



## Biblical Principles for Stewardship and Fundraising

Christian leaders, including development staff, who believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and choose prayerfully to pursue eternal kingdom values (Mt. 6:19-21), will seek to identify the sacred kingdom resources of God's economy within these parameters:<sup>1</sup>

1. God, the creator (Gen. 1) and sustainer of all things (Col. 1:17) and the One “who works within us to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20), is a God of infinite abundance (Ps. 50:10-11) and grace (2 Cor. 9:8).<sup>2</sup>
2. Acknowledging the primacy of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16) as our chief treasure (Mt. 13:44), Christians are called to lives of stewardship, as managers of all that God has entrusted to them (1 Cor. 4:1-2).<sup>3</sup>
3. A Christian's attitude toward possessions on earth is important to God (Mt. 6:24), and there is a vital link between how believers utilize earthly possessions (as investments in God's kingdom) and the eternal rewards that believers receive (Phil. 4:17).<sup>4</sup>
4. God entrusts possessions to Christians and holds them accountable for their use, as a tool to grow God's eternal kingdom, as a test of the believer's faithfulness to God, and as a trademark that their lives reflect Christ's values (Lk. 16:1-9).<sup>5</sup>
5. From God's abounding grace, Christians' giving reflects their gratitude for what God has provided and involves growing in an intimate faith relationship with Christ as Lord of their lives (Lk. 7:36-50).<sup>6</sup>
6. Because giving is a worshipful, obedient act of returning to God from what has been provided (1 Chron. 29:10-14), Christian fundraisers should hold a conviction that, in partnership with the church, they have an important role in the spiritual maturation of believers (James 3:1).<sup>7</sup>
7. The primary role of Christian fundraisers is to advance and facilitate a believer's faith in and worship of God through a Christ-centered understanding of stewardship that is solidly grounded on Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16).<sup>8</sup>
8. Recognizing it is the work of the Holy Spirit that prompts Christians to give (Jn. 15:4-5) (often through fundraising techniques) (2 Cor. 9:5-7, Neh. 1:4-11), fundraisers and/or organizations must never manipulate or violate their sacred trust with ministry partners.<sup>9</sup>
9. An eternal, God-centered worldview promotes cooperation, rather than competition, among organizations, and places the giver's relationship to God above the ministry's agenda (2 Cor. 4:16-18).<sup>10</sup>
10. In our materialistic, self-centered culture, Christian leaders should acknowledge that there is a great deal of unclear thinking about possessions, even among believers, and that an eternal kingdom perspective will often seem like foolish nonsense (1 Cor. 2:14) to those who rely on earthly kingdom worldview techniques (1 Cor. 2:1-5).<sup>11</sup>

When these principles are implemented, that rely on God changing hearts more than on human methods, the resulting joy-filled generosity of believers will fully fund God's work here on earth (Ex. 36:6-7).<sup>12</sup>

## **Selected References for Biblical Principles for Stewardship and Fundraising**

- 1) Mt. 6:19-21, 33
- 2) Gen. 1, Ps. 24:1, Col. 1:17, Eph. 3:20, Ps. 50:10-11, Phil. 4:19, 2 Cor. 9:8, Jn. 1:14
- 3) Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 9:23, Phil. 3:8-11, Mt. 13:44, 25:15-30, 1 Cor. 4:1-2, 1 Pet. 4:10
- 4) Mt. 6:24, 22:37, 1 Tim. 6:10, Phil. 4:17, Prov. 24:12, Mt. 19:27-30, Lk. 14:12-14, 1 Cor. 3, 2 Cor. 5:10, Eph. 2:10, 1 Tim. 6:19
- 5) Lk. 16:1-9, Rom. 1:1, 2 Cor. 8-9, Gal. 6:10, Col. 3:17, 1 Tim. 6:18
- 6) Lk. 7:36-50, Gen. 14:20, Ezra 2:69, Mk. 12:41-44
- 7) 1 Chron. 29:10-14, Rom. 12:1, James 3:1
- 8) 2 Tim. 3:16, Ex. 34:32, 35:21
- 9) Jn. 15:4-5, Is. 55:8-11, 2 Cor. 9:7, 1 Chron. 28:6, 29:9, Ps. 90:17, Prov. 21:1, 2 Cor. 3:5
- 10) 2 Cor. 4:16-18, Ps. 90:1-12
- 11) Cor. 2:14, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 1 Cor. 1:17-31
- 12) Ex. 36:6-7, Mt. 6:10