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According to 1 Timothy 6, it is very easy to fall into the snare of desiring wealth. Extremes of the popular “prosperity gospel” shroud this desire with God’s Word and see the Holy Spirit as a power for personal gain. It teaches that our words, aligned with arbitrary promises in God’s Word, produces whatever we desire. The flow of blessings is predominantly *to us* rather than *through us*.

1 Timothy 6:3-12, 17-19 ...Now godliness with contentment is great gain... But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows...

Biblical Principles | The Bible talks about God as the Owner of all there is and that we honor Him first with our possessions. We are to be wise stewards of what He has given.

1. God is the Owner of all things.

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.* (Also Haggai 2:8; Psalm 50:10; 1 Chronicles 29:12)

- We are the manager (steward) over what He has given us. Stewardship deals with the person, not the purse.
- *Q: Does your life reflect this principle?*

2. Honor our Heavenly Father with the First and the best.

Proverbs 3:9-10 *Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the Firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.* (Also Malachi 3:10-12; Matthew 6:33)

- When we give God the “Firstfruits,” or first ten percent, we are honoring Him in word and in action.
- [Click here to read the online article on our blog.](#)
- *Q: According to Malachi 3:10-12, what has God promised when we obey the principle of the Tithe?*

3. Giving to God, even when it's difficult, increases my faith.

Matthew 17:20 *I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*
(Also 2 Corinthians 9:10-11)

- By using our "mustard seed" faith, we grow and experience God's promises of provision.
- *Q: A mustard seed has to break out of its tiny shell to become a fruit bearing tree. What must you do to break out of the confines of your fear to grow to spiritual maturity?*

4. Am I a river or a reservoir?

Genesis 12:1-3 *...I will bless you... and you shall be a blessing.*

- We must be a river of resources, not a reservoir or simply a container. God will continue to give to us what He knows will flow through us. The issue is generosity.
- *Q: Does it require more faith to accumulate or release? Why?*

5. I will sow my physical and spiritual resources wisely.

2 Corinthians 9:6 *Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows generously that blessings may come to others will also reap generously and be blessed.* (Also Luke 8:15, the good soil)

- Understand sowing and reaping: We reap what we sow (Galatians 6:9). We reap in a different season (Genesis 8:22). We reap in multiples (2 Corinthians 9:8-11). We overcome a bad harvest by sowing new seed (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- *Q: What are you sowing today for a harvest tomorrow?*

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Heavenly Father, thank You for Your great love! Your Word states that if I seek You first in life, You will provide the things I need! Forgive me of my fear. I desire to be a faithful steward over the things You have entrusted to me. Fill me with Your Spirit and enable me to live by these Biblical principles and to be a blessing to others. Amen.