



## The Gift of Money

January 28, 2008

### (Part 3) Owner or Manager?

*Dear Cavin,*

*"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth." Deut. 8:17-18a*

"Mine! Mine! Mine!"... Do you remember this humorous scene in the movie Finding Nemo where squawking seagulls are trying to catch Nemo for breakfast? We laugh at scenes like this because we know how true it can be. If you are like me, you occasionally have the natural inclination to view life and our possessions the same way these seagulls viewed Nemo- "*Mine Mine! Mine!*"

How easily we forget that our wealth-whether large or small-is not the result of our cleverness or the hard work of our own hands, but abilities GOD gives each of us. With this God-given ability comes the responsibility to acknowledge Him as the Giver, and to submit to His purposes for that ability. We have discussed this purpose in previous emails in this series, which can only be correctly understood and fulfilled when we embrace the reality of "Whose" wealth it is in the first place. Our example, combined with our gentle, wise instruction, can be a powerful influence on our grandchildren to avoid the pitfalls of an attitude like that of the foolish, squawking seagulls in Finding Nemo.

To help our grandchildren understand the purpose and blessing of this gift of money God provides-measured out as He chooses-it is vital that we enable them to understand and declare, not the seagulls' mantra, but this liberating truth -- "*Not mine... God's! Not mine... God's! Not mine... God's!*"

**ACTION STEP:** Whenever you talk with your grandchildren, whether in person, on the phone or by letter, consider making it your habit to communicate your understanding of the true source of any wealth or possessions you have. Try using phrases like,

*"God has given me...";*

*"Isn't God good to give us...?";*

*"God has allowed me to have this so I can...";  
"Let's thank God right now for what He has given us"; or  
"Isn't it wonderful how God has blessed you with...?"*

**GRANDPAUSE:** *"God owns EVERYTHING. I'm His money manager."* - Randy Alcorn

**FEEDBACK:** We want to hear your stories and insights of your experiences in this area with your grandchildren. [Click here](#) for our CGN Forum. You'll see the above message in the Carry the Torch Forum, post a reply and *share the wealth* of your experience.

[Weekly Prayer Suggestion For Grandparents: Spiritual Trust Fund](#)

## **Suggested Reading:**

[Giving: Unlocking the Heart of Good Stewardship, Pursuing Spiritual Transformation by John Ortberg; Zondervan](#)

[The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn; Multnomah](#)

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