

Hope Ministries
Bible Study Series: {Lesson 1}

[The Path to Financial Security]
Proverbs3:9-14

Back Ground Scripture: [Genesis 4:2-6]

Bible Truth: God requires financial responsibility as well as accountability

Lesson Aim: To become a good and a faithful steward

Proverbs3:9 > *Honor the Lord with thy substance, and the first-fruit of all your increase;* the Israelites brought the first portion of their harvest to the Lord God to acknowledge that He was owner of the Land (**Leviticus 23:10; 25:23; Numbers 18:12-13**).

We also should give God the First-Fruit of our income so that we may honor Him as Lord of our lives and possessions. God will then open the way to pour out His blessings upon us (**Malachi 3:10; II Corinthians 9:6**). **“Them that honor me I will honor”** (**I Samuel 2:30**) is God’s promise to all who faithfully and generously give their finances.

II Corinthians 9:6-15> But this I say, he which sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he which sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

>Every man according as he has purposed in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.

>And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to all good work.

>As is written, He has dispersed abroad; He has given to the poor; His righteousness remains forever; now He that ministers seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruit of your righteousness.

>Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causes through us thanksgiving to God; for the administration of this service not only supplies the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgiving unto God.

The principles and promises of Christian giving contained in these two chapters are as follow:
We belong to God; what we have is held as a trust for our Lord. We must make the basic decision within our hearts to serve God and not money. Giving is done to help those in need, to advance the kingdom of God, to lay up treasures in heaven, and to learn to fear the Lord. Giving should be in proportion to our income. Giving is seen as proof of our love and should be done sacrificially and voluntarily. By giving to God we sow not only money, but also faith, time, and service, thus reaping greater faith and blessing. When God supplies a abundance, it is so that we may multiply our good works. Giving increases our dedication to God, and activates the work of God in our financial affairs.

Note: Christians can give either generously or sparingly; God will reward them accordingly. To Paul, giving is not loss, but a form of saving; it results in substantial benefits for those who give (**II Corinthians 8:2**). He is not speaking primarily of quantity given, but quality of our hearts, desires, and motives. The poor widow gave little, but God considered it much because of the proportion she gave and the complete dedication she reflected (**Luke 21:1-4**).

Key Word: “*Honor*” the Lord with your substance and the first-fruit of all you increase.

Hebrew: Honor-(kabad): [kaw-bade]; a primary root; to be heavy, i.e., in a bad sense {burdensome, severe, dull} or in a good sense {numerous, rich, honorable}; to make weighty [in the same two senses]-abounding with, more grievously affliction, boast, to make glorious, bring to, come to, do, get, be honorable, laze, more be laid, promote {to honor}, be rich. Also to worship

II Note: The contrast is not between an offering of plant life and an offering of animal life, but between a careless, thoughtless offering and a choice, generous offering. Motivation and heart attitude are all important, and God looked with favor on Abel and his offering because of Abel’s faith (**Hebrews 11:4**).