

"We are Stewards": Biblical insights and inspiration on fund-raising and stewardship for Partners Worldwide Affiliates

"Barnabus...owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet." Acts 4:36-37

Barnabus' generous act of giving serves as an example for all of us as stewards of the resources God has given us. Barnabus clearly understood some of the basic scriptural principles of the wealth that we are blessed with:

- 1) God owns everything.
- 2) We are to be generous with the wealth entrusted to us by God.
- 3) We are to manage the wealth wisely.

As we raise funds and look at our own giving to our partnerships, it is good to keep these principles in mind. The following verses can help you get started on further reading and meditating on God's words related to these principles.

God owns everything

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. PS. 24:1

"The silver is mine and the gold is mine", declares the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2:8

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. Deut. 8:17-18

We are to be generous with the wealth entrusted to us by God.

"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." Malachi 3:10

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

We are to manage the wealth wisely.

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I Cor. 4:2

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one, he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. From Matt. 25:14-30

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt. 6: 19-21.