

Living Upside Down
“Kingdom Investments”
3-22-09

“Upside Down” – Living in Christ’s Kingdom is so counter-culture it often seems like it is *flipped* 180 degrees upside down. Acts 17:6

Principle #1 – GOD IS THE OWNER AND EXTRAVAGANT GIVER OF ALL THINGS!

Psalm 24:1 **SO**...give yourself back to God.

Principle #2 - GOD’S GRACE TRANSFORMS US INTO GENEROUS GIVERS.

2 Cor. 9:11 **SO**...experience and pass on the provision and blessing.

***Addition Equation:** Overflowing Joy + Extreme Need = Grace-filled generosity

Principle #3 – WE ARE THE INVESTORS OF ALL GOD’S ASSETS.

Gen. 2:15 **SO**...invest well and trust God for the miraculous dividends!

***Multiplication Equation:** *My generous investments x God’s ability to multiply = Abundant Blessing*

Text: 2 Cor. 8:1-7; 9:6-15 Kingdom Investments

Short Term: provide “dividends” here on earth.

Long Term: provide “dividends” for eternity.

1. **Invest well** – “*Excel in the grace of giving*” 8:7
 - a. Giving is a “grace”
 - b. We are to “excel”
 - i. What is “tithing”?

- c. Amounts vary, not obedience – 8:13-15
- d. Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30
 - i. Investments and dividends are expected by God.
 - ii. We are assigned various amounts according to ability.
 - iii. Faithfulness in a little leads to being trusted with more.
 - iv. Faithfulness results in happiness; joy.
 - v. Fear prevents us from investing in God’s kingdom.
 - vi. We are held accountable for how we invest God’s resources.

**** Together we can do far more than anyone can alone!**

2. **Trust God to miraculously multiply the dividends**
2 Cor. 9:8, 11
 - a. God is a God of “multiplication” - creation
 - i. “*Be fruitful and multiply*” Gen. 1:28
 - b. Spiritual Law of increasing returns.
3. **Humbly receive God’s provision through others’ investments** – 9:12-15
 - a. Our GRATEFULNESS brings God praise!

Transforming Questions:

1. How will I live differently believing that we are responsible for God’s provision and blessing in other people’s lives?
2. How will I live differently believing I must first humble myself to receive before I can generously give?

“EXCEL IN THE GRACE OF GIVING”