



STEPS TO MATURITY

Celebration Centre Resources

Foundation Studies

CELEBRATION CENTRE RESOURCES

Steps to Maturity Study Guide

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Giving

When you gave your life to Jesus, He was faithful to answer you, save you from your sin and give you eternal life. When you gave your life to Him, He promised to walk with you in every area of your life. Becoming a Christian means you give your whole life to Jesus – not just some of it. We are to trust God with every aspect of our lives – relationally, spiritually, physically, mentally and also financially.

Jesus needs to be the Lord of your life.

It is important to trust Him with your finances. God's desire is to prosper His people. This means He wants to see you living an abundant lifestyle.

Read **PROV 11:24-25**.

Write in your own words what this is telling you about giving and getting.

There are many natural laws that can not be broken (i.e.) 'The Law of Gravity' - what goes up, must come down! There are also spiritual laws/principles that have been set which will always apply – even to the non-Christian. One of these laws is 'The Law of Sowing and Reaping'. A farmer who plants a field of wheat knows that after a period of time he will reap a harvest. If he did not sow the seed he could not expect to reap a return. Being a giver is very important. When you give your finances you are sowing a seed and God will bring the return!

Contrary to the way a human thinks, God says, if you get it and hang on to it, you will eventually lose it - if you get it and give it away, you will prosper.

In the natural people will ask the following –

“What does he give?”

“What does he own?”

“How much does he give?”

However Jesus asks the following –
“How does he give it?”
“How does he use it?”
“How much does he keep?”

2 COR 9:7 “...for God loves a _____ giver”.

Jesus Empowers Us

Jesus talked more on money than any other subject. He knows that where your heart is, there your money will be also. If He truly is the Lord of your life then you should trust Him with your finances, and give your money if He asks for it. God really does want to bless you with His prosperity; that you would be so blessed, you can be a blessing to others.

Some people think that if you are poor, you are more spiritual than all the rest. This could not be further from the truth! Having money, or not having money, says nothing about a person’s spirituality.

Prosperity means to thrive or flourish in every area of your life – including your finances. A prosperous person can meet any need that comes their way (to be able to get a sick person well, meet a financial need, get a marriage back together etc).

1. Read PS 1

When a person keeps the conditions in **verses 1 & 2**, what is the promise given to them?

What are we told not to do (three things) if we want to prosper?

What are the two things we must do?

2. Read PS 23:1

What does it say about being in want?

3. Read **HEB 11:6**

Does God reward those who seek Him?

When Jesus died on the cross He took your place. He became your sin so that you may receive His righteousness. He bore our sicknesses. He was wounded that we might be healed (**MT 8:17** and **Isaiah 53:5-6**). He also dealt with the issue of poverty.

What does **2 COR 8:9** tell us that Jesus did for us?

There are many other scriptures in the Bible that will teach you about God's will for you to live in prosperity.

PS 84:11

PS 34:10

PS 35:27

JOSH 1:8

DEUT 28

There were many people in the Old Testament that God prospered. As you read the Bible you will come across these men – Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Solomon etc.

How To Prosper Financially

- **Realise that God is your source**

All you have and all that you will ever have, it all belongs to God.

Read **1 COR 6:19-20** and **ROM 12:1**. God is your financial source – not your job or your employer!

PHIL 4:19. Who will supply all your needs?

- **Make Jesus the Lord of your finances**

This means you listen to Him and His plans for your job, finances, how you run your business, how much you give away etc.

Write out **MT 6:33**

Read **1 COR 6:19-20**. You do not own anything while you are on this earth. You are merely a steward of everything you have; your possessions, job, family, talents etc. You simply manage these things for God.

MT 25:14-30. You are accountable to Him for what you do with the things He has given you to manage.

- **Be a giver**

You should 'live to give'.

Write out **LK 6:38**

God has given you a plan for your financial giving. The Bible says that you are to give 10% (a tenth) of all you receive, to God. This is called the 'tithe'. If you do not give what belongs to Him, you are robbing God – read **MAL 3:8-12**.

You give the tithe into the 'storehouse' which is the place where you are spiritually fed – your local Church.

Jesus teaches that the tithe is God's plan for your giving. Read **MT 23:23**, **LK 11:42** and **MT 5:20**.

- **Tithes and offerings**

When you tithe God promises to take care of you and supply all your needs.

Once you have paid your tithe, you can then give what the Bible calls 'offerings'. An offering is any money you give over and above your tithe. **MK 10:30** tells us that we will receive a 100 fold return on the offerings we give. Our primary goal in giving is to bless God and others, not to just receive, BUT, in giving you will receive a return so that you will have more to give away!

You can give an offering to various places –

- a. **MK 10:29-30**. Investing in the gospel – giving money to missionaries, visiting ministries in your local church etc.
 - b. **PROV 19:17** and **22:9**. Giving to the poor.
 - c. **PROV 25:21-22**. Giving to your enemies.
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