cor. 2:1-5*).

*When these principles are implemented that rely on God changing hearts more than on human methods, the resulting joy-filled generosity of believers will fully fund God's work here on earth (Ex. 36:6-7, Mt. 6:10).*



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