

**HOW TO GET RICH  
THE ART OF GIVING**

## **INTRODUCTION: BANK OF BLESSINGS**

I can think of few things more exciting than challenging you to be a person who gives. If you can get excited about giving some of your money back to God while you're a student, your life will be blessed. I would love to be the one who encourages you to become the type of Christian who enjoys giving money to do God's work.

While the idea of getting excited about giving may seem strange to you now, you will come to find that many Christians view giving money to the Lord as their privilege. They love to give! I am one of those Christians. As a high school student, I was challenged to study the Bible and discover what God wanted me to do with my money. I can honestly say, since then, I've never been the same.

I want to challenge you in the same way I was challenged. Through the Bank of Blessings tool, you will learn what the Bible says about giving, hear a message regarding giving, and experience giving firsthand. The following three components make up the Bank of Blessings kit:

- A Bible Study booklet (what you're now reading)
- An mp3 of the Bank of Blessings message
- Offering envelopes

To help you understand how these three pieces fit together, I'll explain each one.

### **Step 1: The Bible Study (How to Get Rich: The Art of Giving)**

Within the next few pages are dozens of Bible passages that refer to God's intention for our money. The verses are broken into three different sections or studies. Each study should take about thirty minutes to finish. The intention isn't to finish all three studies in one sitting, but to complete them at

a pace that is comfortable to you and realistic to your ability to concentrate and learn.

As you work through the questions and write your answers, be listening for God to speak to you and give you insight as you study His Word. After you finish all three sections, it's time to listen to the mp3.

### **Step 2: The mp3 (How to Get Rich: The Art of Giving)**

After completing the three lessons, you should have a much better understanding of God's plan for giving. This mp3 is intended to provide another way to learn about giving and reinforce what you've already learned. It's not the best message ever recorded, but it's a decent description of God's plan for your giving. As you listen to the mp3, fill in the blanks towards the end of this booklet.

### **Step 3: Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes are for you to use in one of several ways. You choose! Personalized envelopes are available from our accountant, Peter Greer if you choose to set aside money for God. This money is your tithe (10% of your weekly income). Envelopes are also available on Sundays in the back of the seats and can be used for an offering (a one time or occasional offering to God) or the church building fund project. There is a difference between a tithe and an offering. A tithe is a consistent gift where you give at least the first 10% from your income every week or each month (as you receive it). An offering is a gift of any amount given whenever you can. Keep in mind that a special offering or the church building fund project is not to be considered a tithe.

I want you to begin the habit of tithing. This is where you set 10% of your income (allowance, baby-sitting, salary, etc.) aside to honor God. This tithe shows God that He comes first in your life, so you give Him the first parts of your money.

## 01: CAPTURING THE BIG PICTURE

Money: it's one of life's great paradoxes. Everyone wants it—this makes it valuable. To get money, you need to work hard, yet it doesn't have any real value until you give it away. Many people think it will make them happy, that it will solve most of the "big" problems . . . yet some of the saddest people on the planet are those who have lots of money. God gave us His Bible so we can get to know Him more and become better at living life. It's not surprising then that the Bible has a lot to say about money. In this first lesson, you're going to get a look at the big picture about money. As you look up these passages, pray that God will grant you new insight on how He views money.

Mark 10:17-22      Why did the man walk away sad?

Mark 10:23-25      Priorities: what happens when you put God before money?

Being satisfied with what you have comes from the presence of God in your life. Possessions can be stolen; the Spirit of God will never leave us.

**TOTAL  
SATISFACTION**

Hebrews 13:5      What does this passage say about the love of money?

1 Timothy 6:17-19      Why can't we put our hope in money? What can we put our hope in? Why?

Luke 16:10-11      Where does faithfulness come into play with your money?

Deuteronomy 6:10-13  
& 8:17-18

Where does wealth come from  
according to these passages?

What are some truths the Bible teaches about money?

Deuteronomy 14:22

How much was a tithe in the  
Old Testament?

What do you think your responsibility is as a Christian when it  
comes to your money?

James 4:17 Now that you know what the Bible says  
about money, what should you do with what  
you know?

Why do you think it is important for a Christian to give?

## O2: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GIVE?

In lesson one, you learned some essential truths about money. The Bible doesn't stop there. It moves beyond description into explanation: it explains exactly what is going to happen in the life of a Christian who is a giver. It's always easier to do something when you know that the outcome will be good. This lesson will examine a side of giving that's a little more practical than basic truths; it will explore what happens when a Christian gives.

Proverbs 3:9-10      What part of our wealth are we to give to God? How will God honor you according to verse 10?

1 Corinthians 9:11-14      Why is giving to the church important?

Proverbs 11:24-25      What happens to the person who gives?

Malachi 3:8-10      During Malachi's day, those who followed God's ways weren't giving their tithes to God. What is the promise God made to those who give?

Proverbs 22:9      In your own opinion, what are some of the ways a generous man might be blessed by God?

2 Corinthians 8:7-8      Why do you think God wants us to be people who give?

2 Corinthians 9:13-14

What do prayers and giving have in common?

Deuteronomy 15:10 What is the result of giving when your heart is right?

Matthew 22:15-22 Although this passage is mainly about taxes, in your opinion, what belongs to God?

Romans 12:4-8

What happens when you give generously?

After completing this lesson, what do you think happens to a Christian when they give?

Why do you think it is important to be a giver?

Christians belong to a community called the body of Christ (the Church). What each member does affects the other members. Giving builds up the body.

**BODY  
BUILDERS**

### 03: HOW SHOULD I GIVE?

It's clear that God has a lot to say about our money: He has a plan and when we follow that plan, blessings came into our lives. In this lesson, you will look at some of the finer details of that plan. Some Christians give out of obligation, and it becomes a meaningless ritual without heart. God wants His givers to have a certain heartfelt attitude about giving. You've had enough theory, now it's time to examine how these timeless truths translate into your life today.

Matthew 23:23      What was Jesus' problem with the religious people?

2 Corinthians 8:12      What is the most important aspect of giving?

Mark 12:41-44      Why do you think Jesus was so impressed by the widow?

Matthew 6:2-3      How does Jesus want us to give?

Acts 5:1-11      What did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong?

Luke 14:33      What does a person have to do to be a disciple of Jesus?

2 Corinthians 8:1-4      Focusing on verse 4, how is sharing described?

Could you imagine getting leftover "hand-me-downs" for Christmas? God deserves more than our spare change. When we get money, we should pay Him first.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your own heart?

10 - Take me to the ER, I need heart surgery fast.

1 - I'm Jesus Jr.

Matthew 6:19-20      What is the point Jesus is trying to make?

Matthew 6:21      What is the connection between your heart and your treasure?

What do you think you need to do to become a better giver?

What does God want a giver's heart to look like?

## HOW TO GET RICH: THE ART OF GIVING

God's way:

World's way:

### Why Be Generous With My Money?

1. Giving is a big sign of spiritual

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*Your heart will be where your treasure is (Matthew 6:21). If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too (Living Bible).*

*You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. For your generosity to them will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ (2 Corinthians 9:13).*

2. Giving on earth will be rewarded

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*Tell the rich people to do good, to be rich in doing good deeds, to be generous and ready to share. By doing that, they will be saving a treasure for themselves as a strong foundation for the future. Then they will be able to have the life that is true life (1 Timothy 6:18-19).*

3. Giving opens the doors to God's

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*If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—large or small—it will be used to measure what is given back to you (Luke 6:38).*

## What Should I Know About Giving?

1. Giving is more important than

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*...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).*

2. Motive is more important than the

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*Jesus went over to the collection box in the Temple and sat and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two pennies. He called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you, this poor widow has given more than all the others have given. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has" (Mark 12:41-44).*

*If you are really eager to give, it isn't important how much you are able to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you don't have (2 Corinthians 8:12).*

3. Secrecy is more important than

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*When you give a gift to someone in need, don't shout about it as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I assure you, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone, don't tell your left hand what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in secret, and your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you (Matthew 6:2-4).*

## How Should I Give?

1. Give with \_\_\_\_\_

*But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you have already given us (1 Chronicles 29:14).*

2. Give with \_\_\_\_\_

*You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7).*

3. Give with \_\_\_\_\_

*And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others (2 Corinthians 9:8).*

## CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE FINISHED!

I'm thrilled you've completed the Bank of Blessings Bible Study and listened to the mp3. I hope you have learned about God's plan for your money and I hope you've discovered that God blesses those who give.

I want you to go beyond just learning about giving, I want you to experience the privilege of honoring God with your money.