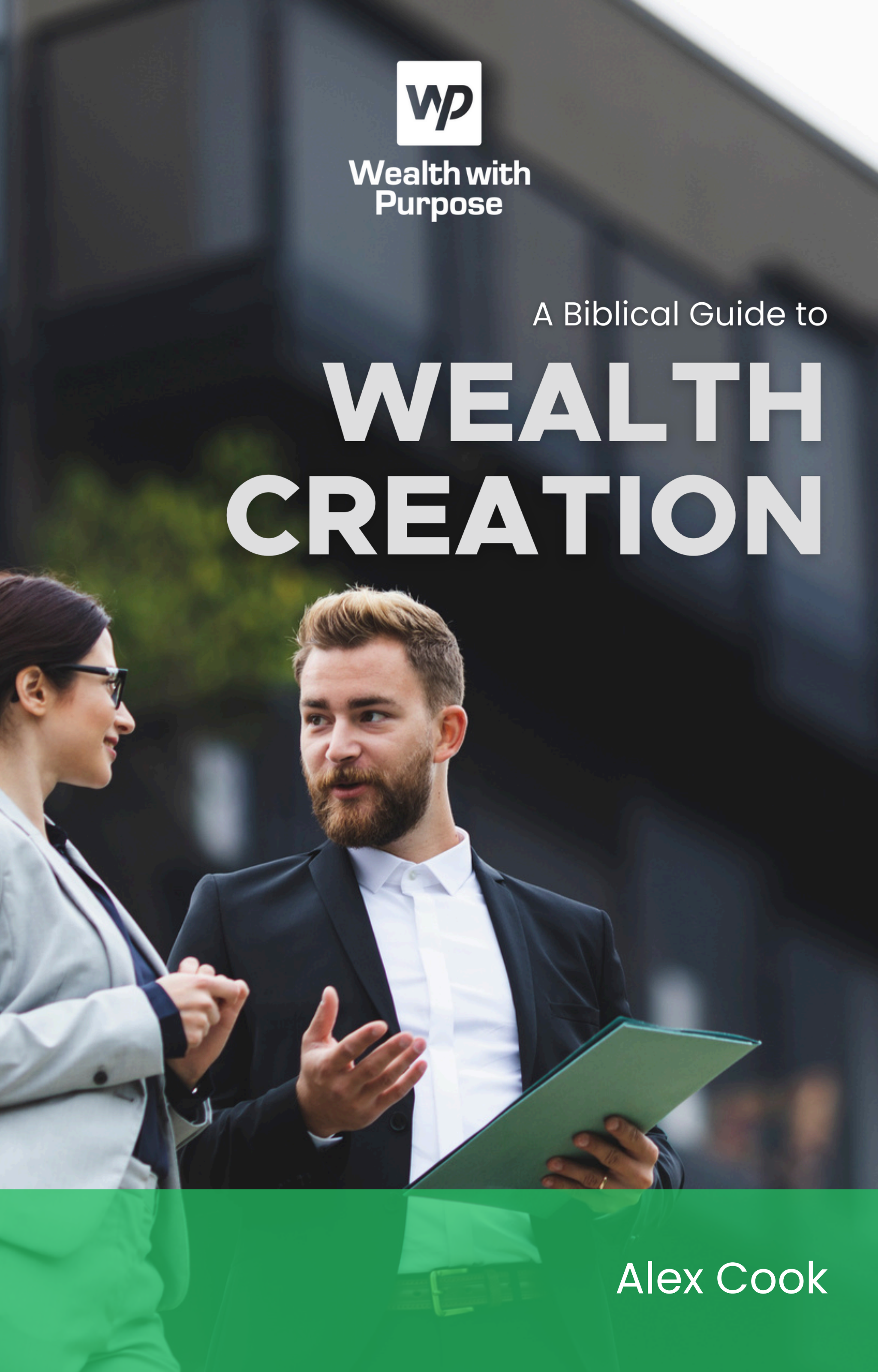

Wealth with Purpose

A Biblical Guide to

WEALTH CREATION

Alex Cook

A BIBLICAL GUIDE TO WEALTH CREATION

www.wealthwithpurpose.com

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I hope that what you read in this e-book is beneficial and of service to you.

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God Bless,

ALEX COOK
CEO & Founder

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A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON

Wealth Creation

In today's world, the relentless pursuit of money often takes precedence over issues of faith, leading many to overlook the profound wisdom found in Scripture regarding financial matters.

However, as believers, it is crucial to recognize that our approach to wealth creation should be grounded in biblical principles. Let us consider a biblical perspective on wealth creation, guided by **seven foundational principles**:

PRINCIPLE 1 - STEWARDSHIP

As stewards of God's resources, we are called to manage wealth wisely and responsibly, recognizing that ultimately everything belongs to God.

PRINCIPLE 2 - DILIGENCE

The Bible emphasizes the importance of hard work and diligence in acquiring wealth, teaching us that diligent hands lead to prosperity.

PRINCIPLE 3 - FAITHFULNESS

Faithfulness in financial matters involves integrity, reliability, and trustworthiness, reflecting our commitment to honour God with our resources.

PRINCIPLE 4 - GENEROSITY

True wealth is not measured by accumulation but by generosity. The Bible urges us to be generous and cheerful givers, trusting in God's provision.

PRINCIPLE 5 - PLANNING

Planning is essential for effective stewardship of resources. Through strategic planning and wise decision-making, we can achieve long-term financial goals.

PRINCIPLE 6 - CONTENTMENT

Contentment frees us from the bondage of materialism and consumerism, allowing us to find satisfaction in God's provision rather than in worldly possessions.

PRINCIPLE 7 - INTEGRITY

Integrity is the cornerstone of biblical wealth creation. Upholding honesty, transparency, and ethical conduct in all financial dealings honours God and builds trust with others.

By embracing these biblical principles, we can build an approach to wealth creation that aligns with God's purposes and brings glory to His name.

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES FOR

Investing

It often surprises Christians to discover that the bible offers great wisdom for investing. Consider the classic advice from a financial planner about the need to diversify your investments. This principle is found in the bible:

> *Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.*
>
> *Ecclesiastes 11:2*

Consider the following kingdom principles that guide wise investing:

Seek First the Kingdom

Jesus teaches us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you (Matthew 6:33). As investors, our primary aim should be to align our investments with God's purposes and values.

Integrity in Investment

Proverbs 10:9 reminds us that whoever walks in integrity walks securely. In the world of investing, integrity is paramount. We must conduct thorough research, make informed decisions, and uphold ethical standards in all our investment endeavours.

Stewardship of Resources

As stewards of God's resources, we are called to invest wisely and responsibly. *Luke 16:10* emphasizes the importance of being faithful with little, knowing that faithful stewardship leads to greater responsibilities and blessings.

Long-Term Perspective

Christians should adopt a long-term perspective, recognizing that true wealth is built gradually over time. *Proverbs 13:11* teaches that wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

Diversification

Ecclesiastes 11:2 advises us to diversify our investments, spreading our resources across multiple ventures. Diversification helps mitigate risk and ensures a more stable investment portfolio.

Biblically Responsible Investing

A Christian consider the ethical and social impact of their investments. *Proverbs 31:8-9* encourages us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, and therefore we aim to avoid investing in companies that harm people. Gambling companies would be an obvious example of a business to avoid.

Faith and Wisdom

Ultimately, Kingdom investing requires a balance of faith and wisdom. *James 1:5* reminds us to ask God for wisdom, trusting that He will guide us in our investment decisions. At the same time, *Hebrews 11:1* teaches that faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. As we exercise faith in God's provision and guidance, coupled with diligent research and prudent decision-making, we can navigate the complexities of the investment world with confidence.

A METHOD FOR CREATING A

Family Wealth Plan

Creating a comprehensive family wealth plan is essential for ensuring the long-term financial security and prosperity of your loved ones. Let's explore a methodology that integrates both practical financial strategies and timeless biblical principles:

Define Family Values and Goals

Begin by establishing clear values and goals that reflect your family's priorities and aspirations. Consider what matters most to your family, whether it's providing for future generations, supporting charitable causes, or achieving financial independence.

Assess Current Financial Situation

Conduct a thorough assessment of your current financial situation, including income, expenses, assets, liabilities, insurance, debt, estate plans and investments. This evaluation provides a baseline for developing your wealth plan and identifying areas for improvement.

Biblical Foundations

Ground your wealth plan in biblical principles of stewardship, diligence, and generosity. Seek wisdom from Scripture on managing finances and prioritize aligning your financial decisions with God's values.

Set SMART Goal

Utilize the SMART criteria **(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)** to set clear and actionable financial goals. Whether it's paying off debt, saving for education, or investing for retirement, ensure your goals are well-defined and achievable within your means.

Develop a Budget and Savings Plan

Create a detailed budget that allocates funds towards essentials, savings, investments, and charitable giving. Implementing a disciplined savings plan enables you to build wealth gradually and achieve your financial goals over time.

Diversification and Risk Management

As *Ecclesiastes 11:2* implies, we should build a diversified investment portfolio that balances risk and return based on your financial goals, time horizon, and risk tolerance. Consider various asset classes, such as stocks, bonds, real estate, and alternative investments, to minimize risk and maximize long-term growth potential.

Estate Planning and Legacy Preservation

Develop an estate plan that outlines how your assets will be managed and distributed to future generations. This includes creating wills, trusts, and power of attorney documents to ensure your wishes are carried out effectively and minimize potential conflicts.

Regular Review and Adjustment

Regularly review and adjust your family wealth plan to accommodate changes in your financial situation, goals, and external factors such as economic conditions or tax laws. Flexibility and adaptability are key to maintaining a successful wealth plan over time.

Financial Education and Communication

Foster financial literacy, especially biblical financial literacy and open communication within your family to help each member to understand and participate in the wealth planning process. Educate children about responsible money management and involve them in age-appropriate financial discussions and decisions.

Growing in Generosity

Cultivate a spirit of gratitude, generosity, and stewardship within your family by prioritizing spiritual development and charitable giving. Set aside resources for supporting causes that align with your family's values and mission, and instil a legacy of generosity that extends beyond financial wealth.

USING MONEY TO ADVANCE
God's Kingdom

How we use our money to advance God's kingdom through strategic giving is a powerful expression of our faith. Below are some practical ways to leverage our financial resources to make a positive impact on individuals, communities, and society, in alignment with God's kingdom values.

Cultivating a Generous Heart

There is a clear biblical mandate for generosity *(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)* and its transformative power in both giver and receiver. Many of us need a shift in mindset from scarcity to abundance, recognizing God's provision and blessings as a basis for generosity.

Strategic Giving

Employ the concept of strategic giving, which involves intentional planning and allocation of resources to maximize impact. Identify areas of need and opportunities for kingdom advancement, such as supporting missions, alleviating poverty, promoting education, or advancing causes that help those who can't defend themselves.

Supporting Ministries and Charities

Research and vet reputable ministries, charities, and non-profits aligned with God's kingdom values and impact areas. Consider regular financial support to organizations making a tangible difference in people's lives.

Addressing Systemic Issues

Support organizations and initiatives focused on advocacy, policy reform, and community development to address systemic injustices and promote lasting change. Significant wisdom needs to be applied to this area. Many purported solutions to injustice, e.g. inequality, such as taxation and redistribution often mean the problems get worse. Many well-meaning Christians are often supporting causes that advocate solutions that will make things worse!

Empowering Individuals and Communities

Prioritize initiatives that promote dignity, self-sufficiency, and long-term solutions. Whilst there is a place for emergency aid for example, the real focus should be on solutions that enable people to work towards their prosperity.

Encouraging Others to Give

Share testimonies and stories of impact to inspire and mobilize others to contribute their resources towards God's kingdom work.

Measuring Impact and Accountability

Establish clear goals and metrics for measuring the impact of financial contributions towards kingdom advancement. Hold organizations and initiatives accountable for transparent reporting and stewardship of resources.

Prayerful Discernment

Seek God's guidance through prayer and discernment in financial decision-making, inviting the Holy Spirit's leading in identifying opportunities for kingdom impact.

By strategically using financial resources to support ministries, address systemic issues, empower individuals, and advance God's kingdom values, we can make a significant impact and bring about positive change in the lives of others that ultimately lead to the building up of God’s kingdom.

USING MONEY TO ADVANCE

A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Developing a kingdom vision for finances involves aligning our financial decisions and priorities with God's purposes and values. As Christians, we are called to steward our resources in ways that reflect God's kingdom and contribute to its advancement on earth.

Understanding God's Kingdom Vision

Recognize that God's kingdom encompasses all aspects of life, including our finances, and seek to align our priorities with His purposes.

Prayer and Seeking God's Guidance

Begin with prayer, seeking God's wisdom and guidance in developing a kingdom vision for finances *(James 1:5)*. Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate areas where financial decisions can be made in alignment with God's will.

Aligning Financial Goals with Kingdom Values

Evaluate current financial goals and priorities in light of what the Bible teaches about money. Prioritise investments of time, talent, and resources in activities and initiatives that contribute to the flourishing of God's kingdom and the well-being of others.

Living with Generosity and Open-Handedness

Cultivate a lifestyle of open-handedness, freely giving to support ministries, charities, and individuals in need *(2 Corinthians 9:11)*.

Integrating Faith and Financial Decision-Making

Integrate faith into financial decision-making processes, seeking to honour God in all financial transactions and investments.

Investing in Eternal Treasures

Shift focus from temporal wealth to eternal treasures by investing in activities and initiatives with lasting kingdom impact (Matthew 6:19-20). The ultimate goal is souls won for Christ.

Financial Accountability and Stewardship

Practice accountability in financial stewardship by regularly reviewing financial habits, budgets, and expenditures. Seek mentors who can provide guidance and accountability in aligning financial practices with biblical values.

Continual Growth and Learning

Commit to lifelong learning and growth in understanding God's principles of stewardship and generosity. Money management is never an overnight thing!

STRATEGIES FOR

WEALTH BUILDING

Wealth-building is a topic often approached from a secular standpoint, but as Christians, our approach should be guided by biblical principles and values. Rather than list a range of tactical investment choices (e.g. shares and property), the better approach is to list those are that are more strategic in nature.

Alignment with God's word

We begin with recognizing that all wealth ultimately belongs to God *(Psalm 24:1)*. From there we emphasise the responsibility to manage resources wisely and in alignment with God's purposes and values.

Faithful Budgeting and Financial Planning

You can only build wealth by spending less than what you earn and set aside the difference. Create a budget that reflects biblical values, including provisions for giving, saving, and responsible spending.

Work Ethic and Diligence

Embrace a strong work ethic and diligent pursuit of excellence in all endeavours *(Proverbs 10:4)*. Recognize work as a means through which God provides for our needs and enables wealth-building opportunities.

Integrity in Business and Finance

Conduct business and financial dealings with honesty, integrity, and transparency (Proverbs 11:1). Avoid unethical practices or shortcuts that compromise integrity for financial gain. Poor choice in this area are likely lead to your wealth evaporating!

Investment and Risk Management

Diversify investments to spread risk and maintain financial stability (Ecclesiastes 11:2).

Generosity and Kingdom Impact

Prioritize giving towards kingdom-focused initiatives and ministries, recognizing the eternal impact of investing in God's kingdom.

Financial Education

Before investing in any asset you need to invest in financial education to increase knowledge and competence in managing wealth effectively. There are many good Christian books that address financial management from a biblical perspective. Whilst there are also many good secular books on money, one needs to be careful that the principles don't stray from scripture. For example, many push the idea that you need debt to accumulate wealth. The Bible warns us that debt in fact can lead to slavery. Be sure that what you learn is aligned with God's word.

Prayer and Trust in God's Provision:

Commit financial endeavours to God in prayer, seeking His guidance, provision, and blessing (Proverbs 16:3).

How we can help you on your financial journey?

Wealth with Purpose is committed to helping Christians become financially health so they can use the financial resources he has entrusted to them to bless their families, help others and build God’s Kingdom.

We do this through our online courses and coaching programs. To find out more, visit: www.wealthwithpurpose.com