

# **Treasure Principle**

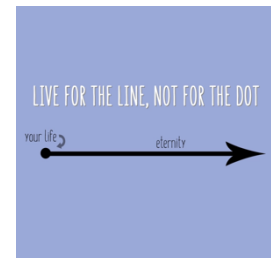
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## **Quick Summary**

**“The Treasure Principle” - You can’t take it with you – but you can send it on ahead (Matthew 6:19-21).** In this book, Alcorn teaches the importance and the sheer joy of giving consistently and generously to the Lord’s work, all the while giving up treasures on earth to store up treasures in heaven. Alcorn says, “If we give instead of keep, if we invest in the eternal instead of in the temporal, we store up treasures in heaven that will never stop paying dividends. Whatever we store up on earth will be left behind when we leave. Whatever treasures we store up in heaven will be waiting for us when we arrive.” This book helps unlock the secret of joyful giving.

## **Key Insights**

- **Key Principle #1: *God owns everything; I’m His money manager.***
  - A steward manages assets for the owner’s benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It’s his job to find out what the owner wants done with His assets, then carry out His will.
  - Whenever we think like owners, it’s a red flag. (Romans 14:10,12)
  - One of our central spiritual decisions is determining what is a reasonable amount to live on.
  - Giving infuses life with joy. It interjects an eternal dimension into even the most ordinary day.
- **Key Principle #2: *My heart always goes where I put God’s money.***
  - We need to feed, clothe, protect, and transport our families, but when the basics are taken care of, why shouldn’t the rest go toward treasures in heaven?
  - Watch what happens when you reallocate your money from temporal things to eternal things.
- **Key Principle #3: *Heaven, not earth, is my home!***
  - We are citizens of “a better country – a heavenly one” (Hebrews 11:16)
- **Key Principle #4: *I should live not for the dot but for the line.***
  - Nothing makes a journey more difficult than a heavy backpack filled with nice but unnecessary things. Pilgrims travel light!
  - Don’t Chase the Wind (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11)
- **Key Principle #5: *Giving is the only antidote to materialism (1 Timothy 6:17-19)***
  - The act of giving is a vivid reminder that it’s all about God, not about us. It’s saying I am not the point; He is the point. He does not exist for me! I exist for Him. God’s money has a higher purpose than my affluence.



- Giving is a joyful surrender to a greater person and a greater agenda. Giving affirms Christ's leadership. It dethrones me and exalts Him. It breaks the chains of man that would enslave me.
  - Leviticus 27:30 is where 10% tithe comes from. "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord."
  - God's children give to Him first, not last (Proverbs 3:9)
  - When we rob God to pay men, we rob ourselves of God's blessing. it's a vicious cycle, and it takes obedient faith to break out of it.
- **Key Principle #6: *God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.***
- God distributes wealth unevenly not because He loves some of His children more than others, but so His children can distribute it to their brothers and sisters on His behalf.
  - God entrusts me with this money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build His kingdom in Heaven.
  - We are so absorbed with "getting what's ours" that we miss what brings the real blessing and joy, giving God what's His. Giving is doing what we were made for: loving God and our neighbors (Matthew 22:36-40). Giving boldly affirms Christ's leadership and is an act that leads to joy.

### **My Giving Covenant:**

I affirm God's full ownership of me (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and everything entrusted to me (Psalm 24:1). I recognize that my money and possessions are in fact His – I'm His money manager, His delivery person. I will ask Him what He wants me to do with His money.

I will set aside the first fruits – starting with at least 10 percent of all I receive, treating it as holy and belonging exclusively to the Lord. I do this in obedience to Him, desiring His blessing (Malachi 3:6-12).

Out of the remaining treasures God entrusts to me, I will seek to make generous free will gifts. I recognize that God has entrusted me so that I can be "generous on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 9:11). Realizing I can rob God by withholding not only the tithe but whatever offerings He calls upon me to give, I ask Him to make His will clear to me.

I ask God to teach me to give sacrificially to His purposes, including helping the poor and reaching the lost. I commit myself to avoiding indebtedness so that I don't tie up His funds and can therefore feel greater freedom to follow the Spirit's promptings to give.

Recognizing that I cannot take earthly treasures from this world, I determine to lay them up as heavenly treasures – for Christ's glory and the eternal good of others and myself. Affirming that heaven, not earth is my home and Christ is my Lord, I commit myself to lay out His assets before Him regularly – leaving nothing as untouchable – and ask His direction on where to deploy His money. I'll start with this question: "What am I hanging on to that You want me to give away?"

Recognizing that God has given me, my family, my friends, my church, and others in my circle of influence. I ask Him to help me share the Treasure Principle with them so they too may experience the greatest present joy and future reward.