

BLOUNT FINANCIAL STEWARDS

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10
FOUNDATIONS

OF FAITHFUL
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

WITH 10 REVOLUTIONARY STORIES
FROM THE GREATEST STORYTELLER OF ALL TIME:
JESUS CHRIST

FOUNDATION 1: PROVEN WISDOM

WHAT KIND OF A BUILDER ARE YOU?

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Excerpt from
The Wise and Foolish Builders
(Matthew 7:24-29, NIV)

ASK YOURSELF:

Do I feel that a Christian’s investment or insurance plan would benefit from the application of Biblical wisdom in the financial planning process?

WHAT GOD’S WORD SAYS:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”
Prov. 9:10

“For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding” Prov. 2:6

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

It is said that wisdom is the skill of living life well, and that it can only come from a worldview rooted in God’s Word.

We believe that Biblical principles are “always right, always relevant, and will never change” based on personal and national financial scenarios, or economic trends.

We are called to build our house on the rock and obtain counsel from God for important financial situations. And when we are faithful to the Lord and the work that He is doing, He will give us wisdom on how to grow our financial resources and to give from our abundance.

FOUNDATION 2: SHARED VALUES

IN WHICH TYPE OF SOIL DO YOU CHOOSE TO GROW?

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

.... But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

*Excerpt from
The Parable of the Sower
(Matthew 13:1-9 & 23 NIV)*

ASK YOURSELF:

What are my personal values, which are related to faith and finance? Of these values, which do I feel are shared with my current investment and insurance advisors?

Do I feel as if it is important to implement my spiritual values into my investment and insurance planning process?

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." James 1:5

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

At Blount Financial Stewards, we use these verses to get on the same page with members, allowing God's Word to speak into stewardship goals that are developed as we move through a long-term financial planning relationship.

We often find ourselves working with families and business owners who are comfortable applying the Bible to their life, and therefore, are looking for ways to implement Biblical wisdom into their Financial Planning process.

We believe that we are given this ministry to help Believers become that seed that fell on that good soil - not just with finances, but in growing in spiritual life led by the Love of Christ. And, our goal is to build trust through Biblical financial values and goals which we share with our clients.

FOUNDATION 3: FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

ARE OUR HEIRS PREPARED?

So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Excerpt from
The Parable of the Lost Son
(Luke 20:20-32, NIV)

ASK YOURSELF:

How have my current investment and insurance advisors incorporated a family-focused plan that includes the transfer of Biblical wisdom into our wealth transfer strategies?

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun. Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: that wisdom preserves the life of its possessor." Ecclesiastes 7:11-12

"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

We believe in the importance of transferring Biblical wisdom to heirs/children instead of just transferring wealth. It's easy to forget that God has provided tools for us that can help us be good stewards now of our future legacy.

Jesus teaches us repentance and forgiveness through the Parable of the Lost Son. But He also teaches us the importance of having financial conversations within all of the family circle (even with the "good kids") - and the role of familial love in wealth transfer.

At Blount Financial Stewards we work hard to make sure that heirs are prepared for the provision they may receive as the legacy of our members.

FOUNDATION 4: HAPPINESS IN FAITH

ARE YOU WELCOMING THE GIFT OF JOY FROM JESUS?

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. **Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?**'

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

*Excerpt from
The Parable of the Rich Fool
(Luke 12:13-21, NIV)*

ASK YOURSELF:

Would my current investment and insurance advisors regard insurance and investments as assets *for them* to hold, or Biblical responsibilities *to help me* manage for God's glory and my good?

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and everything in it." Psalm 24:1

"seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

"Godliness with contentment is great gain" 1 Timothy 6:6

... our "character and moral disposition should be free from the love of money" Hebrews 13:5

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." Galatians 6:7

"But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." Matthew 13:23

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

Practically, the answer is both - investments and insurance products are both assets for professionals to hold in custody and Biblical responsibilities to be managed well. But in reality, one has priority over the other - we are called to steward our resources well. Because, if God owns "it all", then we are just borrowing "it" for a little while. The Bible calls us to steward over God's possessions, and to practice unconditional joy in God's provision.

When we break from idolatry and coveting like the fool in Jesus' parable, and seek for genuine happiness instead - God can really shine in our lives. We do this by meditating on His Word, praying for guidance, and being with people who will walk with us in that journey with and toward Him.

The right people will help us in recognizing and being grateful for the deep love of God. We should be striving to live as Dr. David Jeremiah describes by "... looking back without regret, looking at the present without envy, and looking at the future without fear."

God measures ROI (Returns On Investment) with much different metrics than we do, and offers reward on a much greater scale than we could ever imagine.

FOUNDATION 5: COMPETENCY

ARE WE EMPLOYING GOOD SERVANTS?

He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

"But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

"The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' **"Well done, my good servant!" his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'**

"The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' "His master answered, **'You take charge of five cities.'**

"Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.' "His master replied, **'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'**

"Then he said to those standing by, **'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'**

"Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

"He replied, **'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away...'**

*Excerpt from
The Parable of the Ten Minas
(Luke 19:12-27, NIV)*

ASK YOURSELF:

Do my current investment and insurance advisors have a high level of competency, in both professional financial management and biblical financial perspectives?

How well do I know the investments I have purchased, the companies that are represented within those investments, and the ways those companies may or may not provide funds to other organizations that would not support a Biblical worldview?

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor." Ecclesiastes 4:9

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed" Proverbs 15:22

"Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory." Prov 11:14

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Cor 4:2

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

Christian clients should not have to give up a high level of competence in order to gain biblical financial wisdom; but many fear they might. It is possible for a biblically wise financial advisor to share a clients' faith values **and** have professional qualifications that are second to none.

Seeking counsel is biblical and it is something we highly encourage. The Blount Financial Stewards founder, Jonathan Blount, was a pastor for over 20 years as a "first career", and still serves in the local church when opportunities allow. He has been licensed in the financial services industry since 2008.

He holds the AAMS® (Accredited Asset Management Specialist) designation from The College for Financial Planning, creators of the CFP® designation. Also, as an investments and insurance professional, he has earned the distinction of becoming a Certified Kingdom Advisor (CKA®) from www.KingdomAdvisors.com.

As Believers in Christ, we are called to become competent servants who are trustworthy in small matters - and deserve to be entrusted with more to in turn steward well. Working with a financial professional who strives to uphold the fiduciary standard, and who works to keep your best interests in mind, is one of the keys that could lead you far down that path.

As your partner, we are called to be faithful in helping you accomplish your stewardship goals through a high standard of professionalism and competency. Our goal is that together, we can look forward to God telling us, **"Well done, my good and faithful servant!"**

FOUNDATION 6: KINGDOM IMPACT

HOW AM I CONTRIBUTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM?

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

"'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

**Excerpt from
The Parable of the Great Banquet
(Luke 14:15-24, NIV)**

ASK YOURSELF:

Have my current investment and insurance advisors been good resources to help me develop a written financial plan which provides a faith-based impact on me personally, and to the rest of the world in general?

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit". Romans 14:17

"Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together." John 4:35-36

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

Our firm views money simultaneously as a Test, a Tool, and a Testimony. We believe that a good steward needs to have a starting point in sharing their financial resources, usually, as a Test. Then, as they prove faithful in the Test, it can become a Tool, and ultimately, a Testimony.

We coach our member clients to see money from a Biblical perspective, which identifies opportunities to use financial resources to participate in God's purposes for them and the world.

We do this by keeping some verses in front of our members to remind them to have a *Kingdom Mentality* (Romans 14:17) and to look for *Kingdom Opportunities* (John 4:35-36) to share their wealth with others in need of The Gospel and help to meet material needs.

As believers, God has called us to His banquet table - a table of plenty resources for us to use *and* to share. Will you let us help you heed His call?

FOUNDATION 7: CURIOSITY

ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR?

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

*Excerpt from
Parable of the Good Samaritan
(Luke 10:25-37, NIV)*

ASK YOURSELF:

With my current investment and insurance advisors – what has happened over the course of my relationship with them that has made me feel as if there is a real, meaningful financial planning relationship in place?

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2:1-4

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

Everyone wants to be known and understood, and that is our first priority. A relationship with a Financial Advisor must start with just that: a *relationship* - which includes mutual discovery and reciprocation of information. We are after all... neighbors - who are called to act with love and mercy towards each other. We can't be your best "financial neighbor" if there are details of your financial situation and goals that we don't know.

Our best clients are not associated with a dollar amount of assets under management or insurance in force; they are clients who expect to give and receive a high level of interaction through the investment or insurance planning process.

We want to understand and align with their values, goals, life impact, and much more. It is only with this alignment that we feel as if we can deliver the high value that should be expected from a true Wealth Advisor or Financial Planner. We believe that every step along the way in developing a financial plan should be in our member's best interests.

As a result, most of our accounts are structured in a fee-based, fiduciary relationship which requires us to place your best interests first. Occasionally, a brokerage relationship is more appropriate but does that negate the need to place your best interests as our first priority. All investment fees and expenses are transparently communicated before, during, and after the financial planning process. Because of the level of service we provide for our most engaged clients, we can't necessarily compete to be the least expensive financial planning firm available, but we will *always* compete to be *the best at what we do for our member clients*.

We believe that we cannot do this without the proper relationships in place with our members, therefore we work for the relationship first, and let the profits or losses to the firm fall as they may.

FOUNDATION 8: FAITHFULNESS

ARE YOU A FAITHFUL STEWARD?

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, **'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'**

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, **'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'**

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, **'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.**

For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them...

Excerpt from
The Parable of the Talents
(Matthew 25:14-30, NIV)

ASK YOURSELF:

Are my current investment and insurance advisors leading me towards becoming a faithful steward of God's resources?

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

In our hearts, we believe that all true Christians want to be good stewards of their financial resources, because it is impossible to ignore all that God's Word says about stewardship of our Time, Talent *and* Treasure.

If God is at work in the life of a Believer, He will prompt them to grow in this area. But to get to the place they want to be, they often recognize they need help and long-term guidance.

Our professional relationship revolves around stewardship of finances. But, true biblical stewardship involves so much more... we believe that stewardship is an important way of living out our world-view and discipleship. Discipleship is all-encompassing of a Believer's life, stretching into any part of life that allows them to grow in the ways they spend their Time, Talent, *and* Treasure.

Blount Financial Stewards believes that an advisor on staff has four roles to fill: *Leader, Counselor, Advisor, and Disciple Maker*. Our pledge to every member client is that we will strive to help you be a faithful servant, and we'll be faithful servants to God as well by delivering service and support to you as you grow as a Believer in Christ.

We do this because we are (*and you are*)... called toward becoming good stewards, toward the Great Commission, and toward God's Kingdom Purposes for our clients and for the world.

FOUNDATION 9: SECURITY

ARE YOU WILLING TO CRY OUT TO GOD FOR JUSTICE?

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. **And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"**

*Excerpt from
The Parable of the Persistent Widow
(Luke 18:1-8, NIV)*

ASK YOURSELF:

How have my current investment and insurance advisors helped me address what biblical "financial freedom" really means?

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." James 1:5

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

We focus on the true source of security, which we believe is found in money-management principles in The Bible.

Even though we experience injustice and insecurities in this world, God always has the last say. He will always deliver justice and security to you, if you follow His wisdom in finances and in all the aspects of your life.

We teach our members to learn to emphasize the biblical values of *limiting debt*, *not grasping for temporary quick-riches*, and *using wise, time-tested principles* to experience the security that comes from a deeper relationship as a result of following God's ideas in these areas.

We find that the security that comes from applying the biblical foundation in our process assures both a deep practical and emotional resolve with our members.

FOUNDATION 10: GENEROSITY

ARE YOU PREPARED TO GO ALL-IN FOR GOD?

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, **“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”**

**Excerpt from
The Widow’s Offering
(Mark 12:41-44, NIV)**

ASK YOURSELF:

Here's a continuance from the previous question - Have my current investment and insurance advisors helped me address what biblical “financial freedom” really means?

WHAT GOD’S WORD SAYS:

*“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.”
Leviticus 27:30*

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says the LORD of hosts. All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 3:10-12

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11

“And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.” Philemon 1:6

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

In order to use money as a Test, a Tool, and a Testimony, Christians need to be willing to go through the progression with God as a maturity exercise. A tithe is a Test – it is a minimal commitment to return to God that which is already His. No matter what our financial status is, God calls us to live as if we are that widow who is willing to trust God with all that we have. God does not look at the amount, but on our faithfulness in depending on His presence on our lives.

This is why we say that for a Christian, money is a Test, a Tool, and a Testimony. God will test you in this area, but He also challenges you to test Him, and He makes two promises: one of spiritual blessing and another of spiritual protection. Blount Financial Stewards takes the position that the tithe is not a commandment, but an opportunity to invest with God. We don’t counsel people by saying that your tithe is a guarantee for your financial gain, but it is a guarantee you will have an opportunity to test God and that He will prove faithful to provide you with spiritual blessings.

We also teach our clients to realize that the concept of a “tithe” in the Old Testament functioned generally as a tax to meet needs, and the carryover into the New Testament is viewed as giving to help provide for some basic needs for the poor. We also realize that modern taxation is also designed to meet these needs, which can be balanced with your giving goals. Giving to a local church is also necessary to maintain their vital functions, especially when outreach to certain demographics are not possible for you to reach alone. As a result, your giving strategies should be viewed in tandem with your taxation strategies, and your taxes should be paid with gratitude, on time, and in full as if you are giving to the Lord. These mindsets can lead to even more spiritual blessings.

And it is out of these spiritual blessings that you will be able to be even more generous, as these blessings become even a greater Tool. God’s blessings come in many forms, but we are called to be generous with all areas we can steward in our life - in our Time, our Talent, and our Treasure. Ultimately, your giving strategies which started as a Test, can become a Tool for generosity, and ultimately, a very powerful Testimony.

Advisors at Blount Financial Stewards believe that generosity breaks the power that money may have over our life, because it helps us master money, rather than allowing money to master us. Our members enjoy our ability to help create individualized generosity plans for each client’s different situation.

ONE FINAL THOUGHT

Before you make any purchase or review another investment or insurance product, would you be interested in understanding the WHY to buy instead of WHAT to buy? We feel like many advisors have the potential to get these steps wrongfully out of order. Your personal values and spiritual beliefs should inform your decisions, especially when your investments and insurance purchase decisions are significant. Our best clients are more concerned about the Values-based *Process* we use instead of the *Products* we offer. The Products are comparable at various firms, but the Process and Strategy is much different at ours!

Our priority is in an extensive process involving written financial plans, which helps you prioritize your spiritual inventory before your investments and insurance products. This is because we believe your goals should come as result of focusing on God-honoring principles to develop the goals in the first place. If you believe that this process would be of value to you, don't hesitate to contact us *before* you add or make any investment or insurance product decisions.

Thanks and God Bless!

Jonathan C. Blount, A.A.M.S.®, C.K.A.®
LPL Financial Planner, Wealth Advisor

Blount Financial Stewards - Financial Futures, Trusted Today™
Main office location in Ruston, LA 71270
318.497.7180 (Office/Mobile)

We serve our clients through our virtual office everywhere,
by appointment only.

When necessary, in-person meetings can be facilitated.

Investment Advisory offered in all 50 states,

Brokerage and Insurance Services allowed only in licensed states. If we are currently unlicensed in your state, the proper license will be obtained before Brokerage or Insurance products are recommended.

You can view our calendar to set up a Virtual Strategy Session by clicking [here](#).

You can view our website or email us here:

www.BlountFinancial.com

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Best regards, and thanks for the opportunity to serve your investment needs!

ABOUT BLOUNT FINANCIAL STEWARDS AND THE LPL FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Blount Financial Stewards is a Faith-based, Independent Wealth Management firm, focused on developing Faithful Financial Stewards by delivering Values-based, Biblical financial advice, paired with comprehensive financial plans and solutions which meet the Stewardship Goals of our member clients.

We accomplish this by building meaningful relationships with serious, long-term investors, both families and business owners; so that we can be their first choice in working towards their financial goals - aiming to help grow, protect, and transfer generational wealth.

Investment Advisory, Brokerage Securities and Insurance Products are offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC.

LPL Financial is the largest independent U.S. Broker/Dealer providing custodial and Advisory services for Independent Financial Advisors, with over \$900 Billion in Assets Under Management as of April, 2021.

The Faith-based opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of LPL Financial.

All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Asset Allocation is a key investment strategy, but does not ensure a profit, nor can it completely protect against loss.

Many investment options may be used to accomplish the goals of our clients. While we do not only use faith-based investments, it is important to disclose that the use of socially or morally responsible investments alone may result in lower returns than those of their counterparts, due to the companies the investments represent.

A good understanding of your personal Values, Goals, and Risk Tolerance, combined with realistic investment return expectations based on sound fundamental and technical analysis provided by an Investment Professional, in conjunction with any moral reasons for making an investment, should be weighed in the investment decision-making process.