

YOU, YOUR MONEY AND GOD

Sylvester Onyemalechi

You are unique and important to God and mankind. You are so important that God sacrificed His one and only Son Jesus Christ for your redemption and restoration to God. It is important that you as an individual understand and appreciate this truth and surrender your life to Christ completely.

To surrender means:

1. Believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
2. Trust in Him in all things and at all times.
3. Rely on Him.
4. Depend on Him.
5. Cling to Him.
6. Cleave to Him with all your heart refusing any form of separation.
7. Do all things to His glory and honour – Live for His pleasure.

1 Cor 10:31

31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

NIV

2 Cor 5:15

15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

NIV

Rom 12:1-2

12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.

NIV

You must now live your life with the understanding that you belong to Jesus Christ – He owns you. Jesus Christ bought you with His precious blood sacrificed on the cross of Calvary for your redemption.

YOU'RE MONEY

If truly you belong to Jesus and He owns you completely, then your money belongs to Him too. He who owns a piece of land definitely owns the building on the land. If the land was leased by another, whatever building constructed on the land becomes the full possession of the owner of the land at the expiration of the lease. He who owns the land owns the building. In the same way, he who owns you owns whatever you have or will have in future.

When you have this understanding, you will see yourself as a **steward** of the resources of God. A steward is a manager of another's resources or estate, and will be accountable to his boss or owner. This means that what you have is not really yours though you are the one that worked for the money in human sense. God is the owner of all that you own because he owns you, and He plays a very important part in your job and business – He provides for you, inspires you in your work, energizes you, keeps you healthy, makes sure your employer, clients and costumers pays you as at when due. You must acknowledge Him in your labours and give Him His due honour. You do this by willingly releasing what he has given you back to Him.

HOW?

1. Joyfully giving your tithes regularly without delay.
2. Give bountiful offerings each time you have the opportunity to do so.
3. Give to outreach projects or programmes of your Church and ministry.
4. Give to Church building projects.
5. Give when there is a need in the Church and among the brethren.
6. Be eager to do it.
7. Give willingly and cheerfully when there is a need and when there is no need in the Church, ministry or in your life.

THE POWER OF MONEY

1. Money has purchasing power.

Ecc1 10:19

19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.

NIV

Money has power to buy whatever the holder or owner desires. Its purchasing power is determined by the currency's value in the international monetary market and the level of inflation in the local economy.

2. Money has controlling power.

Matt 6:24

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

NIV

Money seeks to control whoever possesses it. That is why people love money and become carried away by money making, even to the detriment of their salvation. Because money controls people, the love of money becomes the root of all evil. People under its control are ready to do anything to get money.

1 Tim 6:6-10

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content

with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

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Do not allow money to control you. Money, just like God, seeks to be worshipped. That is why God said we should not worship money but God.

GOD IS YOUR SOURCE

Your business is not your source. Your job is not your source. Your husband who provides for food money is not your source. Your parents that provide and care for you are not your source. God is your source. It is him that provides for us all through the instrumentality of humans and our job.

James 1:17

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

NIV

Gen 22:14

14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

KJV

Look up to God as your source. Worship and obey him to please him so that he can continue to bless and provide for you. Honour him with your life, tithe of your income and offerings.

CONCLUSION

Make giving your habit. Prove your faith in God through faithful tithing and giving. Tithing and giving is an act of faith in God's supernatural provision. God is committed to returning your gifts back to you, same measure (percentage), shaken together and running over. When the owner of what is in your possession prompts you to give, do it without hesitation though it is difficult.

Eccl 11:1-6

Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again. 2 Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land. 3 If clouds are full of water, they pour rain upon the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there will it lie. 4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. 5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. 6 Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

NIV

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

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SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. When you walk in covenant with God as he has demanded of you, greatness will definitely be your portion. Every man is blessed as he relates with God in the covenant.**
- 2. A man's response to the word of God determines how God deals with the man. Obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings problems, complications and troubles.**
- 3. Jesus taught in the parable of the sower that believers bear fruit based on their level of acceptance and yieldedness to the word of God. A man's level of yieldedness determines his fruitfulness. And fruitfulness determines the level of promotion.**
- 4. You are where you are by choice. And you can also decide to move from where you are. It is a matter of choice.**
- 5. It takes you changing to change your experience. The secret of changing your experience is in identifying why you suffered what you suffered, and going to work in that area to effect change.**
- 6. By your words, you will be justified; by your words you will be condemned. By your words you will be destroyed.**
- 7. You will make life better by the words you speak and you can make life bitter by the words you speak.**
- 8. There is sweet in your mouth and there is sweat in your mouth. If you do not speak the words that will make your life sweet, then you will speak the words that will make you sweat in life.**
- 9. Don't just know, but use what you know. Don't just understand, but walk in the understanding you have. Go and have dominion, reign and rule your world. It is your portion in Christ.**
- 10. Success starts with a decision to succeed. Where there is no firm resolve, there can be no achievement.**
- 11. You can only have what your faith can deliver to you.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

- 1. Never discuss your problem with someone incapable of solving it.**

2. Those who will not respect your time will not respect your wisdom either. Avoid time wasters.
3. Define every relationship to manage your life and your time well.
4. Don't submit leadership of your life to friends.
5. Your friends are counselors, but you are the decision maker. Your decisions determine your experience.
6. Those you hear always have influence over you.
7. What you see friends do repeatedly, you are likely to copy consciously or unconsciously.
8. Evaluate your relationships from time to time in order to eliminate the unnecessary, and redefine the necessary.
9. Your friends are your future.
10. Sometimes, your family is bad company, keep company with those who will make your dreams come through.
11. "Bad company corrupts good character" (1 Cor. 15 : 33).
12. The one whom you follow you learn his ways.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. Sadness is a depression of the mind.
2. Emotions dictate world events, and thoughts create emotions.
3. Every feeling is a product of your thoughts.
4. The mind will always resent what it cannot master.
5. As long as you see with the eyes of God, you will be what he wants you to be.
6. I cannot change your experience, except I change the way you think.
7. You can if you think you can.
8. Superiority and Inferiority complex are products of misinformation and wrong interpretations of events and the facts of life.
9. How you think is how you see. And how you see determine how you live.
10. "Our life is what our thoughts make of it" (Marcus Aurelius).