

## A FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH: GOD IS GOOD!

Pray with us this week as we ask God to:

- Guide our steps
- Give us wisdom
- Be with us each day
- Teach us to live by faith
- Protect and keep us from harm and evil
- Do for us what we cannot do for ourselves

**GOD IS GOOD** and freely gives abundant blessings! This idea expresses deep theological truths about money and possessions which are captured in the following three points:

## **God Owns Everything**

God is the creator of all that exists (Genesis 1:1), and he retains ownership of his creation (Leviticus 25:23). The psalmist emphasizes this by saying, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). Not a molecule of this world really belongs to us. This explains why we bring nothing into this world and take nothing with us when we leave – not even our bodies! Everything belongs to God; not just a portion, not just a tithe or a tenth – but everything! As David said, "O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name! But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!" (1 Chronicles 29:13-14).

## We Are Stewards

At creation, God made human beings responsible for His creation: "Let us make man in our image...and let them rule...over all the earth" (Genesis 1:26). And in the parable of Matthew 25:1-23, Jesus made clear that whether God has given individuals large gifts or small gifts, he expects us to use them for his glory. "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!"

## Money and Possessions are a Powerful Temptation

Jesus said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." (Luke 12:15). Later He said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" (Luke 18:24). Paul also warned us on this point: "But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are

trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows." (1 Tim. 6: 9-10).

As we move through our Ministry Investment Campaign, consider the idea that the things we think of as ours really belong to God; we have just been given temporary use of them. Let's use them wisely, with the fundamental awareness that God is Good. Then watch as God provides opportunities, supplies your needs, gives to you in abundance, and keeps you from harm and evil.

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