

A Christian and Kingdom Investments

The knowledge for eternal investment



FREDRICK G. OMONDI

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and
Kingdom Investments**

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

In this world many people find it prudent to involve themselves in some investment activity here and there with the expectation of earning some dividends out of them.

Still many that do so, do it for their life here on earth. But as for born again Christians, they need to go a notch higher investing wisely having in mind an eternal perspective. Moreover they need to invest heavily as for them they need have the expectation of earning dividends from their investments beyond the life here on earth. The case of Christians is different in that it is mandatory to involve in investment activities unlike the non believers who have the option to invest or otherwise.

Another difference is that the investments in Christianity are the safest of all investments of the world combined as you are going read in this book. Also in the book are covered such issues as where the resources come from and how to invest, your position when you are bestowed with the resources and what you

stand to benefit by investing as is required of you. Get to know that the life here on earth is temporal in nature whereas the life in heaven is eternal. Therefore it is more beneficial to invest heavily in the kingdom of God as one is investing for one's eternity. At this juncture let me remind you of what Job said when he lost all his children and wealth and was ailing as well with boils on his body. He said he came naked from his mother's womb and will go naked, meaning he was not going to carry whatever he had on earth with him into eternity. Read the book of Job (Job 1).

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Chapter One

Types of resources

First and foremost one needs resources to be able to do some investment as one cannot invest with nothing, that is, with air. Now the question is, where does one get the resources from? God the Creator of heaven and earth is the owner of all the resources as is recorded in the Scripture.

THE earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Psalm 24:1-2

The above scripture points to the fact that everything and all things have their origin from God.

But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 4:18-20

In the above scripture we find it points to the fact that all our needs, that is, all resources come from God who is rich with all things and is able to supply them to us as is required. By the way God is Jehovah-Jire, our provider and is Jehovah-Elshaddai, an all sufficient God to us.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:8

As the above scripture indicates, everything belongs to God as the Creator of all things.

THE mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth that he may judge his people.

Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.

Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God even thy God.

I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me.

I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds.

For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.

Psalm 50:1-12

There you are. All things do belong to God the Almighty.

Let me now bring you to some of the resources that God has for you and me.

- Time resource
- Capital resource
- Material resources
- Spiritual resources

The above resources can be availed to us either directly or indirectly through different means such as the following:

- Farming
- Mining
- Business
- Formal employment
- Self-employment
- Donations from individuals or Organizations

It is imperative upon us to use wisdom in how we do spend the resources as well as investing with them. The following are a few samples of people that God did provide with resources.

1. Abraham

AND Abram went up out of Egypt, he and his wife, and all that he had, and lot with him, into the south.

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

Genesis 13:1

2. Lot

And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

And the land was not able to bear them that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

Genesis 13:5-6

3. Isaac

AND there was famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham.

And Isaac went unto A-bim'-e-lech king of the Phil'-is'-tines unto Ge'-rar.

And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father;

And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

And Isaac dwelt in Ge'-rar:

And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon.

And it came to pass, when he had been there for a long time, that A-bim'-e-lech king of the Phil'-is'-tines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.

And A-bim'-e-lech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how saidst thou, she is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, because I said, lest I die for her.

And A-bim'-e-lech said, what is this thou hast done unto us?. One of the people might lightly have lain with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.

And Abimelech charged all his people, saying, He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.

Then Isaac sowed in the land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

Genesis 26:1-14

4. Solomon

Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,

Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffic of the spice merchants and of all the kings of Arabia, and of governors of the country

And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to one target.

And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pounds of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold.

The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays.

And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom.

And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

For the king had at sea a navy of Tarshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tarshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.

1 Kings 10:14-23

5. Job

THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and

upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

His substance was also seven thousand camels, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Job 1:1-3

6. Joseph

When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

And when Joseph had taken up the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

And laid, it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.

Matthew 27:57-60

Chapter Two

Spiritual resources

Spiritual resources are solely reserved for Christians who have been born again by God Himself, born of God's Spirit. (John 1:10-13; 3:5-7). The Spiritual resources are for serving the Lord and are therefore special in nature and God promised them to those who through faith in Jesus will become His children.

Let us now navigate through the scriptures on this issue.

When they therefore were come together, they asked him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all

Judea, and in Sa-mar'-i-a and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:6-8

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:14-17

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, Which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John 15:26-27

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. A'-men.

Matthew 28:16-20

As I said earlier the Spiritual resources are for Christian service in serving Christ Jesus the Messiah, while we are still here on planet earth. The resources empower us for service. God did keep his promise and continue to do so to date on those who have believed in His beloved Son.

AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began too speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

The believers continued to be empowered by God for service.

AND Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution

against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Sa-mar'-i-a, except the apostles.

And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Then Philip went down to the city of Sa-mar'-i-a, and preached Christ unto them.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery,

and bewitched the people of Sa-mar'-i-a, giving out that himself was some great one:

To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:1-17

Those who were in the city of Samaria and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ they too were prayed for and received the promise of the Father.

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou comest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

And when he had received meat he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 9:17-20

Saul who had just believed in Jesus Christ also received the Holy Spirit when Ananias went and prayed to him as was sent by God and he could now preach Christ Jesus in the synagogues as he had already been endowed with power from on high.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 10:44-48

Even Cornelius and his household and kinsmen and friends who assembled in his house and Peter preached to them as God instructed him, when they believed, God immediately poured his Spirit in them.

AND it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized?

And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Acts 19:1-6

The believers in Ephesus too received the Holy Spirit.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

The gift (blessing) of God, of salvation come through one's faith in Christ Jesus and which

does a new work in one's life such that one becomes a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17) for the purpose of bringing about good works (being positively fruitful) and therefore being useful to God (John 15:5-8).

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:4-13

Just as salvation is a gift of God so are the ministries for the sole purpose of the work of God here on earth.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Having then gift differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:3-8

The above epistle illustrates how the gifts need to be exercised going by the proportion of faith and the grace given to each believer.

NOW concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and no man can say that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Ghost.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Corinthians 1:1-11

These spiritual gifts are spiritual resources bestowed on us to bring profit in God's

kingdom in winning souls to Christ and so on and we are not supposed to sit on them by virtually doing nothing with them. Read on.

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord,

thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown and gathering where thou hast not strewed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him,

Thou wicked and slothful servant thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strewed.

Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into enter darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:14-30

The talents mentioned above can be likened to the spiritual gifts (resources) that the Lord has bestowed on Christians each one according to every one's ability and expects to gain (profit) from them. The goods mentioned are the talents given to Christians by the Lord. The Christians need to trade with those talents (spiritual gifts)

by exercising / working with them to bring profit (souls won into God's kingdom) and therefore one cannot be faithful to the Lord by merely keeping it/hiding it as that servant did who was given one talent as then it is of no use being hidden

Having a gift in a Christian who do not exercise with it is unacceptable before the Lord and he would rather give it to another Christian who is exercising the gift he or she has in him or her so as to exercise with that as well and bring even more profit.

It is serious and Christians must invest with them by exercising / utilizing them or else refuse to do the same and be judged and go to hell.

Apart from the work of soul winning by these spiritual gifts one can exercise them as well and bring about healing, deliverance and blessing on people. The following are some examples as is recorded in the Scriptures:- Matthew 10:1-8 (being a key to all the rest), 1 Kings 17:8-23; 2

Kings 2:19-22; 4:1-44; 5:1-14; 6:1-7, Acts 3:1-8; 9:32-35; 10:37-38; 14:8-10; 16:16-18.

Chapter Three

Time resource

Time resource is quite valuable as all activities we do to it in it, that is, we cannot do anything if the resource is not there. I wonder it could be the reason God gave it in equal measure to all his creatures. All people have 24 hours in a day for the rest of one's life here on earth and no one has less than 24 hours or more than 24 hours as long as one is alive.

This is the only one apart from air that one breathes that cannot be shared as each one has enough to himself or herself. The other resources that can be shared are mainly Capital and Material resources. Time resource cannot be increased or decreased or stopped or slowed on its track as it will keep on ticking at its pace and therefore it becomes too unique in itself just as Spiritual resources which are both unique and special.

From the foregoing it becomes apparent that time management is necessary in life and which

also helps in living an organized and sensible life.

One cannot afford to squander time by inactivity or in useless ventures but to utilize it in useful activities for one's well being.

Christians as the children of God (John 1:12-13, 1 John 3:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8) we need to invest more in the house of the Father than in our own houses with the time God has given us here on earth and that calls for a sense of urgency in investing as well as preparing for the coming of our Master to take us home (John 14:1-3). Let us look at some scriptures before we move on further.

And of the children on Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

1 Chronicles 12:32

We Christians need to be of understanding of the times we are living in and know what we need to do at all times just as the children of Issachar.

It should be so, as the children of Israel were but a shadow Church but we now are the true Church (as the bride of Christ).

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:15-17

We must be wise and not to take things for granted or think it is still business as usual.

Now it is business unusual and that is why we need redeem the time by doing the will of God above all else. The time for sure is evil and it is evident to all and sundry (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

And if he shall come in the second watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:35-38

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For as the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Matthew 24:36-42

From the above scriptures we can see that it need not be business as usual in the church and what is needed is to be on the watch and that calls for wisdom and that is why one will be taken (the wise) and one will be left (the unwise / foolish). The following are some of the activities worth engaging in with the time left:

Prayer and fasting

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets,

that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

But thou when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly;

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head, and wash thy face;

That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:5-18

And all that believed were together, and had all things common:

And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to

house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

NOW Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple ask an alms.

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold I have none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lift him up:

and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping and praising God:

Acts 2:44-3:8

NOW there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work, whereunto I have called them.

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts 13:1-3

The apostles and other believers did pray and fast in the early church just as Jesus had told his

disciples. We too need not be different and need to do just the same as them.

Attending church services

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at

liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the lord.

Luke 4:14-19

Jesus' custom was to be attending church services in the synagogues and we saw that the early church did the same by attending temple services as often as possible and we too need not abandon that custom.

Attending Christian fellowships

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Christians are encouraged to be assembling together in Christian fellowships in order to exhort each other and provoke to love and good

works all which are for the well being of their spiritual life in readiness for the approaching rapture of the saints (believers). Such was common in the early church who were assembling daily!

Reading, studying and meditating on the word of God

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:1-2

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a
workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth

2 Timothy 2:15

O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all
the day. Thou through thy commandments hast
made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are
ever with me.

Psalms 119:97-98

Chapter Four

Capital resource

Capital resource is yet another resource which need to be used for investment in the kingdom of God and which if we do we show our obedience to the Lord as well as support his work and we become an asset in God's house than being a liability.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

There is no problem with a Christian holding a bank account but one need first to invest some of one's capital resource in the kingdom of heaven for one's eternity. Moreover in heaven there is no corruption as one's account is kept by holy angels of God who are ever faithful to

him and there is no any fraudulent activity, thieves and robbers cannot enter in heaven to break and steal and unlike banks that can be broken into and funds stolen or go bankrupt or be affected by inflation and other economic factors in heaven there is total safety and security and there are unlimited resources and scarcity is not a vocabulary there and there is total stability and perfect conditions eternally.

We need to know that God does not need our resources up there in heaven for his personal use as he is rich and is never broke as he has unlimited resources and that is why he blesses us every day from his storehouses (Philippians 4:19-20). But rather for him to keep them for us safely as our best trustee, so that when we go there finally at the rapture of the Church, they become part of our heritage up there.

Just as some parents here on earth open for their children an account for each at some bank, so it is the same for our God and Father who is in heaven. I do believe he does open an account for each of his child as he is a wise God and

Father and do keep what we invest in those accounts appropriately.

IF ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth

Colossians 3:1-2

If a Christian invests more in the kingdom of God one's heart will be inclined there and vice versa. Let us all love to be in heaven by investing more there and thinking more about that place as it is where we are to be into eternity after this short life here on earth.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled,
and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for
you,

Who are kept by the power of God through
faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the
last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

We have an incorruptible inheritance which is
not defiled and fade not away which has been
reserved for us in heaven and therefore let us
invest heavily there for our own good.

But we need to be obedient to the Lord in other
areas of life as well and in that way, we make
our obedience to be full and not partial.

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give
it: thou delightest not in burnt offerings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a
broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt
not despise.

Psalms 51:16-17

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me: I am weary to bear them.

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:11-17

God seemed to be so harsh in his words to the children of Israel on their giving (investment)!? It is because their giving was skewed in that they had neglected other important matters in their daily lives and therefore their hands were not clean before the Lord. The sacrifices alone without other good works was not sufficient before their holy God and they needed to do more than that as that alone could not be treated as justice.

Likewise Christians need not be satisfied with the aspect of giving only but to concentrate on other matters as well to be justified in their doings. Let us look at a similar scripture.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith:

these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Matthew 23:23-24

It becomes hypocritical when we obey in a selective manner and not holistic manner, by leaning on one side in our doings, In other words, all what we do matters before God who is holy and who looks at every act with scrutiny. Now this subject touch more on money matters being a capital resource, it must be clean money to be acceptable before God as an investment. It must come from a legitimate source / activity.

Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 23:18

Now the above scripture is an example to us. In summarizing, any income from any illegal or criminal or immoral activity need not be used for any religious activity as it is an abomination before God and is useless as such as God is holy and holy in totality (Isaiah 6:1-3, Revelation 4:1-8).

Money is a scarce resource and we need not to squander it as the prodigal son did.

And he said, A certain man had two sons:

And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in the land; and he began to be in want.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

Luke 15:11-16

Riotous living is living out of the will of God. It is to venture in useless activities which add no value to one's life. It can amount to living a disorderly life.

Let me give some example: A truly born again Christian need not be engaged in such activity as paying for a ticket to watch a football match or to see a secular movie in a cinema theatre or to see some circus and so on and so forth as those are useless ventures and do add no value to one's spirituality. Spending money on such ventures including such activities like betting is tantamount to divesting as there are no positive/useful returns from them and moreover do deviate one's attention from what is important in life.

One need to be diligent in choosing where to invest as some investments have higher risks than the others. Still on the same note, one need

to engage in legal activities while investing and not to invest in any business or in any organization or institution without much thought on its nature/activity.

The following are some of the ways of investing worth noting.

Tithes and offerings

And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most High God.

And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

And blessed be the most High God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Genesis 14:17-20

Abraham was the Father of faith and all them that have the faith in Christ Jesus must pay all their tithes. Jacob also did the same.

And Jacob went out from Beer-she'-ba, and went toward Har'-an.

And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and

in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go,

and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Genesis 28:10-22

Quite a spectacular sight to behold and wonderful promises indeed! Jacob was so impressed and vowed to obey God in tithing. Both Abraham and Jacob were just obeying the commandment of God by tithing.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.

And if a man will at all redeem aught of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.

And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.

These are the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in Mount Sinai.

Leviticus 27:30-34

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, saith the LORD of hosts.

But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me.

But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will

not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:10-12

The Israelites were not an exception as Christians too today continue to rob God unashamedly and walk living with a curse (a financial curse)

But if we refrain from that criminal activity, in the spiritual we shall be investing in our Father's house by tithing and giving offerings as well.

Alms

TAKE heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:1-4

THERE was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

Acts 10:1-2

Now that is a big challenge to the Christian fraternity. If a non believer can do that- give alms, how about you and I who have believed in Christ Jesus?

We need do so as well. God commended Cornelius by sending an angel to him, if you continue to read from verse 3 downwards.

Giving alms is a worthy cause worth commending and is an investment too in the kingdom of God.

Other areas

Now there are many other areas which are of interest and worth investing in as follows hereunder.

a. Church projects

A church can have many projects which include such activities like building a structure for a place of worship both for adults and the youth and well as one for Sunday school going children, the furniture and musical instruments,

transport van, a house and office for God's ministers among many others.

Let us look at a few scriptures touching on some of the above activities.

And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,

And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,

And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense, and onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate.

And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded;

The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his
taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and
his sockets,

The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy
seat, and the veil of the covering,

The table, and his staves, and all his vessels,
and the showbread,

The candlestick also for the light, and his
furniture, and his lamp, with the oil for the
light.

And the incense altar, and his staves, and the
anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the
hanging for the door at the entering in of the
tabernacle,

The altar of burnt offering, with his brazen
grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver
and his foot,

The hangings of the court, his pillars, and their
sockets, and the hanging for the door of the
court,

The pins of the tabernacle, and the pins of the
court, and their cords,

The cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments of Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office.

And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all service, and for the holy garments.

And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered an offering of gold unto the LORD.

And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them.

Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and

every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it.

And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.

And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.

And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the brace plate; And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

Exodus 35:4-29

And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place:

They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Neth'-i-nim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

Ezra 2:68-70

I wish all born again Christians would emulate the children of Israel. I say so because in many churches you can find the leaders inviting politicians or any other people all of whom are not believers to help them in fund raising! And such end up with their altars defiled with politics from the politicians many who are fond of using the platform to campaign seeking for some favors such as the votes of the congregants in an election in future. Shame on such church leaders and shame on the congregants who are stingy and don't want to seriously involve in church projects taking them

lightly unaware that they are in the process losing good investment opportunity.

AND it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

And for the house he made windows of narrow lights.

And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about.

The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house.

And the house, when it was in building was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third.

So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar.

And then he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house with timber of cedar.

And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,

Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:

And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling: and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir.

And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place.

And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty cubits long.

And the cedar of the house within was cared with knops of and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen.

And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar.

So Solomon overlaid the house with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold.

And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive trees, each ten cubits high.

And five cubits was one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub

from the uttermost part of one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits.

And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size.

The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub.

And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house.

And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without.

And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.

And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and the side posts were a fifth part of the wall.

The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and

palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees.

So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree, a fourth part of the wall.

And the two doors were of fir tree: the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding.

And he carved thereon cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work.

And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.

In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif:

And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts the reef, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

1 Kings 6

Wonderful indeed! Solomon was fully determined and had put all materials in place for the work and did it in a most systematic and organized way such that the word of the Lord came to him. We seem to have less zeal for the work of building the house of God and we hardly receive the word of the Lord on the same.

b. Church missions

This is yet another area which one can plant a seed (invest) in. A church can have an outdoor outreach work mainly evangelistic work and just as church projects: resources are required in facilitating the same on various areas as necessary. Let us look at a few scriptures on the same.

AND it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Mag'-da-lene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

Luke 8:1-3

Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna invested by their contribution towards the work of the Lord and we are not to be the exception but to tow the line.

c. Other areas for investment

There are other areas of interest which are worth investing in such as Charitable/Voluntary, Humanitarian and Bible-based organizations as follows, among others:

- i) Orphanage homes
- ii) Schools for the blind
- iii) Schools for the deaf
- iv) International Children's Ministry (ICM)
- v) Jesus is Lord Radio

- vi) Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK).
- vii) The Kenya Red Cross
- viii) ADRA Kenya.
- ix) The Bible Society of Kenya
- x) Society or Association for the disabled
- xi) The Gideon's International
- xii) Theological Colleges

Chapter Five

Material resources

Material resources which are other things other than money can be also used for investing in God's kingdom. These include some of the following among others:

- Food
- Clothing
- Livestock
- Poultry
- Farm produce
- Shelter

One need not be like the rich and wealthy mentioned in the following scriptures:

AND Samuel died; and all the Israelites gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah.

And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

And there was a man in Ma'-on, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was

very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing sheep in Carmel.

Now the name of the man was Na'-bal; and the name of his wife Ab-i-gail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

And David heard in the wilderness that Na'-bal did shear his sheep.

And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Na'-bal, and greet him in my name:

And thus shall ye say unto him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.

And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there aught missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

Ask thy young men, and they will show thee.
Wherefore let the young men find favor in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

And when David's young men came, they spake to Na-bal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased.

And Na'-bal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There be many servants nowadays that break away every man from his master.

Shall I then take my bread, and my water and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men whom I know not whence they be?

1 Samuel 25:1-11

Those were not polite words from Nabal who could have helped David and his young men.

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

And there was a certain beggar name Laz'-a-
rus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which
fell from the rich man's table: moreover the
dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and
was carried by the angels into Abraham's
bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in
torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and
Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have
mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may
dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my
tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in
thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and
likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is
comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is
a great gulf fixed: so that they which would
pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they
pass to us, that would come from thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Abraham saith unto him,

They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

And he said, nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Luke 16:19-31

The rich man lost opportunities of investing in God through Lazarus by not caring for Lazarus a beggar and who was in need of food and who was being brought to his very gate.

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:18-25

The rich young ruler in the above scripture failed the test of entering the kingdom of God because he lived a horizontal life and not a vertical life (world and not heavenly life) and

therefore had a wrong focus altogether. One need to live on earth yes, but with a heavenly focus and therefore have eternal perspective in life. That ruler was covetous to the world than to the heavenly loving them more than loving God the Creator and Blessor and therefore on the same note not loving his fellow beings loving himself more than others (Matthew 22:34-40, 1 John 3:17-20; 4:20-21). We ought not to worship our wealth but to distribute it and worship only God as well as serve him with our wealth (Matthew 4:8-10). Our love for God must exceed our love on things of this world (mark 8:36).

Many people have forgotten that giving is a commandment of God and it is a righteous act and by giving out to God and to fellow beings one is obedient to God and that alls obedience attracts blessings.

Many people do not know that real riches are found only in God and in His kingdom as are eternal and fade not away or decay. We need sober up to the fact that however rich or

wealthy we can be that alone, cannot guarantee us entry into God's kingdom.

For further reading look at the following scriptures (Luke 12:13-21, Job 1:20-22, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, James 4:4, 1 John 2:15-17, Revelation 3:14-18).

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten.

Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

James 5:1-5

The above is a warning to the rich who keep on heaping things for themselves but do not care even for those who they have hired to work for them. Now here comes a challenge to those Christians who may be giving a lip service to their brethren.

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?

If a brother or a sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:14-17

There is need for a Christian to be practical in one's faith and to invest in God's kingdom by

the resources one has and not give just empty talk/lip service to people (1 John 3:17-18).

Here are a few examples in the Old Testament of those who were practical in their lives:

AND E-li'-jah the Tish'-bite, who was of the inhabitants of Gil'-e-ad, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Che'-rith, that is before Jordan.

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Che'-rith, that is before Jordan.

And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

Arise, get thee to Zar'-e-phath, which belongeth to Zi'-don, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

So he arose and went to Zar'-e-phath. And, when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in a

barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat, and die.

And E-li'-jah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

And she went and did according to the saying of E-li'-jah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by E-li'-jah.

And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.

And she said unto E-li'-jah, what have I to do with thee,

O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and called him up into a loft, where he abode and laid him upon his own bed.

And he cried unto the LORD and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

And the LORD heard the voice of E-li'-jah; and the soul of the child came unto him again, and he revived.

And E-li'-jah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house and

delivered him unto his mother: and E-li'-jah, said, See thy son liveth.

And the woman said to E-li'-jah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

1 Kings 17

In the above case we see that the widow of Zarephath believed in the prophet Elijah as well as in God who sent him and invested in the prophet providing the little she had to sustain the prophet and the result is that her efforts were not in vain as God is so faithful and the widow was established during the period of scarcity as she prospered and had enough for her and her son and the prophet. It was so because the word of God is sure and fails not (2 Chronicles 20:20, 1 Kings 8:56, Isaiah 55:8-11, 2 Samuel 22:31, Matthew 5:18, Matthew 10:40-42).

He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matthew 10:40-42

Being hospitable to God's servants is investing as God will reward such deeds.

And it fell on a day, that E-li'-sha passed to Shu'-nem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread.

And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a

table, and stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

And he said to Ge-ha'-zi his servant, call this Shu'-nam-mite.

And when he had called her, she stood before him.

And he said unto him, say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

And he said, What then is to be done for her?

And Ge-ha-zi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And

she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Eli'-sha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

And he said unto his father, My head, my head.

And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? It is neither new moon, nor Sabbath. And she said, it shall be well. Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go

forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee.

So she went and came unto the man of God to Mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Ge-ha'-zi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shu'-nam-mite:

Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, is it well with thee? Is it well with the child? And she answered, it is well.

And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Ge-ha'-zi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.

Then she said, did I desire a son of my lord? Did I not say, do not deceive me?

Then he said to Ge-ha'-zi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth and as my soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose and followed her.

And Ge-ha'-zi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, the child is not awaked.

And when E-li'-sha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

And he called Ge-ha'-zi, and said, Call this Shu'-nam-mite.

So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

2 Kings 4:8-37

The Shunammite woman provided the prophet Elisha and his servant Gehazi with both food and shelter and which was an investment in itself and she ended being blessed with a son child.

AND David said, is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

And there was one of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Zi'-ba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Zi'-ba? And he said, Thy servant is he.

And the king said, is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Zi'-ba said unto the king,

Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Zi'-ba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Ma'-chir, the son of Am'-mi-el, in Lo-de'-bar.

Then King David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Ma'-chir, the son of Am'-mi-el, from Lo-de'-bar.

Now when Me-phen'-o-sheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Me-phen'-o-sheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

And David said unto him, Fear not; for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy grandfather; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

And he bowed himself, and said, what is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

Then the king called to Zi'-ba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Me-phib'-o-sheth thy master's son shall eat bread always at my table. Now Zi'-ba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

Then said Zi'-ba unto the king, according to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Me-phib'-o-sheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

And Me-phib'-o-sheth had a young son, whose name was Mi'-cha.

And all that dwelt in the house of Zi'ba were servants unto Me-phib'-o-sheth.

So Me-phib'-o-sheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

2 Samuel 9

There is a need to emulate such people as the Shunammite woman who was most hospitable to the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 4:8-37) and king David who showed much kindness to Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan after Jonathan's death (2 Samuel 9). Now let us consider the following:

I COMMEND unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succorer of many, and of myself also.

Romans 16:1-2

Hospitality in itself in the name of the Lord is an investment. We need to avoid hoarding of our materials resources for ourselves being selfish but rather to be willing and ready to lend out as well as to show generosity to others

(Proverbs 11:24-26; 22:9; 28:27, Psalm 37:25-26).

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also.

He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but the blessing shall be upon the head that selleth it.

Proverbs 11:24-26

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

Psalm 37:25-26

Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase:

So shall thy barns be filled with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honoring the Lord with our first fruits is equally an investment on our part.

And in those days came prophets from Jerusalem unto An'-ti-och.

And there stood up one of them named Ag'-abus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea:

Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 11:27-30

Sending out relief food to the needy and any other necessities is important as those disciples did.

MOREOVER, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Mac-e-do'-ni-a;

How that in great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberty.

For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

FOR as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:

For know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready:

Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.

Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up before hand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Now ye Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Philippians 4:15-17

All the above touch on gifts/material resources that were being sent to God's ministers on their mission work and that was in itself on behalf of the brethren who gave them. Now before I close the chapter I need to mention a special group too, before God that need to benefit from our generosity to them. This group consist of:

- The Widows
- The Orphans and
- The poor

The above group is a special lot in the sight of God and they need to be given special treatment/care.

They are a special group in that they are a disadvantaged lot and therefore God views them differently and has a high esteem for them and greatly cares for them as compared to all other people.

The following are some scriptures that touch on the above group.

This is a group where one need to invest heavily with the resources God has bestowed

on one. It is a big opportunity for investment in God's kingdom.

The Widows and the Orphans

Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.

If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;

And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

Exodus 22:22-24

When thou hast made an end of tithing of all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled;

Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless,

and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them: I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away aught thereof for any unclean use, nor given aught thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me.

Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 26:12-15

For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor;

If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in

this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

Then will I cause you to dwell in this place in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

Jeremiah 7:5-7

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:15-17

Remove not the landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

Proverbs 23:10-11

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James 1:27

The Poor

And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.

Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.

Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase.

I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

Leviticus 25:35-38

If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land

which the LORD God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thy heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother.

But thou shalt open thy hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying,

The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.

Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thy hand unto.

For the poor shall never cease out of the land. Therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Is not this the fast I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rearward.

Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

And the LORD shall guide thee continually,
and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat
thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered
garden, and like a spring of water, whose
waters fail not.

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old
waste places: thou shalt raise up the
foundations of many generations; and thou shalt
be called, The repairer of the breach, The
restorer of paths to dwell in.

If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath,
from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and
call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the
LORD, honorable; and shalt honor him, not
doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own
pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD;
and I will cause thee to ride upon the high
places of the earth, and feed thee with the
heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of
the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 58:6-14

BLESSED is he that considereth the poor: the
LORD will deliver him in time of trouble,
The LORD will preserve him, and keep him
alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth:
and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of
his enemies.

The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of
languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his
sickness.

Psalms 41:1-3

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the
afflicted and needy.

Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the
hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the
LORD, and that which he hath given will he
pay him again.

Proverbs 19:17

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but
he that hideth his eyes shall have many curses.

Proverbs 28:27

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor,
he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Proverbs 21:13

He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed;
for he giveth of his bread to the poor

Proverbs 22:9

The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his
throne shall be established for ever

Proverbs 29:14

Doing good to them is doing a service to the
Lord and likewise doing bad to them is doing a
disservice to the Lord and if they cry to God for
any mistreatment the offender is in serious
trouble. God expects us to give this lot justice
and nothing short of that.

Chapter six

Mere Custodians

As Christians, in the sight of God touching on the various resources that he bestows on us, we are positioned as mere custodians/stewards as the resources are His but he entrusts us with them in order for us to take care of them and to utilize them in the best way possible for our own good as well as to promote his kingdom here on earth.

The reason why we are stewards is because he is going to hold each one of us accountable on how we utilized those resources. It is therefore important that we do not despise what we have been given whether they may seem little or much before our eyes. The bottom line is to use them while at the same time investing them to bring gain to the original owner who is God Himself.

In stewardship what is required is to be faithful and prudent in one's affairs which calls for the need to be wise in handling the resource. If one is not wise one will not achieve much and may

as well end up hardly achieving anything for the Lord from the resources so bestowed and entrusted with.

Now at this juncture let us look at some scriptures on the same.

LET a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

For I know nothing by myself;

Yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your

sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

As Christians we are all equal before the eyes of God as stewards in God's service and one need not to boast of the resources one has been bestowed with as we are mere recipients as what we have did not belong to us but from the Lord who gives to each one of us severally as he wills and whom all of us must be held accountable and therefore there is no justifiable reason to judge the work of others as God has that prerogative when he comes for us for reckoning and it is only at that time that each one will be able to see whether is justified or not on the work done for him (Romans 14:10-13, 1 Corinthians 3:3-15, Revelation 22:12-14).

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth forever.

Corinthians 9:6-9

As I had just said, God does not give us resources so as to boast with but rather to sow them in others which is good works before Him. We have those that lack (the poor) in our midst to share some of what we have (riches and wealth) and that portrays the righteousness of God in our lives as Christians.

When giving out our resources we need to do it willingly and purposely in heart and not

indiscriminately or with a grudge in heart in order for God to approve it.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:9-10

Let us do the above out of the love of Christ in us. Not once or twice, or thrice, but always, not getting weary. Remember we are custodians and God will require an account from us how we utilized them (the resources he gave us)

AND he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

And he called him, and said unto him, how is it that I hear this of thee? Give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Then the steward said within himself, what shall I do? For my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may be into their houses.

So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, how much owest thou unto my lord?

And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

And the lord commanded the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of mammon of unrighteousness; that when ye

fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches?

And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's who shall give you that which is your own?

Luke 16:1-12

The above scripture has questions that need to be answered by none other than you and me. As we have seen, Stewardship calls for faithfulness and justice and to fall short of that simply means to fail in one's duty. We just must learn to be faithful and just in all things, money included.

As we know, money is tempting being a medium of exchange and therefore one can get things using it, but all the same that should not

matter much to us Christians as we just have to be faithful to get the Lord's approval.

Where will we end if we are unfaithful and therefore disapproved by God? That, need soberness on our part. We just have to learn not to be covetous in order to pass the test (1 Timothy 6: 6-12).

As Christians we need to learn that tricks and craftiness is not a vocabulary in Christianity where the pillar / foundation is truth.

Where truth is there is justice and faithfulness and that is why our Lord Jesus as the Truth is both just and faithful. Tricks, craftiness and subtility belongs to the Devil (Genesis 3:1-4, John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 11:2-3).

As Christians, we need to make friends not with the world as the unbelievers (Luke 16:1-8 above, 1 John 2:15-17, James 4:4) but let us use the wisdom God has given to us to make friends with heaven with God the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit and His holy angels so as to be ushered into heaven when the Lord returns to take us with him there (John 14:1-3,

Luke 16:9), after we have invested our resources wisely when we were still here on earth.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16

Now we have received, not the spirit of this world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

John 16:13

To avoid folly wisdom is required. God promised us the Spirit of truth, that is, the Holy Spirit and therefore the Lord advised us to be wise and because God is faithful, he has given us his Spirit to guide us into all truth so that we can do his will and not Satan's will.

We need not to be careless with what God has entrusted us with but to use them well to bring gain in God's kingdom. We do have the book of Matthew for our further reading as it illustrates to us some servants handled their lord's goods and how their lord rewarded them. For our case as we know are the Lord's servants/stewards (Matthew 25:14-30).

Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again and a recompense be made thee.

But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

Luke 14:12-14

Quite a lesson it is. We need not show favor or hospitality to only those who can return favor or hospitality to us only. For better investment, let us do so the more to the disabled and the disadvantaged and we can be sure of better return when the Lord returns for his own. Investing in such people (the latter) is investing in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Matthew 7:6

As stewards of God's mysteries (1 Corinthians 4:1, Colossians 1:25-27), let us avoid wasting our time in witnessing to those opposing the gospel and are not ready to listen as it is of no

use but rather to sow the word of God (invest)
in those who are receptive and ready to listen.

Chapter Seven

Benefits in investing

It is true and quite clear that there are benefits in investing in the kingdom of God using the resources availed to us and the benefits outweighs all other benefits one can get on the earth.

The biggest of these benefits is to be in heaven with the Lord and to live with him into eternity so one can see how important it is to invest in God's kingdom while on earth.

There are temporal benefits here on earth and permanent benefits up there in heaven.

The temporary benefits we enjoy here on earth and which culminate to enjoying permanent benefits in heaven.

The temporary benefits here on earth include peace of mind as well as provisions for our daily life, health and protection.

The permanent benefits include absolute: peace, love, joy and righteousness.

Let us now look at some scriptures to get our satisfaction.

Charge them that are rich in this world that they may not be high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all this to enjoy;

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

God provides us with material things to enjoy ourselves and also to share with others (distribute/invest) and by so doing we are but laying a good foundation for our future as we are showing righteousness which counts most in the kingdom of heaven where there are true / certain riches that fades not away (1 Peter 1:1-5).

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever, a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:7-10

To sow to the flesh is to do unrighteousness which is equated to corruption / death.

To sow to the Spirit is to do righteousness which is equated to life. That is why in the earlier scripture we were advised to be rich in good works/righteousness in order to be able to lay a good foundation which do enable us to lay hold on eternal life. Therefore we have all the opportunity now as Christians to do good more and more and not to get tired in doing so and all

will be well as we shall surely reap (at Christ coming for the Church).

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

If we are steadfast abounding in the work of the Lord we are assured of reaping in the end as the work in the Lord is sure and cannot be in vain.

Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Malachi 3:13-18

It is true that on the judgment day there will be a clear distinction between the righteous and the wicked, those who served God and those who served Satan. Those who served God will be spared the judgment of God as they are not under any condemnation (Romans 8:1) as they were made righteous in Christ Jesus through his death and resurrection (Romans 3:21-25, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

God has told us in the book of Malachi (Malachi 3:16-17) that as sons he shall spare us and that we are his. Therefore if heaven and earth belongs to God as the Creator and he lives in heaven as his dwelling place, then heaven is ours as well and we are bound to live with him there after our life here on earth ends, Halleluia. Let us therefore live right and serve the Lord so as to be with him at the appointed time, Amen. Let us now take our time and have a glimpse at heaven where God our Father lives.

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And he said, unto me, it is done.

I am Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of water of life freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying,

Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

And he carried me away to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

And had a wall great and high and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

On the east three gates; on the north three gates, on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city pure gold, like unto clear glass.

And he measured the wall thereof, a hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man that is, of the angel.

And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones.

The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

The fifth, sardonyx; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of

the city was pure gold, as it were transparent as glass.

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

AND he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which

bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 21:1-22:5

Quite superb! I am completely satisfied with the above and do believe it is the same to you too.

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this book and do hope it has been of help to you. In case you have any comments to make please don't hesitate to write to us using the address below.

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A Christian and Kingdom Investments

‘Worthy investments with eternal perspectives.

In Christianity there is the activity of investing both on earth as well in God’s kingdom. The life on earth is temporal in nature, whereas the life in heaven is eternal and therefore to invest in God’s Kingdom is to invest for eternity - hence the need to invest there heavily. The investments are different in that the resources are more for investing and have eternal dividends as are earned both here on earth and in the world to come in the kingdom of God. You will be glad to read this book and begin seriously to invest heavily. In this book you will come to learn about the various resources and the holder/owner of them, your position as a Christian and the benefits in investing.

The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi is a born- again Christian aged 63 years. He is married and they have 4 children. He is a preacher and teacher of the word of God and holds a Diploma in Biblical Studies from both Emmaus Bible School and Voice of Prophecy in Nairobi. He is an Author of other 39 inspirational book. He is a life member of the Scripture Union of Kenya and fellowships in an altar of the Ministry of Repentance and Holiness.



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