

GOD'S PLAN



WHY THE CHURCH?

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR THE
FULL SERMON



WEEK 9

THE CHURCH AND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

This powerful exploration of 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 challenges us to examine our relationship with money and material possessions through a spiritual lens. We discover that financial stewardship isn't merely about budgets and percentages—it's fundamentally an act of worship that reveals the true condition of our hearts. The message unpacks four essential principles for godly giving: Priority (making our offerings first, not leftovers), Personal (each of us participating regardless of our economic status), Planned (intentionally setting aside resources before we spend), and Proportionate (giving in relationship to how God has blessed us). What makes this teaching particularly compelling is the historical context—early believers in Jerusalem facing famine and hardship, with Gentile churches stepping up to help their Jewish brothers and sisters. This wasn't socialism but Christianity in action: not 'what's yours is mine' but 'what's mine is yours.' We're reminded that our jobs, abilities, and income aren't random—they're divine appointments that connect us to kingdom purposes far beyond our immediate circumstances. The engineer, teacher, nurse, or claims adjuster who faithfully gives is funding gospel work in places they may never visit, supporting missionaries they may never meet. As Matthew 6:21 reminds us, where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. This message calls us to honest reflection: Are we owners or managers? Are we storing up treasures on earth or in heaven?

DAY 1: Priority - Putting God First

Reading:

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honor the Lord from your wealth
And from the first of all your produce;
10 So your barns will be filled with plenty
And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Matthew 6:19-21

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Devotional:

When we honor the Lord from our wealth and give Him the first of all our produce, we acknowledge His lordship over every area of our lives. The challenge isn't whether God deserves first place—it's whether our hearts truly believe He belongs there. Notice that the passage promises filled barns and overflowing vats, but the greater blessing is a heart aligned with eternity. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. This week, examine what receives your "first"—your first thoughts, first energy, first resources. Is God receiving your leftovers or your best? True stewardship begins when we recognize that everything we have is already His, and giving back to Him is simply an act of worship and acknowledgment of His ownership.

DAY 2: Personal – Each One Matters**Reading:****2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

1 Samuel 30:21-25

21 When David came to the two hundred men who were too exhausted to follow David, who had also been left at the brook Besor, and they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him, then David approached the people and greeted them. 22 Then all the wicked and worthless men among those who went with David said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away and depart." 23 Then David said, "You must not do so, my brothers, with what the Lord has given us, who has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us. 24 And who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike." 25 So it has been from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

Devotional:

God's economy operates differently than the world's. Whether you're on the frontlines of ministry or guarding the supplies at home, your contribution matters equally in His kingdom. The principle is clear: each one of you must give as you have purposed in your heart. This isn't about comparing your gift to another's—it's about your personal obedience to what God has asked of you. The widow's two small coins meant more than the wealthy man's abundance because she gave from a surrendered heart. God doesn't need your money; He desires your heart. When you give cheerfully, not grudgingly or under compulsion, you demonstrate trust in His provision. Today, ask yourself: Is my giving a personal act of worship, or merely an obligation?

DAY 3: Planned – Intentional Stewardship

Reading:

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Luke 14:28-30

28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Devotional:

"On the first day of every week, each one of you is to put aside and save." Notice the intentionality in Paul's instruction. Faithful stewardship requires planning, not haphazard giving from whatever remains. Jesus taught about counting the cost before building—the same wisdom applies to our financial lives. When we fail to plan, we often find ourselves with nothing left to give, not because we lack resources, but because we lack direction. Creating a budget that honors God first isn't restrictive; it's liberating. It frees you from financial anxiety and positions you to be generous when opportunities arise. This week, take time to track where your money goes. You might be surprised to discover how much disappears without purpose. Intentional planning allows you to align your spending with your values and God's priorities.

DAY 4: Proportionate – Growing in Generosity

Reading:

Malachi 3:10-11

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. 11 Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the Lord of hosts.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

1 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, 5 and this, not as we had [d]expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

Devotional:

"Test me in this," says the Lord—the only place in Scripture where God invites us to test Him. The principle of proportionate giving challenges us to grow in generosity as God increases our portion. Too often, increased income leads only to increased lifestyle rather than increased kingdom impact. The Macedonian churches gave beyond their ability from their extreme poverty because they first gave themselves to the Lord. That's the key: when your heart belongs fully to God, your wallet follows. The tithe—giving a tenth—isn't merely an Old Testament law; it's a grace-filled starting point that

acknowledges God's provision. But grace should make us more generous, not less. As God prospers you, are you keeping the same proportion or allowing lifestyle inflation to consume His blessings? Consider today: what would sacrificial generosity look like in your current season?

DAY 5: Pure – Handling Resources with Integrity

Reading:

2 Corinthians 8:20-21

20 taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; 21 for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Acts 24:16-17

16 In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men. 17 Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings;

Devotional:

Paul took extraordinary precautions in handling the Jerusalem offering because he understood that financial integrity protects the gospel's reputation. "We have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." How we handle money—both personally and corporately—serves as a witness to the watching world. This applies to church leadership maintaining transparency and accountability, but it also applies to individual believers. Do you pay your bills on time? Are you honest in your business dealings? Do you fulfill financial commitments? Integrity in the small things builds credibility for the big things. Paul could stand before authorities and declare he brought exactly what he promised because his conscience was blameless before God and men. As you close this devotional journey, commit to handling all your resources—time, talents, and treasures—with honesty and integrity that honors Christ and draws others to Him.