

# Study Guide

Monday, November 16- Friday, November 20

**Monday, November 16.** Our financial commitment to God is the first step to investing in the future. We should be thankful for each blessing so that our hearts are open to giving generously not only to God, but to others as well.

1. Do you truly recognize that God is the owner of all you have and you are just the steward? How does your life show it?
2. Think of a time that in helping or giving to someone in need you were truly blessed.
3. Do you think of yourself as a person who gives with your life? What are some of the ways you give? How generous would others say you are with your resources?
4. Do you trust God's promises to bless you and take care of your needs or are you more reliant on yourself to do that? Explain.
5. How can you increase your commitment to giving and following Jesus Christ in terms of your possessions?

**Tuesday, November 17 – Read James 4:1-6, Matthew 7:7-11, Philippians 4:19 & Romans 8:32.** In order to flourish in this the current financial turmoil you need to begin seeking God's perspective and counsel. Unlike much thought that portrays God as a fearful ruler and judge, Scripture presents God as a powerful parent who seeks the well-being of his children. This same God who created the universe has unlimited resources and desires your success in financial matters. However, financial freedom is based on trusting God and practicing God's directives when it comes to money and resources. And serving God over money is the first place to begin.

- Do you currently seek God's perspective on finances? Why or why not?
- Do you ever think of God as a totally loving parent? Do you believe God wants you to have financial health? Why or why not?
- How do you show God your trust with your current financial decisions? On which Biblical principles do you try to stand?

**Wednesday, November 18 – Read James 4:3, John 6:35 & Hebrews 13:5.** Once you begin seeking God's perspective you must also begin to check your motives. What is the compelling force that drives your actions when it comes to finances? The current culture is very much caught up in both hedonism - the philosophy that the ultimate life objective is the pursuit of pleasure, and covetousness - the wanting what I don't have. Both of these will take you away from seeking God's objectives in your life as well as robbing you of your daily blessings.

- What drives or motivate you in life? Does that need to be checked and/or changed?
- How much does pursuing pleasure or leisure motivate your actions right now? Do you truly seek God's objectives?
- In the past has coveting ever robbed you of seeing your daily blessings? Explain

**Thursday, November 19 – Read James 4:6 & Matthew 6:33.** Once you begin to seek and understand God's principles and live for God's objectives, you will be more able to persevere through any difficulty including finances. One way to maintain this right perspective is to surround yourself with godly advice as well as godly advisors.

- Think of a time you persevered through something difficult. What kept you going?
- To whom are you currently listening in staying motivated in life? Do you need to surround yourself with Godly advice and advisors?
- What do you need to do to get or keep heaven's perspective with your finances: begin trusting in God, check your motivations, or continue to persevere with God's help?

**Friday, November 20 – Read Matthew 6:14, II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:3, & Proverbs 3:5.** Even though you might receive blessing from God, you might find yourself blocking or hindering that blessing from working in and through your life. One thing that damns up this channel of blessing is holding on to past hurts and disappointments and failing to forgive others. When we forgive others it allows the power of God to flow through us as a source of blessing that ultimately connects others to God. But when we hold onto that bitterness we usually come up with excuses to not bless others, like lack of time, lack of ability and fear.

- Which excuse do you most often use to not be a blessing to others: 1) lack of time – selfishness, 2) lack of ability – insecurity, or 3) lack of trust in God – fear? Why?
- Where do you need to let God's forgiveness work in your life? Is there someone you need to forgive?