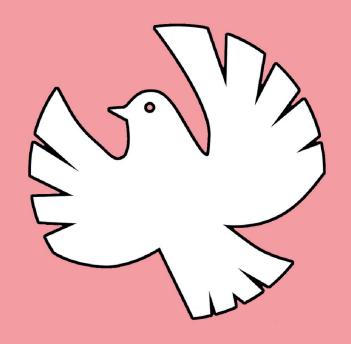
STEWARDSHIP



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31 Bible cards about SOWING & REAPING

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Elijah Visits a Widow in Sidonian Territory

Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As certainly as the Lord God of Israel lives (whom I serve), there will be no dew or rain in the years ahead unless I give the command." The Lord told him: "Leave here and travel eastward. Hide out in the Kerith Valley near the Jordan. Drink from the stream; I have already told the ravens to bring you food there." So he did as the Lord told him; he went and lived in the Kerith Valley near the Jordan. The ravens would bring him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he would drink from the stream.

After a while, the stream dried up because there had been no rain in the land. The Lord told him, "Get up, go to Zarephath in Sidonian territory, and live there. I have already told a widow who lives there to provide for you." So he got up and went to Zarephath. When he went through the city gate, there was a widow gathering wood. He called out to her, "Please give me a cup of water, so I can take a drink." As she went to get it, he called out to her, "Please bring me a piece of bread." She said, "As certainly as the Lord your God lives, I have no food, except for a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. Right now I am gathering a couple of sticks for a fire. Then I'm going home to make one final meal for my son and myself. After we have eaten that, we will die of starvation." Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go and do as you planned. But first make a small cake for me and bring it to me; then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord God of Israel says, 'The jar of flour will not be empty and the jug of oil will not run out until the day the Lord makes it rain on the surface of the ground.'" She went and did as Elijah told her; there was always enough food for Elijah and for her and her family. The jar of flour was never empty and the jug of oil never ran out, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

If you have a willing attitude and obey, then you will again eat the good crops of the land.

"Since, I, the Lord, do not go back on my promises, you, sons of Jacob, have not perished. From the days of your ancestors you have ignored my commandments and have not kept them! Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord who rules over all. "But you say, 'How should we return?' Can a person rob God? You indeed are robbing me, but you say, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and contributions! You are bound for judgment because you are robbing me - this whole nation is guilty.

"Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple. Test me in this matter," says the Lord who rules over all, "to see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until there is no room for it all. Then I will stop the plague from ruining your crops, and the vine will not lose its fruit before harvest," says the Lord who rules over all. "All nations will call you happy, for you indeed will live in a delightful land," says the Lord who rules over all.

Mal 3:6-12

For victory does not come from the east or west, or from the wilderness.

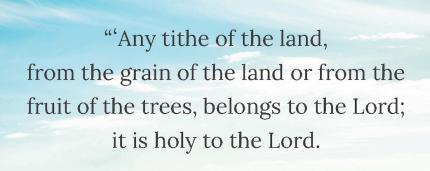
For God is the judge!

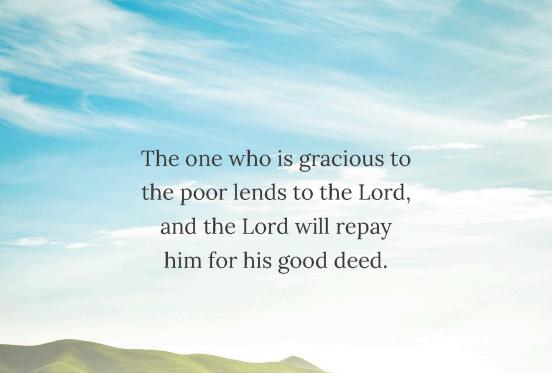
He brings one down and exalts another.

Elders who provide effective leadership must be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching.

For the scripture says,

"Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the
grain," and, "The worker deserves his pay."





The Lord bestows favor and honor; he withholds no good thing from those who have integrity.

For who concedes you any superiority?
What do you have that you did not receive?
And if you received it, why do you boast as though you did not?

A person's gift makes room for him, and leads him before important people. Pro 18:16

Do not withhold good from those who need it,
when you have the ability to help.
Do not say to your neighbor,
"Go! Return tomorrow
and I will give it," when you have
it with you at the time.

Now the one who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with the one who teaches it. Do not be deceived. God will not be made a fool. For a person will reap what he sows, because the person who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So we must not grow weary in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the family of faith.

Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled completely, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

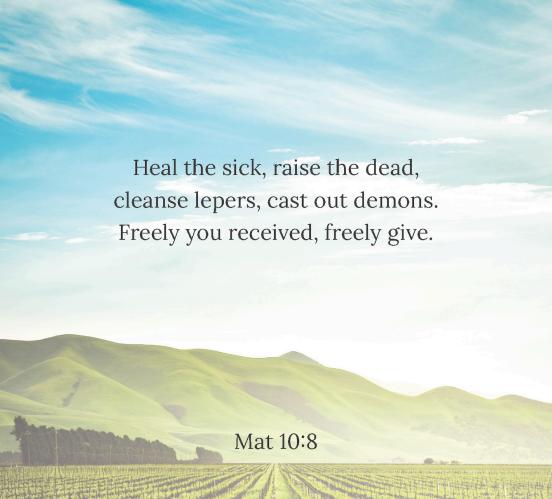
Send your grain overseas,
for after many days you will get a return.
Divide your merchandise among seven
or even eight investments,
for you do not know what calamity
may happen on earth.

Sow your seed in the morning, and do not stop working until the evening; for you do not know which activity will succeed - whether this one or that one, or whether both will prosper equally. Give, and it will be given to you: A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use will be the measure you receive."

Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.



Many people entreat the favor of a generous person, and everyone is the friend of the person who gives gifts.



By all these things, I have shown you that by working in this way we must help the weak, and remember the words of the Lord Jesus that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Praise the Lord!

How blessed is the one who obeys the Lord, who takes great delight in keeping his commands. His descendants will be powerful on the earth; the godly will be blessed. His house contains wealth and riches; his integrity endures.

I walk in the path of righteousness, in the pathway of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, and that I may fill their treasuries.

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn, yet God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than the birds!

And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple, I tell you the truth, he will never lose his reward."

For I tell you the truth, whoever gives you a cup of water because you bear Christ's name will never lose his reward.



My point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work. Just as it is written, "He has scattered widely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness remains forever." Now God who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your supply of seed and will cause the harvest of your righteousness to grow. You will be enriched in every way so that you may be generous on every occasion, which is producing through us thanksgiving to God, because the service of this ministry is not only providing for the needs of the saints but is also overflowing with many thanks to God. Through the evidence of this service they will glorify God because of your obedience to your confession in the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your sharing with them and with everyone. And in their prayers on your behalf they long for you because of the extraordinary grace God has shown to you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Affliction and distress

He will reward each one according to his works:

eternal life to those who by perseverance
in good works seek glory and honor and
immortality, but wrath and anger to those who
live in selfish ambition and do not obey the
truth but follow unrighteousness. There will be
affliction and distress on everyone who does
evil, on the Jew first and also the Greek,

Glory and honour

but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, for the Jew first and also the Greek. Those who shed tears as they plant
will shout for joy when they reap the
harvest. The one who weeps as he walks
along, carrying his bag of seed, will certainly
come in with a shout of joy, carrying his
sheaves of grain.

31 Bible Cards about GIVING GIFTS

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The one who is gracious to the poor lends to the Lord, and the Lord will repay him for his good deed. One person is generous and yet grows more wealthy, but another withholds more than he should and comes to poverty.

A generous person will be enriched, and the one who provides water for others will himself be satisfied.

Proverbs 11:24-25

"Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple. Test me in this matter," says the Lord who rules over all,

"to see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until there is no room for it all.

Malachi 3:10

Send your grain overseas,
for after many days you will get a return.
Divide your merchandise among seven
or even eight investments,
for you do not know what calamity
may happen on earth.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

Give, and it will be given to you:

A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over, will be
poured into your lap.

For the measure you use will be the measure you receive.

Luke 6:38

He generously gives to the needy; his integrity endures.
He will be vindicated and honored.

A person's gift makes room for him, and leads him before important people.

And the king will answer them,
'I tell you the truth, just as you
did it for one of the least of these
brothers or sisters of mine, you
did it for me.'

Matthew 25:40

For I do not say this so there would be relief for others and suffering for you, but as a matter of equality. At the present time, your abundance will meet their need, so that one day their abundance may also meet your need, and thus there may be equality, as it is written:

"The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

2 Corinthians 8:13-15

So we must not grow weary in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not give up.

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the family of faith.

Galatians 6:9-10

You will be enriched in every way so that you may be generous on every occasion, which is producing through us thanksgiving to God, because the service of this ministry is not only providing for the needs of the saints but is also overflowing with many thanks to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12

Now God who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your supply of seed and will cause the harvest of your righteousness to grow.

2 Corinthians 9:10

My point is this:

The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work.

Just as it is written,

"He has scattered widely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness remains forever."

2 Corinthians 9:8-9

Now we make known to you, brothers and sisters, the grace of God given to the churches of Macedonia, that during a severe ordeal of suffering, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in the wealth of their generosity. For I testify, they gave according to their means and beyond their means. They did so voluntarily, begging us with great earnestness for the blessing and fellowship of helping the saints. And they did this not just as we had hoped, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us by the will of God. Thus we urged Titus that, just as he had previously begun this work, so also he should complete this act of kindness for you.

2 Corinthians 8:1-6

But as you excel in everything

in faith, in speech, in knowledge, and in all eagerness and in the love from us that is in you

make sure that you excel in this act of kindness too.

2 Corinthians 8:7-8

For if the eagerness is present, the gift itself is acceptable according to whatever one has, not according to what he does not have.

2 Corinthians 8:12

Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

For by the standard you judge you will be judged,

and the measure you use will be the measure you receive.

Matthew 7:1-2

Through the evidence of this service they will glorify God because of your obedience to your confession in the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your sharing with them and with everyone. And in their prayers on your behalf they long for you because of the extraordinary grace God has shown to you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:13-15

Contribute to the needs of the saints, pursue hospitality.

Do not withhold good from those who need it, when you have the ability to help.

Do not say to your neighbor, "Go! Return tomorrow and I will give it," when you have it with you at the time.

Proverbs 3:27-28

Sow your seed in the morning, and do not stop working until the evening; for you do not know which activity will succeed – whether this one or that one, or whether both will prosper equally.

Ecclesiastes 11:6

If the clouds are full of rain,
they will empty themselves on the earth,
and whether a tree falls to the south or to the
north, the tree will lie wherever it falls. He who
watches the wind will not sow, and he who
observes the clouds will not reap.

Ecclesiastes 11:3-4

because you know that each person,
whether slave or free,
if he does something good,
this will be rewarded by the Lord.

By all these things, I have shown you that by working in this way we must help the weak, and remember the words of the Lord Jesus that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.

And whoever gives only
a cup of cold water to one of these
little ones in the name of a disciple,
I tell you the truth, he will never
lose his reward.

Matthew 10:42

Those who shed tears as they plant will shout for joy when they reap the harvest.

The one who weeps as he walks along, carrying his bag of seed, will certainly come in with a shout of joy, carrying his sheaves of grain.

And we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If the gift is prophecy, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith. If it is service, he must serve; if it is teaching, he must teach; if it is exhortation, he must exhort; if it is contributing, he must do so with sincerity; if it is leadership, he must do so with diligence; if it is showing mercy, he must do so with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:6-8

The one who steals must steal no longer; rather he must labor, doing good with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with the one who has need.

If we sowed spiritual blessings among you, is it too much to reap material things from you?

If others receive this right from you, are we not more deserving?

But we have not made use of this right.

Instead we endure everything so that we may not be a hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:11-12

But all the evil and worthless men among those who had gone with David said, "Since they didn't go with us, we won't give them any of the loot we retrieved! They may take only their wives and children. Let them lead them away and be gone!"

But David said, "No! You shouldn't do this, my brothers. Look at what the Lord has given us! He has protected us and has delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us. Who will listen to you in this matter? The portion of the one who went down into the battle will be the same as the portion of the one who remained with the equipment! Let their portions be the same!"

From that time onward it was a binding ordinance for Israel, right up to the present time.

1 Samuel 30:22-25

31 Bible cards about WORK

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Whatever you are doing, work at it with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not for people, because you know that you will receive your inheritance from the Lord as the reward. Serve the Lord Christ.



Commit your works to the LORD, and your plans will be established.



Everything you do should be done in love.



So then, dear brothers and sisters, be firm.

Do not be moved! Always be outstanding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.



The blessing from the LORD makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow to it.



The diligent person will rule, but the slothful will become a slave.



And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



Wealth gained quickly will dwindle away, but the one who gathers it little by little will become rich.



And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work.



I have concluded that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to enjoy themselves as long as they live, and also that everyone should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all his toil, for these things are a gift from God.



May our sovereign God
extend his favor to us!

Make our endeavors successful!

Yes, make them successful!



Watch out, so that you do not lose the things we have worked for, but receive a full reward.



In all hard work there is profit, but merely talking about it only brings poverty.



Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately.



Look at the birds in the sky:
They do not sow, or reap, or gather into
barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Aren't you more valuable than they are?



To every man whom God has given wealth, and possessions, he has also given him the ability to eat from them, to receive his reward and to find enjoyment in his toil; these things are the gift of God.

For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good?



I have seen personally what is the only beneficial and appropriate course of action for people: to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all their hard work on earth during the few days of their life which God has given them, for this is their reward.



Then I considered all the skillful work that is done:
Surely it is nothing more than competition between one person and another. This also is profitless - like chasing the wind.



But I do not consider my life worth anything to myself, so that I may finish my task and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace.



Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.



For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name, in having served and continuing to serve the saints.



I tell you the solemn truth, the person who believes in me will perform the miraculous deeds that I am doing, and will perform greater deeds than these, because I am going to the Father.



Slaves are to be subject to their own masters in everything, to do what is wanted and not talk back, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, in order to bring credit to the teaching of God our Savior in everything.



Consequently a Sabbath rest remains for the people of God. For the one who enters God's rest has also rested from his works, just as God did from his own works.



The one who steals must steal no longer; rather he must labor, doing good with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with the one who has need



Do not work for the food that disappears, but for the food that remains to eternal life the food which the Son of Man will give to you. For God the Father has put his seal of approval on him."



Let each one examine his own work.

Then he can take pride in himself and not compare himself with someone else.

For each one will carry his own load.



The one who works his field will have plenty of food, but whoever chases daydreams lacks wisdom.



The appetite of the sluggard craves but gets nothing, but the desire of the diligent will be abundantly satisfied.



I am able to do all things through the one who strengthens me.



31 Bible cards about MONEY

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New perspective

6 Now godliness combined with contentment brings great profit. For we have brought nothing into this world and so we cannot take a single thing out either. But if we have food and shelter, we will be satisfied with that. Those who long to be rich, however, stumble into temptation and a trap and many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils. Some people in reaching for it have strayed from the faith and stabbed themselves with many pains.

17 Command those who are rich in this world's goods not to be haughty or to set their hope on riches, which are uncertain, but on God who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment.

Treasures in heaven

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Either... Or...

Remove falsehood and lies far from me;
do not give me poverty or riches,
feed me with my allotted portion of bread,
lest I become satisfied and act deceptively
and say, "Who is the LORD?"
Or lest I become poor and steal
and demean the name of my God.

Forget not!

Be sure you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments, ordinances, and statutes that I am giving you today. When you eat your fill, when you build and occupy good houses, when your cattle and flocks increase, when you have plenty of silver and gold, and when you have abundance of everything, be sure you do not feel self-important and forget the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, the place of slavery, and who brought you through the great, fearful desert of venomous serpents and scorpions, an arid place with no water. He made water flow from a flint rock and fed you in the desert with manna (which your ancestors had never before known) so that he might by humbling you test you and eventually bring good to you. Be careful not to say, "My own ability and skill have gotten me this wealth." You must remember the LORD your God, for he is the one who gives ability to get wealth; if you do this he will confirm his covenant that he made by oath to your ancestors, even as he has to this day. Now if you forget the LORD your God at all and follow other gods, worshiping and prostrating yourselves before them, I testify to you today that you will surely be annihilated. Just like the nations the LORD is about to destroy from your sight, so he will do to you because you would not obey him.

Never enough?

5:9 The one who loves money will never be satisfied with money, he who loves wealth will never be satisfied with his income. This also is futile.

5:14 Just as he came forth from his mother's womb, naked will he return as he came, and he will take nothing in his hand that he may carry away from his toil.

Satisfied and safe

Your conduct must be free from the love of money and you must be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you and I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

"I am rich"

Because you say, "I am rich and have acquired great wealth, and need nothing," but do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked, take my advice and buy gold from me refined by fire so you can become rich! Buy from me white clothing so you can be clothed and your shameful nakedness will not be exposed, and buy eye salve to put on your eyes so you can see! All those I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent! Listen! I am standing at the door and knocking! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into his home and share a meal with him, and he with me.

Wise servants

And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Sexual immorality and greed

But among you there must not be either sexual immorality, impurity of any kind, or greed, as these are not fitting for the saints. Neither should there be vulgar speech, foolish talk, or coarse jesting – all of which are out of character – but rather thanksgiving. For you can be confident of this one thing: that no person who is immoral, impure, or greedy (such a person is an idolater) has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Honor the LORD

Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled completely, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

The Parable of the Rich Landowner

Then someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But Jesus said to him. "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator between you two?" Then he said to them, "Watch out and guard yourself from all types of greed, because one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." He then told them a parable: "The land of a certain rich man produced an abundant crop, so he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to myself, "You have plenty of goods stored up for many years; relax, eat, drink, celebrate!" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded back from you, but who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' So it is with the one who stores up riches for himself, but is not rich toward God."

Test me in this matter

Can a person rob God? You indeed are robbing me, but you say, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and contributions! You are bound for judgment because you are robbing me - this whole nation is guilty. "Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple. Test me in this matter," says the LORD who rules over all, "to see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until there is no room for it all. Then I will stop the plague from ruining your crops, and the vine will not lose its fruit before harvest," says the LORD who rules over all. "All nations will call you happy, for you indeed will live in a delightful land," says the LORD who rules over all.

"But woe to you Pharisees!
You give a tenth of your mint, rue,
and every herb, yet you neglect justice
and love for God! But you should have done
these things without neglecting the others.

Origins of the tithe

Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (Now he was the priest of the Most High God.) He blessed Abram, saying,

"Blessed be Abram by the Most High God, Creator of heaven and earth. Worthy of praise is the Most High God, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

Abrahams promise

And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised, so that he would become the father of all those who believe but have never been circumcised, that they too could have righteousness credited to them. And he is also the father of the circumcised, who are not only circumcised, but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham possessed when he was still uncircumcised. For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would inherit the world was not fulfilled through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if they become heirs by the law, faith is empty and the promise is nullified. For the law brings wrath, because where there is no law there is no transgression either. For this reason it is by faith so that it may be by grace, with the result that the promise may be certain to all the descendants - not only to those who are under the law, but also to those who have the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"). He is our father in the presence of God whom he believed - the God who makes the dead alive and summons the things that do not yet exist as though they already do. Against hope Abraham believed in hope with the result that he became the father of many nations according to the pronouncement, "so will your descendants be."

Hebrews confirms that Christ is priest in the order of Melchizedek.

and in one case tithes are received by mortal men, while in the other by him who is affirmed to be alive.

Abound in this grace also

Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

Wisdom in financial matters

The one who lacks wisdom strikes hands in pledge, and puts up financial security for his neighbor.

Saving for the future

There is desirable treasure and olive oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish person devours all he has.

Borrowing money

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs 22:7

Help the poor

The one who is gracious to the poor lends to the LORD, and the LORD will repay him for his good deed.

Proverbs 19:17

Other peoples needs

People will curse
the one who withholds grain,
but they will praise
the one who sells it.

Generosity

One person is generous and yet grows more wealthy, but another withholds more than he should and comes to poverty. A generous person will be enriched, and the one who provides water for others will himself be satisfied.

Do not wear yourself out to become rich; be wise enough to restrain yourself.

Favored by the LORD

Evil men borrow, but do not repay their debt, but the godly show compassion and are generous. Surely those favored by the LORD will possess the land, but those rejected by him will be wiped out. The LORD grants success to the one whose behavior he finds commendable. Even if he trips, he will not fall headlong, for the LORD holds his hand. I was once young, now I am old. I have never seen a godly man abandoned, or his children forced to search for food.

Account of ourselves

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The church in Macedonia as examples

Now we make known to you, brothers and sisters, the grace of God given to the churches of Macedonia, that during a severe ordeal of suffering, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in the wealth of their generosity. For I testify, they gave according to their means and beyond their means. They did so voluntarily, begging us with great earnestness for the blessing and fellowship of helping the saints. And they did this not just as we had hoped, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us by the will of God. Thus we urged Titus that, just as he had previously begun this work, so also he should complete this act of kindness for you. But as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, and in all eagerness and in the love from us that is in you - make sure that you excel in this act of kindness too. I am not saying this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love by comparison with the eagerness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you by his poverty could become rich. So here is my opinion on this matter: It is to your advantage, since you made a good start last year both in your giving and your desire to give, to finish what you started, so that just as you wanted to do it eagerly, you can also complete it according to your means. For if the eagerness is present, the gift itself is acceptable according to whatever one has, not according to what he does not have.

Equality

For I do not say this so there would be relief for others and suffering for you, but as a matter of equality. At the present time, your abundance will meet their need, so that one day their abundance may also meet your need, and thus there may be equality, as it is written:

"The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

Titus mission

But thanks be to God who put in the heart of Titus the same devotion I have for you, because he not only accepted our request, but since he was very eager, he is coming to you of his own accord. And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his work in spreading the gospel. In addition, this brother has also been chosen by the churches as our traveling companion as we administer this generous gift to the glory of the Lord himself and to show our readiness to help. We did this as a precaution so that no one should blame us in regard to this generous gift we are administering. For we are concerned about what is right not only before the Lord but also before men. And we are sending with them our brother whom we have tested many times and found eager in many matters, but who now is much more eager than ever because of the great confidence he has in you. If there is any question about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; if there is any question about our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ. Therefore show them openly before the churches the proof of your love and of our pride in you.

Eager to give

For it is not necessary for me to write you about this service to the saints, because I know your eagerness to help. I keep boasting to the Macedonians about this eagerness of yours, that Achaia has been ready to give since last year, and your zeal to participate has stirred up most of them. But I am sending these brothers so that our boasting about you may not be empty in this case, so that you may be ready just as I kept telling them. For if any of the Macedonians should come with me and find that you are not ready to give, we would be humiliated (not to mention you) by this confidence we had in you. Therefore I thought it necessary to urge these brothers to go to you in advance and to arrange ahead of time the generous contribution you had promised, so this may be ready as a generous gift and not as something you feel forced to do.

The joy in giving

My point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work. Just as it is written,

"He has scattered widely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness remains forever."

The joy in giving (continued)

Now God who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your supply of seed and will cause the harvest of your righteousness to grow. You will be enriched in every way so that you may be generous on every occasion, which is producing through us thanksgiving to God, because the service of this ministry is not only providing for the needs of the saints but is also overflowing with many thanks to God. Through the evidence of this service they will glorify God because of your obedience to your confession in the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your sharing with them and with everyone. And in their prayers on your behalf they long for you because of the extraordinary grace God has shown to you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

31 Bible cards about RICHES

ONET Bible - Cards made by Aleksander Isachsen



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God tests how we handle money before he bestows us with spiritual riches.

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by how you use worldly wealth, so that when it runs out you will be welcomed into the eternal homes. "The one who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and the one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you haven't been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will entrust you with the true riches?

Riches on two levels

A: Material: Temporary B: Spiritual: Eternal

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things about you falsely on account of me. Rejoice and be glad because your reward is great in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.

Matthew 5:11-12

By faith, when he grew up, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be ill-treated with the people of God than to enjoy sin's fleeting pleasure. He regarded abuse suffered for Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for his eyes were fixed on the reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26

Command those who are rich in this world's goods not to be haughty or to set their hope on riches, which are uncertain, but on God who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous givers, sharing with others. In this way they will save up a treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the future and so lay hold of what is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

but worldly cares, the seductiveness of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it produces nothing.

Because you say, "I am rich and have acquired great wealth, and need nothing," but do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked, take my advice and buy gold from me refined by fire so you can become rich! Buy from me white clothing so you can be clothed and your shameful nakedness will not be exposed, and buy eye salve to put on your eyes so you can see!

Revelation 3:17-18

Then he sat down opposite the offering box, and watched the crowd putting coins into it. Many rich people were throwing in large amounts. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth less than a penny. He called his disciples and said to them, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. For they all gave out of their wealth. But she, out of her poverty, put in what she had to live on, everything she had."

Mark 12:41-44

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was extremely wealthy.

The seed sown among thorns is the person who hears the word, but worldly cares and the seductiveness of wealth choke the word, so it produces nothing.

Matthew 13:22

A benevolent person leaves an inheritance for his grandchildren, but the wealth of a sinner is stored up for the righteous.

Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled completely, and your vats will overflow with new wine. The one who is lazy becomes poor, but the one who works diligently becomes wealthy.

The wealth of a rich person is like a strong city, and it is like a high wall in his imagination.

Here is another misfortune that I have seen on earth, and it weighs heavily on people:
God gives a man riches, property, and wealth so that he lacks nothing that his heart desires, yet God does not enable him to enjoy the fruit of his labor – instead, someone else enjoys it!
This is fruitless and a grave misfortune.

I have seen personally what is the only beneficial and appropriate course of action for people: to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all their hard work on earth during the few days of their life which God has given them, for this is their reward. To every man whom God has given wealth, and possessions, he has also given him the ability to eat from them, to receive his reward and to find enjoyment in his toil; these things are the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

Be sure you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments, ordinances, and statutes that I am giving you today. When you eat your fill, when you build and occupy good houses, when your cattle and flocks increase, when you have plenty of silver and gold, and when you have abundance of everything, be sure you do not feel self-important and forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, the place of slavery, and who brought you through the great, fearful desert of venomous serpents and scorpions, an arid place with no water. He made water flow from a flint rock and fed you in the desert with manna (which your ancestors had never before known) so that he might by humbling you test you and eventually bring good to you. Be careful not to say, "My own ability and skill have gotten me this wealth." You must remember the Lord your God, for he is the one who gives ability to get wealth; if you do this he will confirm his covenant that he made by oath to your ancestors, even as he has to this day. Now if you forget the Lord your God at all and follow other gods, worshiping and prostrating yourselves before them, I testify to you today that you will surely be annihilated. Just like the nations the Lord is about to destroy from your sight, so he will do to you because you would not obey him.

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

The blessing from the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow to it.

The little bit that a godly man owns is better than the wealth of many evil men, for evil men will lose their power, but the Lord sustains the godly.

Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth and turmoil with it.

Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened ox where there is hatred.

Proverbs 15:16-17

The wealth of a rich person is like a fortified city, but the poor are brought to ruin by their poverty.

"O LORD, help me understand my mortality and the brevity of life!

Let me realize how quickly my life will pass!

Look, you make my days short-lived, and my life span is nothing from your perspective. Surely all people, even those who seem secure, are nothing but vapor.

Surely people go through life as mere ghosts.

Surely they accumulate worthless wealth without knowing who will eventually haul it away."

When the godly see this, they will be filled with awe, and will mock the evildoer, saying: "Look, here is the man who would not make God his protector! He trusted in his great wealth and was confident about his plans to destroy others."

The one who loves money
will never be satisfied with money,
he who loves wealth will never be
satisfied with his income.
This also is futile.

God said to Solomon, "Because you desire this, and did not ask for riches, wealth, and honor, or for vengeance on your enemies, and because you did not ask for long life, but requested wisdom and discernment so you can make judicial decisions for my people over whom I have made you king, you are granted wisdom and discernment.

Furthermore I am giving you riches, wealth, and honor surpassing that of any king before or after you."

2 Chronicles 1:11-12

The one who increases his wealth by increasing interest gathers it for someone who is gracious to the needy.

Praise the Lord!

How blessed is the one who obeys the Lord, who takes great delight in keeping his commands. His descendants will be powerful on the earth; the godly will be blessed.

His house contains wealth and riches; his integrity endures.

But above all pursue his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

No man can serve two masters:
for either he will hate the one,
and love the other; or else he will
hold to the one, and despise the other.
Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

The plans of the diligent lead only to plenty, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Making a fortune by a lying tongue is like a vapor driven back and forth; they seek death.

"Do not accumulate for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But accumulate for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Give a shepherd's care to God's flock among you, exercising oversight not merely as a duty but willingly under God's direction, not for shameful profit but eagerly. And do not lord it over those entrusted to you, but be examples to the flock. Then when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that never fades away.