



Part 7: The High Cost of Reality
Pastor Grant Fishbook
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My Financial Confessions

1. I have deep issues with the way stewardship is portrayed and taught on TV.
2. When I was younger I was financially naïve.
3. I believed that I was financially exempt from God's plan.

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

– Proverbs 3:9-10

4. I bought into the ownership myth.

The Ownership Truth

• Everything belongs to God

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. – 1 Chronicles 29:11

• Everything comes from God

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. – 1 Chronicles 29:12

Owner A person who owns

Steward A person who manages another's property or financial affairs

Biblical Steward A child of God who aggressively manages and invests God's blessing for God's glory

5. I treated giving as a spiritual finish line and not a starting point.

But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. – 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! – 2 Corinthians 9:15

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6. I have spent years being afraid to talk about God and money.

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you."

– 1 Chronicles 29:14-18

Stewardship is a matter of the heart – not the wallet.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

– Matthew 6:21

Next Step

Register today for the Good Sense 1-Day Financial Seminar
Saturday, March 14 • 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM in the Meeting Place

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) What is one topic that you are generally afraid to talk about with people? Why is that topic so intimidating?
- 2) Do you get uncomfortable when someone talks about God's plan for money? Why?
- 3) What financial changes have you made to make it through this rough economy?
- 4) Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-18. How does this passage affect the "ownership" of what you think is "yours"?
- 5) Are you being obedient to Proverbs 3:9-10?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?