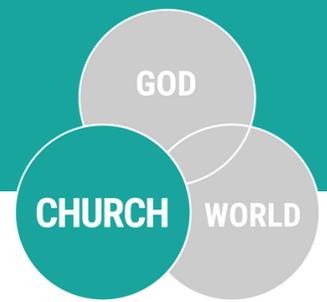


INVESTMENT

I use my time, skills and resources for the kingdom of God.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Everything we have in life, whether it is financial resources, skillsets, or even our time; everything we have, actually belongs to God. Our responsibility is to steward them well and honor God in the process.

Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 25 that captures a bit of this principle. In Matthew 25:14-30 we read of a man who leaves on a journey and entrusts his servants with different sums of money. Two of them use that money to gain more money for their Lord. The other buries his talent. What follows next is a powerful picture the expectation of God for us and the result of Jesus' return. In the story, the man is pleased with those who used their talents in a manner that produced growth. On the other hand, the man was angry with the one, who buried his talent.

Our time, skills and resources are meant to be invested in ways that grow God's kingdom. 1 Peter 4:10 explains this concept in further detail. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

When it comes to the rhythm of investment, our first task is to understand that we are stewards instead of owners. Everything belongs to God. How will we use what he has trusted us with, in ways that will bring God glory?

What stops me from leaning into the rhythm of investment?

It's hard to use your time, skillsets and resources for God, if you don't accurately know what God has trusted you with stewarding. Every one of us has been given the gift of time, skills and resources, that we can use to invest in what God is doing through his church. Sometimes, we don't see these gifts from God, because we are too busy looking at others and playing a comparison game.

Our focus should not be on how much others have and it shouldn't even be on how much we ourselves have. Our focus should be on Jesus and how much he gave us, to provide us a new life in him. When we can fully comprehend that, everything we have and everything we are becomes a conduit to express our love and gratitude to Jesus. This is important, because investment isn't really about what you invest, it's about how you invest. Investment is meant to be a heart response to the love that Jesus has shown us.

- When I think about my time, how much margin have I created to allow for responding to God's prompting?
- When I think about my finances, what feelings or emotions surface? What do I feel when I think about giving towards the church?
- When I think about skills and gifts that I may have, can I identify them? How am I using them for God?



PROCESS

Think through what you have learned and summarize it on your own words or write out how you would explain it to another person.

PRAY

- Pray – Pray for God to reveal what it is that he has given you to invest in his kingdom. Pray that God give you boldness and strength to use what he has given you to impact his kingdom. Pray that God fills you with his joy as you take steps of obedience and faith.

LOOK

- Look – Pick one of the following three: time, skills or resources. Examine your use of the one you picked and look for ways to increase your investment in the church.

RESPOND

- Response – Take a spiritual gifts assessment. A good example of one, is the S.H.A.P.E. assessment. After taking this assessment see how it impacts your next steps in the rhythm of investment.

