

Making Money & Giving Money

You own nothing and God owns everything. Whatever you have, God allowed you to accumulate. But when you die, how much of your money will you leave behind? All of it! When you die, how much of your money will you take with you? None of it!

Ultimately you don't own anything. You won't take your new BMW with you. You can't take diamond rings and precious jewelry with you. Neither can you take your house. You won't take any of the possessions you have managed to accumulate here on earth. You won't even take your body because you don't own even that. When your spirit leaves your body, it will return to dust.

God gives you the ability earn. Your heavenly Father allows you to possess certain things, but mere possession is not ownership. Those things you possess can be taken from you in an instant. The scores of dishonest accounting firms and corrupt corporate CEOs of our day have seen to that. Billions of honest dollars invested by millions of wage earners have disappeared. Wage earners have seen their retirement savings disappear in a matter of months. You can possess, but it is God who owns. You may earn a living, but God is the one who gives you the power to get wealth.

Let's note what Scriptures say about just how much you really own:

But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

Deuteronomy 8:18

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Psalm 24:1

For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine.

Psalm 50:10-11

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 100:3

For every living soul belongs to me.

Ezekiel 18:4

“The silver is mine and the gold is mine,” declares the LORD Almighty.
Haggai 2:8

For in him we live and move and have our being.
Acts 17:28

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.
Romans 12:1

Because we are not our own, we should dedicate to God all that we are, all that we own, and all that we will ever be. You are God’s, so all you have belongs to Him, including your business. You simply manage your possessions for Him. When everything you have belongs to God, it takes all the pressure off you.

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.
1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Let’s say you are a farmer and your farm belongs to God. If the weather is dry and it doesn’t rain, you don’t have to worry about it because it belongs to God. If your business is dedicated to God, it becomes His problem, not yours.

The apostle Paul realized that although everything in the universe belongs to God, if we team up with Him, He allows us to keep some of everything He brings about. Paul said the soldiers in the army do not pay for their own expenses. The farmer who harvests the crop has a right to eat some of it. The one who plants the vineyard gets to enjoy some of its fruit.

In business when you associate with God, He will not only bless it, but will also let you enjoy prosperity. But there is a caution not to keep everything for yourself. Instead of trying to figure out how little we can give to God, try giving it all to Him and ask Him how much you should keep.

Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not

have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops.
Malachi 3:8-11

One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. A liberal man will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.
Proverbs 11:24-25 RSV

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.
James 1:16-17