
Question and Answer

Should Christians Prosper?

Question 1:

There are two extreme positions which Christians take today concerning the area of finances. What are they?

Answer:

One extreme concerns those people who hear some of God's laws of finance and stewardship, and they say, "this is exactly what I've been looking for. I want a lot of nice things. I'm going to try these laws to see if they work because I need more money. I need a nice car and I want a nicer home."

This approach is wrong. It has too many "I"s in it. This is the world's approach to finance. We can't "bend" God's laws to fit our selfish desires. We can't "believe for riches" just for the sake of riches and accumulating "stuff" for our own fleshly desires.

The opposite extreme is to believe that financial prosperity for Christians is totally wrong. Many well-meaning believers (and some denominations) believe that poverty is godly. They believe that financial prosperity destroys humility and that this lack of humility will draw us away from God.

This and all other objections to financial success are really objections to the world's system of finance. There is no question that the Bible warns us again and again against prospering in the world's system.

Question 2:

What is the root of all evil?

- A. Money itself
- B. Giving to live
- C. The love of money
- D. Hatred
- E. Lack of faith

Answer:

C. The love of money

Question 3:

If someone told you that the Bible is full of objections to financial prosperity, how would you answer this question?

Answer:

Many Christians believe that "money is the root of all evil." This is incorrect. Money by itself is not evil. Money builds churches, sends missionaries, produces Christian radio and television programs.

No, money is not evil. The Bible actually tells us, "for **THE LOVE** of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:10).

Question 4:

If someone told you that the Bible says that "money is the root of all evil," how would you respond?

Answer:

Loving money is what is evil. Putting money first, ahead of God in any way, is evil. Covetousness is evil and a covetous attitude is against the teachings of God's Word and will bring many sorrows into our lives just as the Bible says that it will.

God created all the wealth of this earth. Did He create it for unbelievers – for hard hearted, sinful men and women who curse Him, deny Him and disobey His laws? Does He really want them to prosper and His children to do without? This doesn't make any sense at all. God is no different from any other father. He wants the best for His children.

Our Father doesn't want us to be financial failures in any way. Just as children in the world are a reflection of their parents, Christians should be a reflection of God. He wants the world to see prosperous, joyful, loving Christians. These Christians are a great witness to the world.

Worlds System vs Heavens Economy

Question 5:

The Bible teaches us that financial prosperity which is obtained by following the world's system will never provide satisfaction. What verses of Scripture prove this point?

Answer:

Ecclesiastes 5:10: "He that loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver nor he that loves abundance with increase, this is also vanity."

1 Timothy 6:10: "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Proverbs 1:32: "The prosperity of fools shall destroy them."

Psalms 53:1: "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God."

Question 6:

The world's system of prosperity has its price. It doesn't turn out the way men think it will. Financial prosperity achieved by the world's methods will bring sorrow, but God's Word clearly teaches us that God's laws will enable us to prosper in every area of our lives without any sorrow. What do Scriptures teach about the cause of sorrow in relation to our finances?

Answer:

Proverbs 10:22: "The blessing of the Lord, it makes one rich, and he adds no sorrow with it."

1 Timothy 6:10: "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Everyone who prospers by methods other than God's laws of prosperity sooner or later will find that this prosperity will become a curse.

The world's prosperity is empty. Most people who become rich without following God's laws of finance sooner

or later think, "I've got everything that I ever wanted and then some. How come I'm not happy and fulfilled? I feel so empty inside. Is this all there is to being wealthy?"

We have all seen many people who have prospered by the world system, who have family problems – divorce, spoiled children, alcoholism, adultery, etc. Others experience severe problems as they approach death and ponder over their worldly estates – riches which soon must be given up to be fought over by selfish heirs. Other wealthy people find that the years of pursuing wealth have given them high blood pressure, ulcers, heart disease or other illness.

Proverbs 1:32: "The prosperity of fools shall destroy them"

Question 7:

God's ways are diametrically opposed to the world's ways. Instead of trusting in worldly riches, our Father clearly wants us to trust in Him and to share what we have with others. God's Word gives three specific instructions for people who are "rich in this world." What are they?

Answer:

1 Timothy 6:17 – 18: "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy, that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate."

Question 8:

If a severe economic recession or depression comes upon us, the Bible teaches that one thing above all else will cause problems for Christians. What is this?

Answer:

Unfortunately, many Christians will "wither" financially during economic downturns. Many Christians will be devastated because of a lack of knowledge of God's laws.

Hosea 4:6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

It doesn't have to be this way. In the midst of such downturns, Christians can still thrive. We can still bear fruit. We can still prosper in everything that we do if we have meditated day and night in God's Word so that our "roots" reach deep into our God's laws and instructions.

Proverbs 11:9: "Through knowledge shall the just be delivered."

Question 9:

What specifically do we need to do so that future bad news (evil tidings) about inflation, unemployment, interest rates, etc. will not affect us?

Answer:

Our Father wants us to fill our hearts and our minds with his Word. We should never be afraid of "evil tidings." Instead of focusing on the bad news about the economy, our hearts should be "fixed" upon God's Word, trusting completely in His promises. Our hearts should be solidly "established" in God's Word. No matter how bad the situation might look, a truly established heart will never waver.

Our Father wants his Word to be so strong and powerful inside of us that it will prevail over every problem that comes against us.

Psalm 37:31: "The law of his God is in his heart, none of his steps shall slide."

Psalm 112:6–8: "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings, his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid."

Question 10:

Many economists predict that great economic storms will be coming upon us. What specifically must we do in order to build a scriptural foundation that will not collapse when and if the storms come upon us?

Answer:

Jesus said that we won't fall or collapse if we are obedient and do what His Word tells us to do because then our foundation will be built upon solid rock.

Matthew 7:24 – 27: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Question 11:

What do the Scriptures teach about how Christians can escape the ravages of inflation and other uncertainties of this world's economic system?

Answer:

Many Bible scholars believe that the "moth" and "rust" and "corruption" that Jesus speaks about are the inflation, high interest rates and the selfish tendencies of the world's economic system. These cruel and negative influences are destroying the life savings of people who have depended upon them.

Satan can't steal what we have deposited in the Bank of Heaven because he can't get at it. Inflation, high interest rates and other economic uncertainties that plague investment accounts here on earth have no effect whatsoever on the Bank of Heaven.

In 1 Timothy 6:7, we are warned against trusting in "uncertain" riches. This refers to the riches of this world which are subject to the ravages of inflation, recession and unemployment. Instead, God wants us to trust in His "certain riches" - the riches that we have on deposit with Him.

Question 12:

What specifically does the Bible say about "get rich quick" schemes?

Answer:

Proverbs 28:22: "He that hastens to be rich has an evil eye"

The love of money isn't limited to the rich. Many people who don't have much money still love it. They still want it more than anything else in their lives and would do almost anything to obtain large amounts of it. These

people are often tempted by "get rich quick" schemes. God says that "get rich quick" schemes are evil. God's Word warns us over and over against "coveting" – against being greedy, always wanting more. God hates covetousness. "... the covetous, who the Lord abhors" (Psalm 10:3).

God wants us to hate covetousness, also. His Word says that this kind of thinking will cause us to prolong our days. "... He that hates covetousness shall prolong his days" (Proverbs 28:16).

Our Father doesn't want our lives to center around money and the things that money will buy.

Ecclesiastes 5:13: "There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt."

Importance of Renewing Our Minds

Question 13:

Why is it that many people who have never studied God's laws of finance and stewardship before find them so difficult and hard to understand?

Answer:

One of the biggest obstacles to learning and applying God's laws of finance and stewardship is the tremendous difference between them and the world's system of finance. Many of us have followed the world system for many years and it's not easy to change from long-standing habit patterns.

However, that is exactly what we must do. In order to understand and apply God's laws of finance and stewardship, we must stop conforming to the world's system and "renew" our minds with God's laws of giving and receiving. If we do this, we will be handling our finances exactly the way our Father wants us to, and our lives will be transformed.

Question 14:

Do you want God to approve of what you do? Undoubtedly, all of us should answer "yes"? How do we win our Father's approval?

Answer:

We win our Father's approval by studying His Word! We win his approval by working hard enough at this study so that we won't be ashamed. I ask you - do you believe that God has approved of your Bible study during the past week???... During the past month???... During the past year??? Are you ashamed of the amount of time that you spend studying the instructions that our Father has given to us?

2 Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Question 15:

Exactly what did Jesus tell us to do in order to be one of His disciples?

Answer:

John 8:31–32: "If you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Hard work starts with discipline. If we want to be free from financial problems or any other problems, we must have the discipline to continually study God's word and renew our minds to His laws and instructions.

Question 16:

How would you explain the difference between "reading" the Bible and "studying" the Bible?

Answer:

Example of a guy reading a book on how to survive in the wilderness when he is in the comfort of his living room versus being stranded out in the middle of the jungle. He might just casually read the book in his living room, but he would "devour" the book if his life depended on it.

This is what God wants us to do with His Word. Because of the instability of the dollar and our banking system, as well as the world's economic uncertainty, all of us should study what God's Word has to say about handling our finances. We need to devour it. We need to learn everything that we possibly can about how to avoid or address the financial problems that may soon come upon this world.

Millions of Christians are living far beneath their rights and privileges as children of God because they have failed to pay the price of constantly studying God's Word in order to find out exactly what these rights and privileges are and how to attain them in their lives.

Question 17:

The Bible teaches that one primary requirement for success and prosperity is constant meditation in God's Word. Exactly what does it mean to "meditate" in the Bible?

Answer:

Meditation means to fix our attention on a particular verse of Scripture and to turn this verse of Scripture over and over in our minds, looking at it from every angle. Meditation means to "personalize" a verse of Scripture, to think deeply about how each particular verse of Scripture applies to our own lives.

In addition to personalizing these verses of Scripture by turning them over in our minds, we should also speak these verses of Scripture over and over with our mouths. In fact, the Hebrew word that is translated "meditate" in Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2 actually means "to murmur or to mutter."

When God's Word tells us to "meditate day and night" this means that we should constantly open our mouths and speak the verse of Scripture that we are meditating on. We should do this over and over and over – day and night. As we constantly speak a verse of Scripture, this helps us to internalize this verse of Scripture. Also, as we constantly speak a verse of Scripture, this releases the power of that verse of Scripture.

Psalm 1:2 told us that we should meditate day and night in God's Word because we "delight" in His laws. What will happen to us if we "delight" in God's Word and "meditate day and night" in it? Here is the answer:

Psalm 112:1–3: "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever."

Question 18:

What is the difference between meditating in the Bible and other forms of meditation such as transcendental meditation and yoga?

Answer:

Unlike the meditation that people do in transcendental meditation, yoga and similar forms of meditation which tell us to "empty" our minds, we are, instead, meditating by "filling" our minds with the awesome power of the Word of God. As we meditate more and more on God's Word, this meditation brings us more and more in touch with our creator and allows our minds to be renewed to His Word and promises.

Question 19:

We often hear 3 John 2 quoted stating that the Lord wants us to "prosper and be in health." What is the five word "qualifier" to this?

Answer:

3 John 2: "Beloved, I wish that you prosper and be in health, just as your soul prospers." We will experience prosperity and health that our Father wants so much for us in exact proportion to the degree that our souls are "prospered"- to the exact degree that our souls are renewed according to God's Word.

To achieve soul prosperity, it is vitally important for us as believers to "renew" our minds to God's laws of finance and stewardship, to learn how to change our long-established thought processes from the world's methods of prosperity to God's laws of finance and stewardship.

Romans 12:2: "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Question 20:

What is the soul? What is a "soul that prospers" as alluded to in 3 John 2 above?

Answer:

The "soul" is the combination of our minds, our wills, and our emotions. Your soul didn't automatically change at salvation. It's subject to change - we have to renew our mind in God's Word to experience change in our mind, will and emotions.

A "prosperous soul" is a soul that is filled with God's Word. God wants us to constantly engage in the process of converting (i.e. renewing) our souls from the world's ways to His ways. If we follow God's laws, even the most simple child will receive our Fathers wisdom.

Psalm 19:7: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul, the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." (I LOVE THIS VERSE!! VERY ENCOURAGING!! 😊)

Question 21:

What specifically must we do if we want our souls to prosper?

Answer:

We must make God's Word the final authority in our life and with regard to how we handle our finances. We must come into alignment with Romans 12:2 and renew our minds in God's Word. For the renewal process to work, we need to do more than just know God's word; we need to internalize it. More than just intellectual understanding or mental ascent, God's Word must be settled in our hearts. The author of Psalm 119 understood this when he wrote, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

2 Corinthians 4:16: "Though our outer man is progressively wasting away, yet our inner self is being progressively renewed day after day."

Question 22:

There is only one verse of Scripture in the entire Bible that uses the words "prosperous" and "success" in the same verse. What is the verse? This verse tells us that we must do three things in order to be prosperous and successful. What are they?

Answer:

Joshua 1:8: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

This is one of the most important verses of Scripture in the entire Bible for anyone who is interested in prosperity and success. In fact, it is the only verse of Scripture in the entire Bible which contains the words "prosperous" and "success." This verse of Scripture shows us the three things that our Father tells us to do if we intend to be prosperous and successful:

- 1) Meditate day and night in God's Word.
- 2) Speak God's Word continually with our mouths.
- 3) Live our daily lives by actually doing everything that God's Word tells us to do.

Question 23:

Would you like to prosper in every area of your life? The Bible tells us "whatsoever he does shall prosper." Exactly what requirements must be met if we are to enjoy this prosperity in every area of our lives?

Answer:

Psalms 1:1-3: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law does he meditate day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

God will bless us if we follow His laws of prosperity instead of following the world's methods of finance. Here is the five-point checklist from Psalm 1:1-3 above:

- 1) Do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly
- 2) Do not stand in the path of sinners
- 3) Do not sit in the seat of the scornful
- 4) Delight in the law of the Lord
- 5) Meditate day and night in the Word

Question 24:

God doesn't want us living the way the sinful world lives. He doesn't want us looking at things in our life and in our circumstances the way worldly people do. We have already seen in Romans 12:2 that He tells us not to conform to the world's way of doing things, but, instead, to transform our lives by following his laws. How do we do this?

Answer:

We do this by loving his Word so much that we actually "delight" in it. Because of this great "delight" we just can't get enough of God's Word. We'll be so hungry and thirsty spiritually that we will meditate day and night in His Word in order to find out everything that we possibly can about our Father's instructions for living our lives.

What will happen to us if we do this? As noted above in Psalm 1, God's Word tells us that we will be like a tree planted next to a river. No matter how bad a drought might be, the leaves of such a tree will never wither and dry up because the roots of this tree will be able to draw water from the river and will always continue to bear fruit.

Question 25:

Why is it so important to stick to a disciplined and definite pattern of study and meditation?

Answer:

We saw in John 8 that freedom is obtained by "continuing in God's Word" – by getting in there and staying in there – day after day, week after week and month after month. Lack of consistency is one of the primary things that stops Christians from realizing the freedom that is ours in Christ. Many Christians start studying God's Word, but there aren't many Christians who are "persistently consistent" - continually studying and meditating in God's Word.

Question 26:

Why is it so important for us to get God's laws of finance and stewardship from our minds down into our hearts?

Answer:

When we hear God's Word spoken, this sows a seed in our hearts. Unfortunately, many people hear God's inspired word and, as they leave the service or meeting where they heard this, they have forgotten most of what they heard before they reach the parking lot. When this happens, the seed of God's Word never has the opportunity to take root and grow.

God's Word will only grow in our hearts to the degree that we constantly meditate on it.

"Head knowledge" isn't sufficient to activate any of God's laws. God's laws come from a spiritual realm that is completely different from the natural realm that we live in. We can't understand God's laws with our minds. Our Father doesn't want us trying to figure out His laws with our human understanding. The key to activating His laws is to get them down inside of our heart.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."

This is why God wants us to meditate day and night in His Word. When we work diligently at meditating in God's Word this will change every aspect of our lives because our harvest, the results we achieve in our lives or lack thereof, are a reflection of what we believe deep down in our heart.

Proverbs 4:23: "Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life."

Question 27:

God's Word tells us one specific pitfall that can cause our spiritual life to be in "vain" (meaning "devoid of results"). What is this potential pitfall?

Answer:

If we don't "bridle" our tongues (keep them under control), this can cause our Christianity to be ineffective, to be void of results. If we constantly allow words to come out of our mouths that are contrary to God's laws, this will stop our heavenly Father from prospering us.

James 1:26: "If any man among you seems to be religious and bridles not his own tongue, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is in vain."

Many Christians put themselves into "financial jail" and "throw away the key" because of the words of fear and doubt that come out of their mouths when they are faced with a crisis. They don't realize that God's Word says, "Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth." (Proverbs 6:2)

God is the Source, We are the Stewards

Question 28:

What are two primary thought processes to prosper in God's system of finance?

Answer:

Realizing that God is your source and developing the mindset of a steward.

Most people see making a living as a result of the sweat of their brow, and they don't see God as their source. God wants to be the source of everything in your life. The Lord never intended for you to carry the burdens of financial responsibility, and He wants to lift that burden from you.

**The very first thing we need to understand about finances
is that we are stewards of what God has given us.**

As Christians, we are stewards, and we need to recognize that the money we have is not really ours, it's a gift from God. Jesus taught on stewardship in the parable in which he told about the shrewd manager. (Luke 16:1)

When you think that money comes by your own sweat and tears, then you keep a much tighter hold on it. You become attached to your money, and it actually becomes your master. But when you see yourself as a steward and recognize money as God's blessing – even though you work for your paychecks – it totally changes the role money plays in your life. It ceases to control you and simply becomes a tool. This simple change in mindset from owner to steward will make a tremendous difference for you.

Question 29:

You will know that God is your source when you what?

Answer:

Put God first place in your finances and prove your faith by consistently planting seed, giving money into His kingdom.

Question 30:

The Bible teaches that God's laws of finance and stewardship are based upon the fact that He owns everything and that we own nothing. What verses of Scripture explain this to us?

Answer:

1 Timothy 6:7: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out"

Haggai 2:8: "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts"

Question 31:

In order to let God into your finances, what do you have to do?

Answer:

Believe the promises and instructions given to us in His Word - trust Him as your source and show your faith by giving, motivated by love.

Always Keep God First

Question 32:

Mark 10:23–24: "Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

According to Mark 10:23–24 above, why is it so difficult for people who are rich to be born again?

Answer:

Because they tend to trust in their riches more than in God.

Question 33:

Is God really first in your life? How can you measure this specifically?

Answer:

Do I actually place God ahead of each member of my family? Is God always more important to me than my friends? Do I spend more time seeking God each day than I do on social media or watching TV or enjoying hobbies? Is God more important to me than any possession that I have? Is seeking God on a daily basis more important to me than seeking financial success?

Luke 9:23: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me".

Question 34:

To illustrate the point in Question 9, look at the aspirations of a typical, ambitious, worldly, young graduate from college as he or she steps out into the world to reach their goals. What are the typical goals?

Answer:

Lots of money, success, possessions, ego recognition and fame are the typical desires of an average college graduate with a worldly perspective. However, these motivations are in violation of God's laws of finance and stewardship. Our Father wants us to prosper financially, but only if this financial prosperity and the things it will buy never in any way come ahead of Him.

A simple prescription for God's prosperity would be, "always keep God first." Whatever any of us need in any area of our lives, God's laws says that He will provide them to the exact degree that we keep Him first in every area of our lives.

Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Question 35:

If we are experiencing severe financial problems, it is possible for us to enjoy God's perfect peace in the midst of all these problems. What are the two scriptural requirements for God's peace?

Answer:

A peace is available to us that is "perfect" - a total, complete and absolute peace! Perfect peace certainly includes freedom from financial problems. How can any of us have that peace if we worry about financial problems?

God's two requirements for perfect peace are very clear. First, we must keep him first at all times. We must keep our minds focused on him at all times - and not on our problems. Second, we must trust completely in him. We must pay the price to find out what his Word says he will do and then believe that He will do what he says he will do.

Isaiah 26:3: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee."

If God really is first in our lives, why should we ever be worried about any problem? If we are worried about any problem, isn't it a fact that we are actually allowing that problem to take first place ahead of God? Instead of constantly focusing on the problems, we should focus constantly on the precious promises of God's Word and the great ability of God's Holy Spirit living inside of us. God's Word clearly tells us to keep our minds focused on Him and to trust completely in Him.

All freedom comes from switching our preoccupation from ourselves to God.

Philippians 4:5-9: "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

We Reap What We Sew

Question 36:

2 Corinthians 9:8 above says that God is "able" to provide great prosperity for us, but it doesn't say that He "will." What changes "God is able" to "God will?"

Answer:

The answer is not hard to find. All that we need to do is to read the two verses of Scripture which immediately proceed the awesome promises of 2 Corinthians 9:8. Let's look at all three verses together to see the whole picture.

2 Corinthians 9:6 – 8: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

Question 37:

God promises to give seed to who?

- A. To all believers
- B. To those that have been baptized
- C. Sowers
- D. Those who have studied God's laws of finance

Answer:

C. Sowers

Question 38:

God is very wealthy. The Bible says that He owns the earth and everything on the earth. If this is so, why is it that his Word places such an emphasis on giving?

Answer:

God wants us to sow seeds by giving money not for his benefit, but for our benefit! God doesn't need our money. He already owns the whole world and everything in it. Heaven is also His – an abundant place where people walk on streets of pure gold. (Revelation 21:21).

Our Father wants us to give in order to provide Him with seeds so that He can multiply them back to us. God gives us seeds to sow, not to "store up" or to hang onto.

God doesn't multiply the seeds that we retain, He only multiplies the seeds that we sow.

The world's ways say that we should cling tightly onto our money so that we won't run out. God's laws of finance and stewardship tell us that our dollars are seeds which we should plant so that He can give us a "harvest." Seeds aren't worth anything in the agricultural realm until they are planted. The same is true in the financial realm.

The Blessing of the Tithe

Question 39:

God's Word tells us exactly why we should tithe. Why does God want us to tithe?

Answer:

Deuteronomy 14:23: "The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives." The NKJ says, "that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always."

God's great laws of sowing and reaping can be put into application through tithing. The word tithe means 1/10 and tithing to God means giving a minimum of 10% of our income to God.

God's laws of finance and stewardship always keep God first while the world's system of finance always puts money first. Tithing is one of God's tests which clearly shows whether we really do keep Him first.

Question 40:

How does tithing bring us into partnership with God?

Answer:

When we willingly tithe to God, this brings us into the proper relationship with him financially. We are participating in His work, and we are in partnership with him.

When we tithe and meditate day and night in His Word and confess God's Word with our mouths and do what it says, we bring ourselves into partnership with God. We have his wisdom and direction in every area of our finances.

When we do these things, we align ourselves with God's laws of finance and stewardship and He becomes our Senior Partner. As the senior partner, He asks for a minimum of 10% of the income of the partnership and He allows us to keep 90%.

Question 41:

When people hear about tithing, they often say, "If I can't pay my bills with the money that I have now, how can I possibly pay them with 10% less income?" What is the answer to this question?

Answer:

This sounds logical, but God's ways are much higher than man's ways (Isaiah 55:8–9). And as we have seen from God's laws of sowing and reaping, when we tithe, we plant financial seeds, and the seeds give God a source by which He is able to provide us with a financial harvest. The fact is the unrenewed, carnal mind simply can't grasp the concept of tithing.

Question 42:

People often say, "I'd like to give, but I don't have anything to give." What does God's Word say about this?

Answer:

Each of us has to start from wherever we are financially. We need to take whatever we have to sow and sow it with faith. We need to trust God to multiply this so that He will return what we have sown and provide for our needs with enough left over to sow again.

2 Corinthians 9:10: "And God who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your seed (resources) for sowing."

Question 43:

In addition to financial blessings, God's Word also promises one other specific blessing when we give freely of our tithes and offerings. What is this blessing?

Answer:

Malachi 3:11 is the only place in the Bible where God Himself says that He will rebuke the devil for our sakes. We have the authority to do this ourselves (Luke 10:19), but when it comes to the matter of receiving blessings from our tithes and offerings, God himself makes certain that Satan doesn't steal our blessings.

Imagine how Satan must feel when God himself stands in his way!!! How can any of us fail to give liberally if we fully understand what Malachi 3:10–11 says that God will do in return??

Question 44:

If a person is in serious debt, should they forgo paying their tithes until they are in a better financial position?

Answer - Opinion 1:

No, you should start where you are comfortable – or where you "purpose in your heart." The goal should be to continually give more as God brings increase to your finances. God provides more increase, you plant more seed, God provides more increase, you plant more seed..... and the cycle continues. A key here is not to eat all

the seed i.e. consume all the increase that the Lord provides on fleshly desires but to be obedient to His instructions to cheerfully give back a portion of what he blesses us with.

Many have been taught that the tithe is “mandatory.” We were told that we owe God 1/10 of our income and if we didn't pay up, we'd be cursed. Not tithing, we were told, is the same as stealing from God. “You're robbing from God” they would tell us, “God is going to get you.” Fortunately, none of that is true. God loves us independent of our performance, which includes whether or not we tithe. New Testament giving isn't a debt or an obligation.

2 Corinthians 9:7: “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

I don't know how any Christian can read this passage and still think we are obligated to tithing, or that we are cursed if we don't. It says we're not supposed to give “grudgingly, or of necessity.” If the reason you pay a tithe is because you don't want to be under a curse, then you are paying out of necessity, and it isn't cheerful. It's like paying hush money to God.

God loves a cheerful giver. The dominant motive for giving under the new covenant should be a cheerful heart. We should be giving because we want to, because we love God and are thankful for everything that He has done for us, not to pay God hush money.

Answer - Opinion 2:

The answer is a resounding no! Worldly logic says that the debtor can't afford to tithe. Spiritual truth says that the primary way to escape from the bondage of debt is to pay God first the money that is His and then to trust Him to give back to us to meet our needs.

I learned from God's Word that people who are in debt can meditate their way out of debt. (Psalm 1:1–3 & Joshua 1:8) and give their way out of debt. (Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 8, Malachi 3:8 – 11) After many months of darkness, I finally saw a light at the end of the tunnel.

It's not easy to give when our debts are large, yet this is exactly what we must do. We can give and meditate our way out of debt. Am I saying that, if someone is really “down and out,” that he should start giving freely to God? This is exactly what I'm saying!

I have never yet read one Christian book on finances that even comes close to putting the proper emphasis on continual giving and constant meditation ahead of everything else. This is what God's Word teaches and we must follow His instructions.

Question 45:

How many of us have tithed 10% and are able to say that God has poured out so many blessings on them that they can't even contain these blessings?

Answer:

This tells us that we can rob God not only in our “mandatory” 10% tithe, but also in our offerings over and above that 10%.

The tithe guarantees the harvest (meeting all of our needs) and I believe that our voluntary offerings over and above the 10% are what open the windows of heaven so that tremendous blessings are poured out upon us.

Tithing merely “primes the pump.” The real blessings of God will pour out in proportion to the offerings that we cheerfully give on top of our 10% tithes.

Once we fully comprehend these concepts, the 10% figure becomes purely academic. We can stop at 10% if we want to, but what Christian with **a renewed mind** would willingly stop at that level knowing that God will bless him more if he increases it?

People who steadily increase their offerings will be surprised at how easy this becomes after a while. It was much easier for me to give 15% of my income than it was to tithe 10% and it was much easier for me to give 20% than it was to give 15%.

CHALLENGE – seek out Christians who have voluntarily increased their tithes and offerings from 10% to 15%, 20%, 25% or even more of their income and ask them if God has opened the windows of heaven and poured out His blessings, just as He said He would.

God’s Laws of Giving

Question 46:

How God’s laws of finance and stewardship, i.e. heaven’s economy works cannot be understood by _____.

- A. Recent statistics
- B. Businessmen
- C. Politicians
- D. A new Christian
- E. The natural mind

Answer:

E. The natural mind

Unless you factor faith in God into the equation, it makes no sense to take 10% of what you make and give it away. This is foolish to the natural mind – and that is exactly why God asks us to do it! God isn't broke. He doesn't need our 10%. Giving is a way of demonstrating that we are in God's economy, not the worlds.

Question 47:

What does God's Word tell us about building up "treasure in heaven?"

Answer:

We instinctively want to "store up" treasure and this is fine with God as long as we store it up in the right place. Instead of hanging tightly onto "our" money here on this earth, our Father wants us to give it away freely and cheerfully. We will lay up treasure in heaven in exact proportion to the degree that we give freely to others of ourselves and "our" money while we live on this earth.

Jesus emphatically warned us of the dangers of storing up money here on this earth.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19 – 21

Question 48:

What are the two primary biblical principles that must be followed to get out of debt?

Answer:

According to the Word of God, there are two things that a person can do to get out of debt. One, they can meditate their way out of debt (Psalm 1:1-3; Joshua 1:8). Secondly, they can give their way out of debt (Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and Malachi 3:8-11).

It's not easy to give when our debts are large, yet this is exactly what we must do. We can give (and meditate) our way out of debt. I know. I did it. I have seen many other people do it. This sounds incongruent to anyone whose **mind has not been renewed**, but it is a fact that is backed solidly by the Word of God.

Question 49:

You move closer toward your goals in God's system of finance by doing what?

- A. Depositing your money in a bank
- B. Clinging to everything you have
- C. Move over 50% of your portfolio to precious metals
- D. Giving
- E. Budgeting

Answer:

- D. Giving

Question 50:

We should give from our what?

- A. Abundance
- B. Firstfruits
- C. Roth IRAs
- D. Leftovers
- E. Tax refund

Answer:

- B. Firstfruits

Proverbs 3:9: "Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the firstfruits of all your increase"

Question 51:

According to Proverbs 3:10, what happens when you give with the firstfruits of your increase?

Answer:

Proverbs 3:10: "So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine."
In today's terminology, a fair portrayal would be that God is going to fill up your checking account, and your savings account is going to overflow.

Question 52:

Giving is a sign of what?

- A. Wealth
- B. Self-gratification
- C. Maturity
- D. Greed
- E. None of the above

Answer:

- C. Maturity

Question 53:

When you give, what do you have to trust?

Answer:

You have to trust in God and His promises - that He has your best interests at heart and that He will prosper you and take care of you.

Question 54:

_____ that God won't come through for you is what is keeping you from giving, and that _____ is actually releasing poverty into your life.

Answer:

fear, fear

Question 55:

How is it that the widow woman gave more than the rich man?

Answer:

Because the widow woman gave all that she had.

Question 56:

If you aren't giving, you aren't what?

- A. Acknowledging the Lord
- B. Trusting the Lord
- C. Honoring the Lord
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

Answer:

- D. All of the above

Question 57:

Matthew 6:19–21 says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

According to this Scripture, how can you tell where a person's heart is?

- A. By how much money they receive
- B. By where their money goes
- C. By their political affiliation
- D. By where they spend most of their time
- E. None of the above

Answer:

B. By where their money goes.

Question 58:

God's Word teaches that there is only one quality which, if it is absent, will make our giving of no value no matter how much we give. What is this quality?

Answer:

God's Word teaches that all giving should be based upon love.

1 Corinthians 13:3: "If I gave everything I have to the poor, and if I were buried alive for preaching the gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatsoever."

Some people learn part of God's laws of finance and stewardship and give in a calculating manner, anticipating something in return. This won't work! Giving without love is "of no value whatsoever." No matter what we give, if our gift isn't based upon love, it is worth nothing. Love is the key to giving and only love opens the channels for our loving Father to give back to us.

Question 59:

The Bible instructs us to give cheerfully, not grudgingly. Exactly what does it mean to give "cheerfully"?

Answer:

Too many Christians look upon their giving as an obligation that they owe instead of as a seed that they sow. The times when we give should be the greatest times of our lives. As always, this is completely opposite to the world's way – most people think that the times that they "get" are the happiest times of their lives.

2 Corinthians 9:7: "Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver."

If we look at the Greek word that is translated "cheerful" in 2 Corinthians 9:7, this Greek word is "*hilarēs*" which means noisy and full of fun and laughter. This is how God wants us to give! Instead of giving grudgingly, He wants us to be excited. He wants us to have fun giving. Question – does "full of fun and laughter" describe your giving? Or, does the first part of this verse describe your giving – "grudgingly" ... or "of necessity"?

Question 60:

Why do the Scriptures teach that it is important for us to give quietly and confidentially? Why shouldn't we call attention to our giving and our generosity?

Answer:

Another important law of giving is God's law of "quiet giving." We should never give so that other people will

know what we have given. Some people want recognition for being great givers. The Scriptures warn against this.

Matthew 6:1–4: “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

Question 61:

Christians often are besieged with requests to give to many Christian ministries. How do we decide which ministries to give to?

Answer:

When we plant our financial seeds, it is very important for us to prayerfully ask the Father where we should plant them. We should always seek the Lord's will before we give. Luke 6:38 tells us that the Lord uses man to give to other men. He might very well intend to use us to give to a specific person or organization and this is one reason why it is always important for us to seek His will before we give.

Question 62:

Why does it matter where you plant (give) your seed (money)?

Answer:

Because you can't expect the same results from casting your seed on pavement that you would get from planting it in fertile soil. Every time you give money to a church or ministry, you are helping support what they do – whether it's good or bad.

God's Laws of Receiving

Question 63:

God's Word says that our Father's eyes search the entire earth in order to find those whose hearts are perfect towards Him so that He can bless them. What are the three requirements that he looks for in order to bless us abundantly in our finances?

Answer:

Listed below are three questions to examine yourself and your faith in the area of finances:

1. Have I really put the Lord first in every area of my life?
2. Have I studied His laws of finance and stewardship and am I following these laws?
3. Do I really want Him to shower financial blessings on me, not for my own selfish desires, but to use these financial blessings to do His will?

If you can honestly answer a definite "yes" to each of these three questions, realize that God is looking for you just as much as you are looking for Him to use you.

2 Chronicles 16: 9: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward him."

Question 64:

What things help determine the harvest you get from your giving?

- A. The attitude you give with
- B. Where you give
- C. Trusting God as your source
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

Answer:

D. All of the above.

Question 65:

How do we obtain "all sufficiency in all things?"

Answer:

We obtain this by "sowing bountifully" – by sowing many financial seeds as a result of giving cheerfully to the Lord. When we do this, God's Word tells us that we will "reap bountifully" in return, and we will always have "all sufficiency in all things."

Question 66:

In other words, you can't give by the _____ and expect to receive by the _____.

Answer:

teaspoon, truckload

Question 67:

To start a flow of God's blessings into your life that will cause you to prosper like never before, what do you need to do?

Answer:

Become a deliberate, consistent giver – motivated by love.

Question 68:

What three things do you have to do over a prolonged period of time to see a crop come in?

Answer:

You have to give consistently, you have to do it cheerfully, and you have to give from the first fruits.

Question 69:

Throughout the Bible, we see one law repeatedly which tells us how to receive. If we want to receive anything, what is the first thing we must do?

Answer:

Sow a seed. God's laws of sowing and reaping started when God created the earth, and they will never cease as long as the earth remains.

Many Christians have failed to realize that these very same laws of sowing and reaping apply to our finances. If

we want to reap a harvest of money, we must sow seeds of money. God's laws of sowing and reaping work exactly the same in the financial realm as they do in the agricultural realm and in the realm of human relations.

Genesis 8:22: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Question 70:

If we follow God's laws of giving, how does God give to us? He obviously doesn't pour money down out of heaven. He is not able to write personal checks. Exactly what does his Word say about how He will give to us?

Answer:

Our Father has arranged it so that His children who follow His laws of giving will receive – from men. As we give generously to others, our Father will inspire other men and women to give to us.

Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Question 71:

Some people believe that it is wrong to expect to receive from God as a result of our giving. How would you answer this objection?

Answer:

There isn't anything wrong with expecting to receive from God. Many people fail to receive from God because they think it's wrong to believe for a return from their giving. Where in God's Word does it say that??? Virtually every one of God's instructions on giving is combined with a promise of receiving. See for yourself in Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 8, Malachi 3:10 – 11, etc. If God himself places an emphasis on receiving, why should we feel that there is anything wrong with expecting to receive?

We should expect a return on our giving. All Christians should release their faith for a great return, not to "feather their own nests," but to finance worldwide Christian revival. This is the primary reason why all Christians should learn and apply God's laws of receiving.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with "giving to get" if the purpose of the "getting" is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world! Instead of being wrong, it is our obligation to learn exactly how to "give to get" and to act in faith upon the instructions in God's Word.

Question 72:

What mindset must we guard against that can derail the blessing of God on your life?

Answer:

The only thing that can derail the blessing of God is our own unbelief and negativity. As long as we keep believing, the blessings of God will keep coming – in due season.

Question 73:

After planting our financial seeds, what must we do in order to effectively cultivate the seeds to produce a maximum harvest?

Answer:

After planting our financial seeds, we must cultivate them. We must continue to study and meditate constantly in God's Word. We must constantly express our faith in an abundant return by our words and our actions. No matter how bad a situation might appear, we must not block God in any way by lack of faith... or by lack of patience. God promises that we will reap a harvest based on what we have sown if we don't grow weary and give up. Our heart must remain steadfast and not give in to negativity or doubt.

Question 74:

Why are God's laws of patience so important in relation to financial prosperity?

Answer:

Lack of patience blocks more Christians from receiving from God than many of us realize. A farmer wouldn't dream of planting seeds and expecting an immediate harvest. We can't rush this process. In the natural, the process may feel like SEED T-T-T-T-I-I-I-I-M-M-M-M-E-E-E-E HARVEST. But we must not grow weary in the cultivation process and inadvertently pull up the seed. God's laws of sowing and reaping always take time. God has a time for everything.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

If we are to prosper under God's laws of finance and stewardship, we must be patient. God doesn't lie. All of His promises are real. We will reap – if we are patient. We can't rush God. The carnal part of us wants answers and it wants them now! We must counteract this tendency by developing ourselves spiritually and maturing in our faith so that we will have the strength and the patience to wait for the harvest.

Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary in doing good for in due season we shall reap if we do not grow weary."

Question 75:

There is a great deal of confusion in understanding the "hundred-fold return" from Mark 10:29–30. What is the one condition that has stopped so many seemingly qualified recipients from receiving this return?

Answer:

The Scriptures concerning the "hundredfold return" has caused some of the most misguided teaching in the entire Bible. Some people are giving money to the Lord and then they are boldly claiming a hundredfold return for selfish, lustful reasons. This is completely wrong.

Very few people have ever qualified for the hundredfold return. In order to qualify, we must forsake everything else and follow Jesus Christ. We must put Him ahead of "our" homes, "our" families and "our" possessions and we must keep Him first in every area of our lives. When we do this, Mark 10:30 tells us that we will be "persecuted." The world will criticize our total dedication to Jesus Christ. All of this is part of the price of receiving the hundredfold return here on this earth.

If we want to qualify for this hundredfold return, do we have to sell our home and automobiles and give the proceeds to God and go off to a remote area of Africa as a missionary? I don't think so. However, we have to be **willing** to do any or all of these things and anything else that God's Holy Spirit leads us to do. God knows our hearts and He knows every one of our thoughts (Hebrews 4:13; 1 Chronicles 28:9). We couldn't fool him if we wanted to. He knows whether we really have taken the one thing in this world that we have complete control over – our will, our power to choose, and willingly surrendered it **entirely** to Him.

Question 76:

We don't have to chase after God's blessings. God's Word tells us that His blessings will come upon us and overtake us. What will cause this to happen?

Answer:

If we do what our Father's Word tells us to do, we are told that His blessings will come upon us and overtake us. He will place us in a realm of spiritual knowledge that will put us above the way most people on earth live their lives.

Our Father tells us that he wants us to "hearken diligently" to His voice in order to find out how He wants us to live our lives. Then he tells us that we need to do exactly what His Word tells us to do. If we do this, He says that He will "set us on high."

Deuteronomy 28:1 – 2: "Now it shall come to pass, if you hearken diligently to the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God."

Question 77:

God's word very definitely tells us that it is possible to be in a position where all of our financial needs will be abundantly supplied, and we will also have an abundance left over to give to every good cause that we are led to give to. Exactly what do we need to do in order to get into this desirable financial position?

Answer:

God's Word is awesome! We are told in the Word that our Father is able to abundantly provide every blessing in our lives so that, no matter what happens, we can always have every one of our needs met with enough left over for every charitable donation that we are led to give to.

2 Corinthians 9:8: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

This is a verse to get very excited over! However, there is one key word at the start of this verse that must be discussed and that is the word "able." We are not told that God will always provide all of this for us. This isn't "automatic" for all Christians. If it were, we would never see any Christians with financial problems.

Question 78:

What are two reasons why our Father wants so much for us to prosper financially?

Answer:

God wants his children to prosper financially for two reasons. First, our economy is going to change tremendously during the next several years. Worldly financial principles that have worked well for many years will not work well any longer and it is imperative for God's children to learn and apply His laws of finance and stewardship during the difficult years that are ahead of us.

Second, I believe that our Father wants us to apply God's laws of finance and stewardship in order to fulfill the "great commission" that was given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus told us, "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15). He also said, "and this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." (Matthew 25:14)

Question 79:

Would you like to be in a financial position where you are able to give tremendous sums of money to various Christian causes? This definitely is possible. Exactly what does the Word tell us that we need to do in order to get into this unique financial position?

Answer:

God's laws of sowing and reaping clearly indicate that He wants us to reap much more than we sow. We can see this by looking at all the seeds inside of various fruits. Obviously, God gives us many more seeds than we need.

Our Father knows no limits. If any limits are set, we set them – not God. He wants us to stretch our faith, and stretch it some more, and more, and more. As we release our faith again and again, He will continually give us an increase of the money that we sow back into his kingdom.

As our Father keeps giving us an increase, we need to keep plowing it back into his kingdom. He gives us the increase. We plant this increase. He gives us more increase. We plant this increase. And on and on the cycle continues....

God doesn't want us to stop. In these last days, before Jesus returns, our Father wants to raise up large numbers of Christians from all over the world who will fully grasp and utilize His laws of sowing and reaping. If we fully understand these laws and constantly apply them, the Lord will use us as a channel. Not only will he meet all of our needs regardless of what is happening in the world's economy, but large amounts of money will flow through our hands because He knows that we will constantly reinvest this money in the Kingdom of God.

Question 80:

Some Christians give freely, yet they still receive only a "trickle" of the blessings that are promised in God's Word. What is the primary reason for this?

Answer:

Are you planting ample financial seeds and failing to receive abundantly? If so, God tells us what we should do.

"Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes." Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways! Haggai 1:6 – 7

Many Christians have not experienced the "windows of heaven" opening over their finances and the abundance that is promised by His Word. One possible reason is that many Christians know and apply God's laws of giving, but they don't know and apply His laws of receiving.

Question 81:

What exactly should we do if we have followed all of God's laws of prosperity and still have not received?

Answer:

God's Word clearly speaks of people who "have sown much and bring in little." Therefore, an abundant return obviously isn't automatic. We don't "automatically" receive bountifully just because we sow bountifully. If we're sowing abundantly and not receiving abundantly, what does God's Word tell us to do? Our Father tells us twice in Haggai to "consider your ways." He is actually telling us that we need to take a good look at what we

are doing in all areas of our life if we are sowing seeds bountifully and if we're still not receiving bountifully.

If we aren't receiving a harvest as promised in the Word, one strategy would be to speak out the promises of Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1 – 3, Malachi 3:10 – 11, Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 8, and many others.

(A copy of "God's Laws of Finance and Stewardship" is located in Tab 2 of your notebook or online in the "God's Word" section of www.phlibrary.com)

We need to praise God and thank him for supplying abundantly. We must "stick to our guns." Too many Christians waiver after a while and allow their doubts to come out of their mouths. This negative confession cancels the results that would have been forthcoming if they had continued to cultivate their crops with faith and patience.

Just as the farmer has to clear out the weeds in his garden, we clear out the weeds in the spiritual realm by boldly confessing the promises of God in spite of the weeds that are trying to choke off our harvest. If we really do believe that we are going to receive from God, we should talk and act exactly the way we would talk and act if we had a guaranteed Certificate of Deposit that we know would mature in time to meet all of our needs. God's Word is a much stronger assurance than any worldly promise to pay!

(Refer to Tab - of your notebook for a sample of "Declarations – Finances" or online in the "Declarations" section of www.phlibrary.com)

Doing What Our Father Tells Us to Do

Question 82:

Many Christians believe that they understand God's laws of finance and stewardship, but we all have to pass tests in two specific areas to show what we really know and understand God's Word. What are these two areas?

Answer:

Many Christians "think" that they know God's laws, but their words and their actions show that they don't. We will be tested constantly in this life and our test results will be based not upon what we think we know, but on what we actually say and do during these tests of life.

One way that God will specifically test each of us is in the handling of our money. He can clearly see how obedient we are to His instructions by observing what each of us does in an area that is very important to all of us – our finances.

Work & Discipline

Question 83:

God's Word tells us that prosperity and hard work go together. Scriptures in Proverbs tell us to compare our work with the work of an ant. What specifically can we learn from observing how an ant works?

Answer:

God's Word tells us that we should work like an ant works. He tells us that the ant has no boss, but it instinctively works hard to provide it's needs. God refers to ants as "exceedingly wise" and then compares this to lazy humans who take it easy and doze a lot. He warns us that this attitude will lead to poverty.

Proverbs 30:24: "There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise. The ants are not a strong people, yet they provide their food in the summer."

Proverbs 6:6–8: "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest."

Question 84:

One of the primary causes of the financial problems in our economy today is the large number of workers who expect a full day's pay for a half day's work. What does the Bible say about this?

Answer:

Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

Matthew 5:41: "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him two"

Colossians 3:23: "And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

Proverbs 20:4: "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold, therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing."

Proverbs 6:9-11: "How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep—so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man."

Proverbs 6 tells us that one day lazy people will wake up and find that poverty has overtaken them and, just like an armed robber, this poverty will take everything they have from them – the financed homes, cars and everything else that they thought they "owned."

The Blessing of Abraham

Question 85:

The Bible clearly tells us that Abraham enjoyed great financial prosperity. As Christians, how does Abraham's prosperity relate to us?

Answer:

Many patriarchs of the Bible prospered as a result of following God's laws of finance and stewardship, including Isaac, Jacob, Solomon, David, Joseph, and more. One great example of the application of these laws can be seen in the life of Abraham. Abraham lived a very fruitful, prosperous life. "And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." (Genesis 13:2)

The New Testament clearly teaches that, because of the price paid by Jesus Christ, all Christians are heirs to the same blessings that Abraham received from God. This means that the blessings God gave to Abraham are available to us and we can receive these blessings if we will follow his laws of finance and stewardship.

Galatians 3:14: "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ."

Galatians 3:29: "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise"