



ARGUING WITH GOD

Part 7: But It's Mine

Pastor Grant Fishbook
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God's Plan for His Provision

Stewardship is not a matter of income. It's a matter of trust.

Track your finances

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

– Proverbs 27:23-24

Return ten percent to its rightful owner

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” – Malachi 3:10

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. – 1 Corinthians 16:2

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits 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

Use good planning to gain victory

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. – Proverbs 21:5

...stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it. – Proverbs 21:20b (GOOD NEWS BIBLE)

Save for the future

Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow. – Proverbs 13:11

The wise store up choice food and oil, but fools gulp theirs down. – Proverbs 21:20

Taste and savor contentment

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. – Hebrews 13:5

The world's financial priorities:

- 1) Make it.
- 2) Own it.
- 3) Hoard it.
- 4) Save it.
- 5) Give it.

God's financial priorities:

- 1) Earn it.
- 2) Tithe it.
- 3) Save it.
- 4) Repay it.
- 5) Enjoy it.

(Continues on back)

Arguing with God

But it's mine

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. – *Psalm 24:1*

But I work really hard

You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. – *Deuteronomy 8:17-18*

But I can't afford to follow your instruction

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight. – *Proverbs 3:5-6*

We have been blessed to be a blessing.

Next Steps

Starting in January, CTK will again offer two popular financial classes where you can learn biblical principles to manage money and develop a discipline of giving back to God. In mid December, pick up our winter classes flyer for information regarding *The Whatcom Dream* and *Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace* class.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Are you a spender or a saver?
- 2) If you had a spare hundred dollars, what would you do with it?
- 3) What are your honest feelings about God's plan for His provision?
- 4) Are there any other financial arguments that you would add to Grant's list? How have you reconciled your arguments with God about money?
- 5) If you were to be completely honest about your giving, which would describe the truth about you:
 - a. Joyful – I love being obedient
 - b. Embarrassed – I am not trusting God
 - c. Hopeful – I am working on it!

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.