



Special topic:
Mom, Money, and Ministry



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(1926-~~2001~~) 2021**



My Mother's "Virtuous Circle":

Giving → Blessings → Giving → Blessings

God Blesses the Generous

- ⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

(2 Corinthians 9:6)

A Family Legacy of Giving

- My grandfather: gave away milk to families with children during the Great Depression
- My mother helped a large, poor farming family at our church for years
- Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6)

My Mother's Unspoken Philosophy of Life:

Give More

“Stewardship” vs. “Ownership”

- We don't “own” anything: it ALL belongs to God. We are just the managers of what he has put into our care

What we spend our money on reflects what we truly value

- ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Matthew 6:21 ESV)

- If you want to know what is really important to someone, look at their checkbook.

--Larry Burkett (1939-2003), Christian Financial Counselor

Invest in Eternity

- ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20)

Giving Does Not Create a Shortage

- “Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing” (Psalm 34:10b ESV)
- One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. (Proverbs 11:24 ESV)

How Much to Give? The “Cheerful Giver”

- ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

How Much to Give? Tithing as the Goal

- After Abraham rescues his nephew Lot, he gives 10% of the spoils of war to the priest Melchizedek: “And Abram gave him a tenth of everything” (Genesis 14:20)

Giving: a Continuum

- Minimal giving: tossing in a little money every now and then
- A full “tithe”: giving 10% of your before-tax income to the local congregation (as God’s “storehouse”); in addition, giving “offerings” for special needs and projects
- Most people are somewhere in between these two points

Giving: a Diagnostic

- Do you know how much you are giving now? In dollars? In %?
- Be systematic: budget a set amount per week or month to give to the local congregation
- That amount is what percentage of your . . .
 - Gross (before tax) income?
 - Net (after tax) income?
 - Retirement income?

Giving: Some Goals

- How much (in dollars and/or percentage) do you currently give to your local congregation?
- How much (in dollars and/or percentage) do you currently give to charitable organizations and special needs?
- How much more would you need to add to give 1% more? 2% more? 5% more? (Throw in a number)

Sacrificial Giving

- What “wants” are you willing to give up so that others’ “needs” are met?



Sacrificial Giving

- How does it initially feel when you give sacrificially?
- How does God bless you spiritually when you give up what you thought you “needed” but really don’t?
- How does more “stuff” get in the way of you spending quality time with God and others?

God Works in Mysterious Ways

- How we paid the rent when we lost our jobs . . .
- What “testimony” (experiences) of God’s supernatural provisions can you share with others to help build up their faith (and yours)?

God Blesses Those Who are Obedient

- Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine. (Proverbs 3:9)

The “Cheerful Giver”

- Cast thy bread upon the waters,
for thou shalt find it after many days (Ecclesiastes 11:1 KJV)

Let Us Pray

