

# Money Matters 101

## Quarterly Study

### PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE FOR STUDY 12

## Give Sacrificially

*Our trust grows when we give to God in ways that make us dependent on him.*

We don't often think of giving as a spiritual discipline. But few things affect our relationship with God as radically as our attitude toward money. When we are able to let go of the security of having an abundance, we discover a dependency upon God that cannot be found in any other way. This is opposed to everything our society teaches, but God wants us to discover him through this act of obedience. This study will examine how we can become sacrificial givers.

#### Lesson# 12

#### Scripture:

1 Kings 17

#### Based on:

The sermon "Real Giving" by John P. Casey, PREACHING TODAY SERMONS



## PART 1

**Identify the Current Issue**

In *The Law Of Rewards*, Randy Alcorn writes:

In 1990 I was a pastor on the board of a pregnancy resource center. After searching the Scriptures and praying, I began participating in nonviolent rescues at abortion clinics. I was arrested several times and went to jail for a couple of days. An abortion clinic subsequently won a court judgment against me and others. I told the judge that normally I would pay anything I owed, but I couldn't hand over money to people who would use it to kill babies.

Soon after, I discovered that my church was about to receive a writ of garnishment, demanding that they surrender one-fourth of my wages each month to the abortion clinic. The church would either have to pay the abortion clinic or defy a court order. To avoid this, I had to resign. The only way I could prevent garnishment in the future was to make no more than minimum wage.

Another court judgment followed, involving another abortion clinic. We were assessed the largest judgment ever against a group of peaceful protesters: \$8.4 million. By all appearances, our lives had taken a devastating turn—but it was one of the best things that ever happened to us.

What others intended for evil, God intended for good (Genesis 50:20). We began Eternal Perspective Ministries, which owns all the books I write. Nanci worked at a secretary's salary, supplementing my minimum wage. Then something interesting happened: suddenly my books were on the bestseller lists. Royalties increased. Our ministry has been able to give away 100 percent of those royalties to missions, famine relief, and pro-life work. In the past three years, by God's grace, the ministry has given away \$500,000. Sometimes I think God sells the books just to raise funds for ministries close to his heart! I don't go to bed at night feeling that I've "sacrificed" that money, wishing somehow I could get my hands on it. I go to bed feeling joy, because there's nothing like giving. (Randy Alcorn, *The Law of Rewards*, Tyndale, 2003, pp. 8–9)

## PART 2

**Discover the Eternal Principles**

**Teaching point one: Sacrificial giving puts God first and trusts him to supply.**

**Teaching point two: Sometimes radical giving doesn't make logical sense.**

**Teaching point three: Sacrificial giving is a process of learning to trust God.**



**Teaching point four: When we give courageously, it unleashes God's amazing power.**

**PART 3****Apply Your Findings**

Give to God in a way that causes you to be more dependent on him. When you're afraid, realize that the only way to have enough is to give courageously to God. Understand that real giving comes in steps. Give a little as he asks. Then grow to the point of giving to him first and radically. Don't be afraid. Trust God to supply, and this week, this month, take a step toward becoming a real giver to God.

**[Q]** What would stop you from giving sacrificially?

- a. Fear
- b. Insecurity
- c. Seems irresponsible
- d. Lack of desire
- e. Other—explain

*—Study by John P. Casey, with JoHannah Reardon*

