

The Treasure Principle

*Stewardship definitions*

John Maxwell: “Stewardship is the proper management of my assets  
in order to build God’s kingdom.”  
John Lollis: “Christian stewardship is more than the management of things.  
It is the refusal to let things manage us.”  
Randy Alcorn: “A steward manages assets for the owner’s benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It is his job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.”

A. My Heart always goes where I put God’s Money

* Too often we store up our treasure here on Earth, not in Heaven;  
  1 Chronicles 29:10-14
* Are you moving Closer to or farther Away from your treasure?

B. Heaven, not Earth, is my Home

* The greatest deterrent to giving is the Illusion that Earth is our home; Hebrews 11:13; Philippians 3:20
* Here on earth we are Pilgrims and Strangers; Hebrews 11:13

C. Live for the Line, not the Dot

* Dot= Life on Earth; Line = Life in Heaven; Ecclesiastes 5:10-15

D. Giving is the Antidote to Materialism

* Trust God for Provision; Matthew 6:26-33
* Don’t be a stagnant Pond but be a refreshing Stream

E. God prospers me, not to raise my standard of Living, but to raise my standard of Giving

* Whose money is it? God
* What are you as a Steward going to Do with it?
* What God does To you, wants to do Through you; 2 Corinthians 8:14-15

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**Tithing: A Biblical Foundation** (#2)

John Maxwell, Successful Stewardship

*Question:* **Where Should My Tithe Go?**

*Answer:* This question has no dogmatic, scriptural answer since the references to tithing aren’t specific as to where the tithe should be given. In the Old Testament, tithes were received at the place of worship, which today could be interpreted as the local church. This practice continued, even into the New Testament. Malachi 3:10 instructs us to “bring the tithe into the storehouse.” This is where the term “storehouse tithing” comes from. The storehouse represents God’s designated place of (corporate) worship; the place where His people are spiritually fed and nurtured. Again, this seems to imply the local church. The Apostle Paul argues that financial giving to the local church enables the elders or bishops to be supported, again implying that we should tithe to the body of believers where we are taught.

*Question:* **But What If I’m Not Able to Do This?**

*Answer:* Obviously, God calls us to give what we can, not what we can’t. Nothing more and nothing less. If someone is unemployed or in school – under the financial care of someone else – then there may be no income to tithe. But the challenge God gives us in Scripture is to become a liberal giver; to practice the principle of giving our first and our best to Him. Hence, tithing becomes less an issue of the wallet and more an issue of trust. Am I trusting God to meet my needs, as I put Him first with my finances? No doubt, we live in the age of grace. God calls us to freedom, not bondage. But formal membership in a local church calls us to live above our rights. It’s not an issue of being God’s child; it’s an issue of being God’s example for others.

*Question:* **But What If I Can’t Give “Cheerfully?”**

*Answer:* It is true 2 Corinthians 9:7 calls us to only give offerings that we have purposed to give; not grudgingly, but with a cheerful heart.  
However, note two truths. The context of this chapter refers to a special offering for an outside need, not to tithing. Tithing is the base (which God owns anyway; Malachi 3:8). Offerings are what we give (or “offer”) to God over and above the tithe. Offerings are one of three ways we can invest in God’s kingdom, alongside tithing and giving to the poor (Proverbs 19:17). The second truth we should note is that if we cannot tithe with a cheerful heart – our goal ought to be to change our heart, not our tithing amount. God enables the Spirit-filled believer to live above rights and the flesh. We should be living supernaturally, not naturally.