

Thoughts on Stewardship

- ◆ Lord, School us in the doing of kindles acts—regardless of station or side of the tracks. – Fred Bauer
- ◆ One who knows he has enough is rich. - Lao Tzu, Chinese Philosopher, 600 BC
- ◆ We are each gifted in a unique and important way. It is our responsibility, our privilege and our adventure to discover our own special light. – Mary Dunbar, British artist
- ◆ A habit for all of us to develop would be to look for something to appreciate in everyone we meet. We can all be generous with appreciation. – Carl Holmes
- ◆ The main thing is keeping the main thing the main thing. – German proverb
- ◆ If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito.
- ◆ "Whatever you possess must not possess you" writes Pope St. Gregory the Great (540-604 A.D)
- ◆ We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures. – Thornton Wilder
- ◆ True joy, happiness and inner peace come from giving of ourselves to others. A happy life is a life for others. – Henry Nouwen
- ◆ You have not done enough, you have never done enough, so long as it is still possible that you have something to contribute. – Dag Hammarskjold, UN Secretary-General from 1953 to 1961
- ◆ Every increased possession loads us with new weariness. – John Ruskin
- ◆ What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do. - John Ruskin
- ◆ You always know you have been in the presence of a Christian by the trail of light they leave behind. - John Ruskin
- ◆ Go forth now as children of the light. And remember: You don't have to blow out anybody else's candle to make yours shine brighter!
- ◆ Christ has no body now on earth but yours, No hands but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now. -St. Teresa of Avila
- ◆ We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. - Winston Churchill
- ◆ As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

- ◆ God has given you a gift, a charism. A charism isn't something you earn. It's a gift entrusted to you for the sake of the whole community, including your church. The only question is whether you will put it at the service of the community or not. Pray that you will grow in your understanding of stewardship of your talents and abilities.
 - ◆ Every person should walk unhesitatingly according to their own personal gifts and duties in the path of a living faith which arouses hopes and works through charity. (Vatican Council II – Lumen Gentium 41)
 - ◆ Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile. -- Albert Einstein
 - ◆ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and try me in this, says the Lord of hosts: Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven, to pour down blessing upon you without measure? (Malachi 3:10)
 - ◆ A sense of Stewardship tells us we must take time to do God's work on earth. When you compare what you have contributed in time, do not compare it to what your fellow church member has done. Compare what you have done to what God has done for you. This must be the standard for your comparison.
 - ◆ Reflect that in reality you have a greater need to serve the poor than they have of your service. – St. Angela Merici
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- ◆ When we serve others, we are imitating Jesus. We advance from *volunteer* to *steward* when we consciously choose to dedicate a portion of our time, talent, and treasure to the Lord, as a token of our gratitude for all He has given to us.
 - ◆ The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve. Albert Schweitzer
 - ◆ Many people, including Christians, ought to be concerned about the goods and services offered in the marketplace. We act on this concern by paying attention to the way in which we spend our money. A determination by a sufficiently large group of people to buy morally good products, which is an exercise of Stewardship, can have an impact on the marketplace.
 - *Stewardship and Home Economics*; Robert G. Kennedy, PhD
 - ◆ As consumers, our preference ought to be to spend our money, even for ordinary things, in ways that help individuals and improve our communities. These opportunities may not always exist, but good stewards look for them, try to create them, and take advantage of them when they can.
 - *Stewardship and Home Economics*; Robert G. Kennedy, PhD.
 - ◆ The early Christians were apprehensive of wealth for they were fearful that it would be a distraction from the higher goods of the Kingdom. Even so, they recognized that the possession of wealth, if not the result of greed and injustice, provided an opportunity for the rich man to do God's work in a special way. Good stewards take a similar attitude.
 - *Stewardship and Home Economics*; Robert G. Kennedy, Ph.D.
 - ◆ If you planted hope today
In any hopeless heart
If someone's burden was lighter

Because you did your part,
If you caused a laugh
That chased some tears away
If tonight your name is named
When someone kneels to pray
Then your day has been well spent. Author Unknown

- ◆ I am nothing; I am but an instrument, a tiny pencil in the hands of the Lord with which He writes what he likes. However imperfect we are, he writes beautifully. Mother Teresa
- ◆ The constructive use of riches is better than their possession (Chinese Fortune Cookie)
- ◆ This is the fast that pleases me: to release those bound unjustly, to let the oppressed go free, to share your bread with the hungry and to shelter the homeless poor, to clothe those who are naked, not turning your back on your own kind. If you do away with the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness. (Isaiah 28)
- ◆ A Talent is a talent until it is used to serve God. At that point it becomes a gift of ultimate value, multiplying every time we use it. In man's eyes it may seem insignificant, in God's eyes, you are a superstar.
- ◆ Although we are recipients of almost limitless gifts, our tendency is often to call them our own and claim them for ourselves exclusively.
- ◆ Christian stewardship reminds us that these gifts are not our own, that we have a trusteeship over them and not an ownership.
- ◆ Lord, You have given me so much. I ask for one thing: a grateful heart. George Herbert
- ◆ Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well. Mother Theresa
- ◆ Use what talents you possess: The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.
- ◆ It is a freedom God bestows on those who trust Him when he says, A person's wealth does not consist in the abundance of things he/she possesses. That is not a threat. It is a promise, and it is God himself who stands behind that promise.
- ◆ Dear Lord, Teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, save that of knowing that I do your will.
 - St. Ignatius Loyola
- ◆ It's a pitfall .. to engage in acts of blessing or charity with the expectation of a specific reward. Neat, warm, fuzzy endings are the stuff of motion pictures, not necessarily real life. The truth is that you may never know the outcome of a particular act of service. - Thomas Kinkade
- ◆ Reflect upon your present blessings. Charles Dickens

- ◆ No one has ever become poor by giving. Anne Frank
 - ◆ Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.
 - Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - ◆ The Lord does us the honor of placing his confidence in us and calling us to the ministry, showing us his mercy. This call is not reserved for a few, it is for everyone, each in his own state of life.
 - Pope John Paul II
 - ◆ Every person has the obligation to discern concrete ways God intends us to use our talents and resources. To make a commitment to worship God through faithful living and carefully stewarding our gifts and our very lives to the limit of our strength and abilities will reap untold spiritual benefits for us and for all those with whom we come in contact.
 - ◆ There is something missing in our makeup if we can look at all we have to enjoy and not be moved by some desire to express our thanks. And a natural expression of our gratitude is responsible generosity.
 - ◆ The recognition of the extent to which we are blessed by God materially, mentally and spiritually should lead first to gratitude and then to generosity.
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- ◆ No one could show me where my soul might be; I searched for God, and He eluded me; I served my neighbor, and I found all three. Ernest Crosby
 - ◆ Somewhere out there is a unique place for you to serve, a unique life role for you to fill. Only you can make your particular contribution to humankind. Thomas Kinkade
 - ◆ In the bearing of another's burdens, in the sharing of another's pain, we begin to dance.
 - Jim Cotter
 - ◆ Always hold firmly to the thought that each of us can do something to bring some portion of misery to an end.
 - ◆ If you assume that there's no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, there is a chance you may contribute to making a better world. That's your choice. Noam Chomsky
 - ◆ The most widespread misunderstanding is that which assumes that giving is 'giving up' something, being deprived. Giving is more joyous than receiving, not because it is a deprivation, but because in the Eric Fromm
 - ◆ Stewardship is ... a little bit you, a forward path, a privilege, a way, a choice, a pleasure, a helping hand, a promise, a connection, a right, a responsibility, a thank you, an awareness, a commitment, a gift, a crossroad decision, a connection to each other, a little bit of you for God.
 - ◆ The Bible says God called the world He had created good and he gave man dominion over it (Genesis 1:26,31). God still calls us to exercise dominion over the earth - by exercising restraint in our

buying habits... by being vigilant in our recycling habits... by exercising judgment in our disposal habits. When we do, God calls it stewardship.

- ◆ It's not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something. May I suggest that it be creating joy for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of personkind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely. Leo F. Buscaglia (1924-1998)
- ◆ Only when we give joyfully, without hesitation or thought of gain, can we truly know what love means. Leo F. Buscaglia (1924-1998)
- ◆ Possessions are gifts from God and are more for the sake of the brethren than one's own soul. The Christian should not carry them about in his soul, nor allow them to bind and circumscribe his life. He is able with cheerful mind to bear their removal equally with their abundance.
 - St. Clement of Alexandria
- ◆ There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life – happiness, freedom, and peace of mind – are always attained by giving them to someone else.
 - Peyton Conway March
- ◆ A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses. Chinese Proverb
- ◆ We must not only give what we *have*, we must also give what we *are*. Desire Mercier
- ◆ It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ◆ People can be divided into three groups: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder 'what happened?' Nicholas Murray Butler
- ◆ It is not by accident that the happiest people are those who make a conscious effort to live useful lives. Their happiness, of course, is not a shallow exhilaration where life is one continuous intoxicating party. Rather, their happiness is a deep sense of inner peace that comes when they believe their lives have meaning and that they are making a difference for good in the world.
 - Ernest Fitzgerald
- ◆ We all start out in life with one thing in common; we all have the same amount of time. It's just a matter of what we do with it. -Harvey B. Mackay, Entrepreneur and Author
- ◆ Do not confuse notoriety and fame with greatness... For you see, greatness is a measure of one's spirit, not a result of one's rank in human affairs. -Sherman Finesilver, Chief Judge, US District Court
- ◆ In the design of God, every man is called upon to develop and fulfill himself, for every life is a vocation. (Pope Paul VI, *On the Development of Peoples*, 1967). This is an awesome invitation to stewardship by our Creator who asks each to direct him or herself ...toward the destiny intended...
- ◆ A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. James Keller
- ◆ Use what talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best. -Henry Van Dyke

- ◆ To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others. Pope John Paul II
 - ◆ The solidarity which binds all men together as members of a common family makes it impossible for wealthy nations to look with indifference upon the hunger, misery and poverty of other nations whose citizens are unable to enjoy even elementary human rights. The nations of the world are becoming more and more dependent on one another and it will not be possible to preserve a lasting peace so long as glaring economic and social imbalances persist.
 - Quote from Catholic Peace document
 - ◆ Stewardship is what I do after I say I believe.
 - ◆ An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - ◆ The human and spiritual needs of peoples beyond our borders call us to the urgency of mission. Mission always expresses a concern for the life of others. Moved by the Spirit, we ardently desire that our brothers and sisters have life, and in abundance.
 - U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Statement on World Missions
 - ◆ If you assume that there's no hope, you guarantee that there is no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, there is a chance you may contribute to making a better world. Noam Chomsky
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- ◆ It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: what are we busy about? --Henry David Thoreau
 - ◆ Out of love, place yourselves at another's service. (Galatians 5:13)
 - ◆ There is a call to all of us, a call of service – that we join with others to try to make things better in this world. Dorothy Day
 - ◆ We have to learn to give, learn to share, learn to think of others. We have to learn to hold life loosely and freely – to give away our time and energy and money for the purpose of helping others, trusting that there will still be enough to take care of our needs and give us joy.
 - Thomas Kinkade
 - ◆ After prayerful thought about the size of our gift;
When we do not find ourselves making excuses for its size;
When we know in our hearts it is sacrificial;
When we are completely honest with God and ourselves;
Then we know our gift is the correct amount.
 - *Bishop Gerber - 2002 ICSC Conference*
 - ◆ Love is a spendthrift. It leaves arithmetic at home. CS Lewis
 - ◆ Go break to the needy, Sweet Charity's Bread
For Giving is Living ..the Angel had said.
But must I keep giving again and again?

Oh no, said the Angel, chilling me through,
Just give til the Master stops giving to you!

- ◆ Let us master this great and simple truth that all rich materials and productions of the world, being God's property, are intended for God's service and sin only, nothing but sin, turns them to different purpose. -Cardinal Newman
- ◆ Do we make a difference in our service to others because of our relationship to the Lord?
- ◆ ...stewardship of the world is expressed by jubilant appreciation of nature, whose God-given beauty not even exploitation and abuse have destroyed. -*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response* - US Catholic bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship
- ◆ **The Paradox of Stewardship:** Stewardship starts with God and His abundance. All too often we have a scarcity mentality. All we can see is what we lack... The more we hold on to what we have, the less we can receive. We have to let go... Only when we are willing to surrender them, to share our bounty... will God bestow even more blessings on us. That is the paradox of Stewardship.
- ◆ Every one of us has something we can do to help others. It doesn't matter how rich or how poor we are, how smart, educated or famous we might be. Each of us has been given at least one gift that we can use on behalf of the rest of humanity.
- ◆ One of the greatest gifts God gives us is the twenty-four hours we get at the start of each day... A gift of time is a good place to start living as a Christian steward. One of the best uses of our time is in prayer.
- ◆ When we show our gratitude to God by sharing our talents and resources, we multiply them throughout our parish and community. Christ's miracle of the loaves and fishes occurs again and again and again whenever we give freely of ourselves to others. Just as in the parable, we will find ourselves fulfilled, less empty than we have ever been.
- ◆ We have all heard the saying, Give 'til it hurts. What we discover, through practicing stewardship, is that it simply is not true. Emptiness, isolation and rejection of God's presence in our lives hurts. Responding to God's grace in our lives with acts of sharing, giving, and caring fills our lives with joy and purpose. Giving 'til it hurts never hurts.
- ◆ Our faith can truly be considered mature when we know that God always is present in our lives, even in our darkest hours. Our response, then, is always gratitude, no matter our personal trials. Our commitment to sharing remains constant, a continuing act of prayer. If you are reading this, you are enjoying one of God's greatest gifts to us: life itself.
- ◆ There are many in this world who have less than we do. There are many in this world who have more than we do. This makes no difference to our commitment to share our own gifts and resources. It is not about who has less than I do. It is not about who has more than I do. It is about: What will I do?
- ◆ Remember, what you possess in the world will be found at the day of your death to belong to someone else, but what you are will be yours forever.
 - Henry van Dyke, American clergyman, educator and author (1852-1933)

- ◆ The trouble is that rich people, well-to-do people, very often don't really know who the poor are; and that is why we can forgive them, for knowledge can only lead to love, and love to service. And so, if they are not touched by them, it's because they do not know them. - Mother Teresa
- ◆ It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving. -Mother Teresa
- ◆ Stewards understand that the next step is to share the gifts they have been given. Stewards share with a joyful heart, for you cannot love without giving. Understand this love is a reflection of God's love for them.
- ◆ God has promised to return the gifts that are returned to Him. It is a never ending circle. We receive gifts from God, we return them with increase. Not to be outdone, God returns them back to us. The more we give away, the more we are blessed. This is not the reason stewards give; it is the result of giving.
- ◆ Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring ... all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
- ◆ Gratitude: A single grateful thought raised to heaven is the most perfect prayer.
 - Gotthold Ephraim Lessing
- ◆ It is the heart that gives, the fingers just let go. Nigerian proverb
- ◆ **In God's Hands**

A baseball glove in the average person's hands is worth about \$25
 A baseball glove in Dale Murphey's hands is worth about 2 million dollars
 A lot depends on whose hand's it's in.

Five loaves and two fish in the disciple's hands could feed about 15 people
 Five loaves and two fish in the Lord's hands fed thousands.
 A lot depends on whose hands it's in.
- ◆ **Giving 'Off the Top'**

A missionary in Africa had taught his people to tithe. He had explained that tithe meant one-tenth, and that this should be their goal. He also had emphasized the difference between giving what is left over, and giving off the top.

Early one morning a man came to the door with a fine fish, explaining that this was his tithe.
 You must have done well, said the missionary, if you already caught 10 fish.
 No, said the man. This is the one I've caught so far. I'm going back now to catch the other nine.
- ◆ In the bearing of another's burdens, in the sharing of another's pain, we begin to dance. - Jim Cotter
- ◆ So often we hold on to possessions like a toddler who has just learned the word mine. A good steward recognizes that nothing is truly ours – we're only caretakers. When we accept this, the burden of holding on to our possessions is lifted.
- ◆ Trust in God....
 Stewards develop a deep trust in God ... so deep that we can give our last dollar, or our last fifteen minutes of time, with full confidence that there will always be enough money and enough time to meet our own needs.

- ◆ We all have a need to give back in gratitude for what has been given to us. But when we give, an interesting phenomenon occurs. We give, and more comes back to us! And we have more that we want to share with others ... and we give again! Giving feels good!
- ◆ **Reflection on the Nativity**
 If it happened here as it happened there;
 If it happened now as it happened then;
 Who would see the miracle?
 Who would bring gifts?
 Who would take them in?
 - Bishop Thomas Murphy
- ◆ Living as stewards brings tough questions to our lives. For example, do our time planners, credit cards, and checkbooks reveal that we are good stewards in our families and congregations?
- ◆ Please consider remembering your parish in your Will. Some gifts are apples. A Planned Giving gift is an apple TREE.
- ◆ God has given us two hands--one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. Billy Graham
- ◆ Giving is a necessity sometimes... more urgent, indeed, than having. -Margaret Lee Runbeck
- ◆ Who then is the faithful and wise steward...? Discipleship entails responsible stewardship. As children of God, created in his likeness and redeemed through his mercy, and as members of his Church, may our response for stewardship flow from the acceptance of our role as disciples, rooted in the deep joy of a vibrant faith.
- ◆ We know the sacrifice that God gave to us to show how much he loves us... How we use our time, talent and treasure shows God how much we love him!
- ◆ From a sincere examination of conscience comes the harrowing recognition of how much we personally contribute to the sorrows around us. Contrition, repentance and the longing for a sincere reconciliation with the living God are the most perfect human response.
- ◆ Stewardship is not the goal of our journey.
 Evangelization is the goal.
 Stewardship is how we get there.
- ◆ We owe a tithe of our time. Why not ask your parishioners to commit to a time of daily prayer?
- ◆ Assume the best of each other. The only wrong answer is to stop trying.
- ◆ Gallup Research shows that in most cases, belief does NOT lead to belonging, but rather, belonging leads to belief.
- ◆ The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose. – Hada Bejar

- ◆ Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some give their life's blood. But everyone has something to give. – Barbara Bush
- ◆ Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others. Bush, Barbara
- ◆ Every increased possession loads us with new weariness. John Ruskin (1819-1900)
- ◆ The highest reward man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it. John Ruskin (1819-1900)
- ◆ What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do. John Ruskin (1819-1900)
- ◆ You will find that the mere resolve not to be useless and the honest desire to help other people, will, in the quickest and delicatest ways, improve yourself. John Ruskin (1819-1900)
- ◆ When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single lick of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me, by Erma Bombeck.
- ◆ Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you!
- ◆ Of all the attitudes we can acquire, surely the attitude of gratitude is the most important and by far the most life-changing. – Zig Ziglar
- ◆ We are to follow our Lord in becoming gracious hosts, as we acknowledge and embrace our cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity and God's unique presence in each other's lives, histories, and cultures. *Many Faces in God's House* – Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett
- ◆ The unthankful heart... discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings! --Henry Ward Beecher
- ◆ Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal. It's a way to live. --Jackie Windspear
- ◆ Who does not thank for little will not thank for much. --Estonian Proverb
- ◆ You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled. --Charles Haddon Spurgeon
- ◆ You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink. --G.K. Chesterton

- ◆ God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say thank you? --William A. Ward
- ◆ Lord that lends me life, Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness! -- William Shakespeare
- ◆ Gratitude consists of being more aware of what you have, than what you don't. --Unknown
- ◆ We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. --Cynthia Ozick
- ◆ Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing. --Harper Lee
- ◆ To know the value of generosity, it is necessary to have suffered from the cold indifference of others. -
-Eugene Cloutier
- ◆ Only a stomach that rarely feels hungry scorns common things. --Horace
- ◆ Courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones which strike deepest in the grateful and appreciating heart. --Henry Clay
- ◆ How wonderful it would be if we could help our children and grandchildren to learn thanksgiving at an early age. Thanksgiving opens the doors. It changes a child's personality. A child is resentful, negative—or thankful. Thankful children want to give, they radiate happiness, they draw people. -- Sir John Templeton
- ◆ Gratitude ... goes beyond the mine and thine and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy. --Henri J. M. Nouwen
- ◆ We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures. -- Thornton Wilder
- ◆ Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it --William Arthur Ward
- ◆ Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. --Melody Beattie
- ◆ Thank God every day when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle will never know. -- Basil Carpenter

- ◆ When eating bamboo sprouts, remember the man who planted them. --Chinese Proverb
- ◆ Hem your blessings with thankfulness so they don't unravel. --Author Unknown
- ◆ Gratitude is the sign of noble souls. -- Aesop Fables
- ◆ The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving. --H.U. Westermayer
- ◆ When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep? --George Canning
- ◆ Some complain that roses have thorns—others rejoice that thorns have roses! --Unknown
- ◆ Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world: It is not he who prays most or fasts most, it is not he who gives most alms or is most eminent for temperance, chastity or justice; but it is he who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that God wills, who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it. --William Law
- ◆ If you count all your assets, you always show a profit. --Robert Quillen
- ◆ I have learnt silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet strange, I am ungrateful to these teachers. --Kahlil Gibran
- ◆ As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. --John Fitzgerald Kennedy
- ◆ Thanksgiving to God is an exuberant response to giving me HIS everything . . . by giving Him MY everything. --Martha Kilpatrick
- ◆ Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving. --W.T. Purkiser
- ◆ Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others. -- Cicero
- ◆ A Christian can never serve God AND Money, but they must learn to serve God WITH money. Brian Kluth (1955-)
- ◆ A checkbook is a theological document, it will tell you who and what you worship. Billy Graham
- ◆ Money talks. It says 'good-bye'. If you doubt this, answer the question, 'How much money did I make in the last 10 years?' Then answer, 'How much do I have left?' Also ask, 'And how much do I have stored in heaven?' Brian Kluth (1955-)

- ◆ People go through 3 conversions: their head, their heart and their pocketbook. Unfortunately, not all at the same time. Martin Luther
- ◆ If we belong to Christ, it's logical that everything we have truly belongs to Him.
- ◆ Your use of money shows what you think of God.
- ◆ The world asks: What does a man own? God asks, How does he use what he's been given?
- ◆ A Christian is one who does not have to consult his bank book to see how wealthy he really is.
- ◆ The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money.
- ◆ The poorest man in the world is the man who has nothing but money.
- ◆ If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy.
- ◆ When a man becomes rich, either God gains a partner or the man loses a soul.
- ◆ You are only poor when you want more than you have.
- ◆ It's not the high cost of living; it's the cost of living too high that gets most people in trouble.
- ◆ If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy.
- ◆ Remember: The most important things in life aren't things and the best things in life are always free.
- ◆ Where God guides, He provides. What God orders, He pays for.
- ◆ Be charitable before wealth makes thee covetous. — Sir Thomas Browne (1605-82), English writer
- ◆ Millionaires seldom smile.
— Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ◆ I was happier when I was doing a mechanic's job. — Henry Ford (1863-1947), American industrialist
- ◆ Charity gives itself rich; covetousness hoards itself poor. — German Proverb
- ◆ I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness.
— John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ◆ Before you borrow money from a friend, decide which you need more.
- ◆ Money is a great treasure that only increases as you give it away.
— Lord Francis Bacon (1561-1626), English philosopher and scientist

- ◆ We can either use our money to serve our God or our god will be our money.
— Denny & Leesa Bellesi, from Kingdom Assignment
- ◆ What I possess, God owns. — Howard Dayton, co-founder of Crown Financial Ministries
- ◆ Without a rich heart wealth is an ugly beggar.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82), American writer, philosopher and poet
- ◆ If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life. — Billy Graham (1918-), American evangelist
- ◆ Give me five minutes with a person's checkbook, and I will tell you where their heart is.
— Billy Graham (1918-), American evangelist
- ◆ I have watched hundreds of Christians in my time become financially blessed then develop an acquisitive streak that in turn makes their souls as metallic as the coins they seek.
— Selwyn Hughes, English pastor and author
- ◆ The world asks, 'What does a man own?' Christ asks, 'How does he use it?'
— Andrew Murray (1828-1917), South African evangelist and writer
- ◆ He who is not liberal with what he has, does but deceive himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more. — William S. Plumer, Christian author
- ◆ We should travel light and live simply. Our enemy is not possessions but excess.
— John R.W. Stott (1921-), English pastor and evangelist
- ◆ Money never stays with me. It would burn me if it did. I throw it out of my hands as soon as possible, lest it should find its way into my heart.
— John Wesley (1703-91), English evangelist and founder of Methodism
- ◆ A lot of people are willing to give God the credit, but not too many are willing to give Him the cash.
- ◆ I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. — Martin Luther (1483-1546), German reformer and theologian
- ◆ One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us. — Gordon MacDonald, American pastor and teacher
- ◆ Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you. — Lynn A. Miller, author
- ◆ When money is sent to me for my own use, I pass it on to God. As much as five thousand dollars has thus been sent at one time; but I do not regard such gifts as belonging to me; they belong to Him, whose I am and whom I serve. Save for myself? I dare not save; it would dishonor my loving, gracious, all bountiful Father. — George Mueller (1805-98), English pastor and ministry leader

- ◆ Watch lest prosperity destroy generosity.
— Henry Ward Beecher (1813-87), American abolitionist and clergyman
- ◆ He who bestows his goods upon the poor shall have as much again, and ten times more. — John Bunyan (1628-88), English Puritan writer and preacher
- ◆ Prosperity inebriates men, so that they take delights in their own merits.
— John Calvin (1509-64), French theologian and reformer
- ◆ Nothing is more dangerous than to be blinded by prosperity.
— John Calvin (1509-64), French theologian and reformer
- ◆ Surplus wealth is a sacred trust which its possessor is bound to administer in his lifetime for the good of the community. — Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ◆ Thousands upon thousands are yearly brought into a state of real poverty by their great anxiety not to be thought poor. — William Corbett (1680-1748), English composer
- ◆ I shovel [money] out, and God shovels it back ... but God has a bigger shovel!
— R.G. LeTourneau (1888-1969), American inventor
- ◆ The fellow that has no money is poor. The fellow that has nothing but money is poorer still.
— Billy Sunday (1862-1935), American revivalist
- ◆ We are rich only through what we give: and poor only through what we refuse and keep.
— Anne Swetchine (1782-1857), Russian-French writer
- ◆ I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week.
— John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ◆ No church ever has a money problem, only a faithfulness problem.
— Brian Kluth, Pastor and Generosity Speaker & Author
- ◆ When you give to God, you discover that God gives to you.
- ◆ When it comes to giving, some people stop at *nothing*.
- ◆ Giving to God is a grace—but not giving to God is a disgrace.
- ◆ There's no good reason to be the richest man in the cemetery.
Col. Sanders, Founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken
- ◆ What I kept, I lost. What I gave, I have.

- ◆ If a pauper gives to God, he'll feel like a prince. If a prince doesn't give to God, he'll feel like a pauper.
- ◆ I have observed 100,000 families over my years of investment counseling. I always saw greater prosperity and happiness among those families who tithed than among those who didn't.
Sir John Templeton, chairman of Templeton Funds
- ◆ When we give to God, we are just taking our hands off what already belongs to Him.
- ◆ Give to God what's right--not what's left.
- ◆ Some people give God a tenth—a tenth of what they ought to give.
- ◆ You should give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving.
- ◆ There are no pockets in a shroud and no U-hauls behind a hearse.
- ◆ Two things ruin a church--loose living and tight giving.
- ◆ God looks at the heart, not the hand--the giver, not the gift.
- ◆ If everyone in your church followed your pattern of giving, would your church receive a token, a tip or a tith? — Brian Kluth, Pastor and Generosity Speaker & Author
- ◆ When it comes to giving until it hurts, most people have a very low threshold of pain.
- ◆ Seek joy in what you give not in what you get.
- ◆ Some people say, "Give till it hurts." But God recommends that we give until it feels good. God loves a cheerful giver! — Brian Kluth, Pastor and Generosity Speaker & Author
- ◆ Real charity doesn't care if it's tax deductible or not.
- ◆ The Dead Sea is the dead sea because it continually receives and never gives.
- ◆ Thank the Lord that you can give instead of depending on others to give to you.
- ◆ Charity begins at home and generally dies from lack of outdoor exercise.
- ◆ Do not give, as many rich men do, like a hen that lays her eggs ... and then cackles.
— Henry Ward Beecher (1813-87), American abolitionist and clergyman
- ◆ Wealth shines in giving rather than in hoarding: for the miser is hateful, whereas the generous man is applauded. — [Anicius Manlius Severinus] Boethius (480-524?), Roman statesman, philosopher and Christian martyr
- ◆ Examples are few of men ruined by giving. — Christian Bovée

- ◆ Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving at the right moment.
— Jean de La Bruyère (1645-96), French writer
- ◆ You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.
— John Bunyan (1628-88), English Puritan writer and preacher
- ◆ Getters generally don't get happiness; givers get it. — Charles H. Burr
- ◆ Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others. — Barbara Bush (1925-), former American first lady
- ◆ I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him. — William Carey (1761-1834), Baptist missionary to India
- ◆ You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving.
— Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), missionary to India
- ◆ We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.
— Winston Churchill (1874-1965), British wartime prime minister and statesman
- ◆ No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.
— Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), 30th U.S. president
- ◆ Give naught, get same. Give much, get same. — Malcolm Forbes (1919-90), American publisher
- ◆ No one has ever become poor by giving.
— Anne Frank (1929-45), Jewish Dutch diarist during Nazi occupation
- ◆ No one is so generous as he who has nothing to give. — French Proverb
- ◆ Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost. — Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), Jesuit founder
- ◆ The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord. — James L. Kraft (1874-1953), Kraft-Phoenix Cheese Corp. chairman
- ◆ To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own.
— Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906-2001), American aviatrix and writer
- ◆ A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog. — Jack London (1876-1916), American novelist
- ◆ Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think.
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-82), American writer and poet

- ◆ Generosity during life is a very different thing from generosity in the hour of death; one proceeds from genuine liberality and benevolence, the other from pride or fear.
— Horace Mann (1796-1859), American educator and politician
- ◆ I am convinced that the devil has caused the subject of giving to stir up resistance and resentment among God's people because he knows there are few ways of spiritual enrichment like the exercise of faithful stewardship. — Stephen Olford, preacher and author
- ◆ Our culture values the size of the gift, but God values the size of what we keep.
— Ed Owens, Chicago fund manager
- ◆ He that gives all, though but little, gives much; because God looks not to the quantity of the gift, but to the quality of the givers. — Francis Quarles (1592-1644), author
- ◆ I believe it is every man's religious duty to get all he can honestly and to give all he can.
— John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ◆ Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.
— John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874-1960), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ◆ Generosity is to materialism what kryptonite is to Superman. — Lloyd Shadrach, pastor and author
- ◆ Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left.
— Bishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979), Roman Catholic bishop
- ◆ If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives.
— Robert South (1634-1716), English clergyman
- ◆ Giving is true loving. — Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-92), English Baptist preacher
- ◆ Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave. — Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-92), English Baptist preacher
- ◆ We can all be stimulated to greater generosity by the known generosity of others.
— John R.W. Stott (1921-), English pastor and evangelist
- ◆ The measure of a life is not its duration, but its donation.
— Peter Marshall (1902-49), former U.S. Senate chaplain
- ◆ It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.
— Mother Teresa (1910-97), Catholic missionary to India
- ◆ Giving is more than a responsibility—it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience—it is evidence of our faith. — William Arthur Ward (1921-94), American educator

- ◆ If I cannot give bountifully, yet will I give freely. — Arthur Warwick
- ◆ Earn as much as you can. Save as much as you can. Invest as much as you can. Give as much as you can. — John Wesley (1703-91), English evangelist and founder of Methodism
- ◆ I will place no value on anything I have or possess except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance that Kingdom, it shall be given or kept whichever will best promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes, both for time and eternity.
— David Livingstone (1813-73), English missionary and explorer of Africa
- ◆ God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.
— J. Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), English missionary to China
- ◆ I believe with all of my heart that God's people possess God's provision to accomplish and fulfill God's purposes in the world. — Joel Vestal, founder of ServLife International
- ◆ Our real worth is what will be ours in eternity.
- ◆ Charitable giving should be a spiritual, rather than an economic decision. Economically, charitable giving never pays. — Ron Blue (1942-), Christian financial planner
- ◆ Looking for the reward of good works, we must wait patiently till the last day, the day of resurrection.
— John Calvin (1509-64), French theologian and reformer
- ◆ The return we reap from generous actions is not always evident. — Francesco Guicciardini (1483-1540), Italian historian and statesman
- ◆ You only get to keep what you give away. — Sheldon Kopp, author
- ◆ I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.
— John Wesley (1703-91), English evangelist and founder of Methodism