Honor God By Using His Resources Wisely

Is tithing still relevant for Christians today or is it an outdated practice from the Old Testament? Does God really want us to "give until it hurts"? As Christians, we wrestle with questions like these as we try to discern what it means to live faithfully with our finances. The Bible teaches us that everything we have belongs to God. So, as stewards of God's resources, let's study Scripture together to better understand biblical stewardship and what this means for how we handle the money and possessions we have in this life. We'll also dig into the meaning and purpose of the Christian practice of tithing and look at what it realistically means for us today. Together, we'll cultivate a spirit of generosity in our lives while also considering what good balance looks like so that we might use God's resources wisely to honor his heart.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What lessons have you learned about money from your family, financial experts, and the Bible?
- How would you explain what it means to be a steward?



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READ <u>1 Timothy 6:17-19</u>, <u>Luke 12:13-21</u>, <u>Philippians 4:11-13</u>, <u>Leviticus 27:30</u>, <u>Numbers 18:25-28</u>, <u>2</u> Corinthians 9:6-8

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reflect on the parable discussed in segment 1. How can we steward our souls by stewarding our possessions?
- In what situations do you need God's Spirit to help you cultivate contentment? Reread Paul's words in <u>Philippians 4</u> for inspiration and spend time in prayer, asking Christ to strengthen you.
- What has been your practice regarding tithing and why? What have you learned from today's episode, and has anything changed for you?
- What are you tempted to make an idol out of in your life? What do you think the signs of greed would look like in your relationships and how you manage your possessions and finances?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Psalm 24:1, Matthew 16:24-28, Genesis 4, Proverbs 3.9, Proverbs 11:15,

CONCLUSION

Would you call yourself a "cheerful giver"? If so, what made that possible? If not, consider host Darrell Delaney's guidance from segment 2:

- First, take stock of what God has done for you by reflecting back on your life, from childhood to now. What are you grateful for? Spend time in prayer thanking God for those gifts.
- Second, think of someone you'd like to bless, allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you in that decision. It doesn't need to be a big thing (unless God leads you to it). Be sure to make a plan for how you'll do it and then do it!
- Repeat this practice regularly throughout the year.

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