



The Biblical Theology of Finances

Philosophical Underpinnings on Finances

- Always give more in value than you receive in payment.
- The law of compensation – give more so that you can serve more in greater numbers.
- The law of savings, giving, and manna!

Biblical Theology

“Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand” 1 Chronicles 29:13-14).

“I will not give unto the LORD that which cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24).

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38).

“And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was anything kept secret, but that it should come abroad. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath” (Mark 4:21-25).

(Read [Kelly Nash!](#))

“Now he that ministers seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;” (2 Cor 9:10).

“Neither did we eat any man’s bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:” (2 Thess 3:8).

“Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread” (2 Thess 3:12).

Recommended Scripture to Study:

Psalms 24:1, NLT The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. (We belong to God!)

James 1:17, ESV Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Psalms 50:10, NLT For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills.

1 Corinthians 1:30, MSG Everything that we have – right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start – comes from God by way of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 11:36, NLT For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

What Were You Thinking?!

Capering Without Consequences

Reflective Reading: [Proverbs 1:22-33](#)

[Kelly Nash: Out on a Limb](#) is the story of a well-loved boy with a winsome personality—and a fatal flaw that he must overcome. He just doesn't think! He loves capers and pays no mind to consequences. When confronted with his behavior, it's like water off a duck's back. But Kelly's careless, carefree lifestyle is about to catch up to him.

It all starts with little Annie Ingalls. Although she bears the brunt of Kelly's numerous pranks, she is never cross with him. Rather, her kindness and courage baffle him and challenge him to stop and think—even if for just a moment. And though she doesn't deserve his bothersome tomfoolery, Kelly can't resist a good laugh on her account—until one day his thoughtless actions put Annie in a position that threatens her life.

Even then, Kelly doesn't take the consequences of his actions seriously. If bringing someone's life into peril doesn't awaken the conscience, what will it take to compel this simple-minded youth to finally think?

Kelly Nash is what the Bible calls a “simple” person. In Hebrew, simple means *naive, gullible, thoughtless, fat head, empty head, or easily enticed*. Kelly's thoughtless actions perfectly describe such a person. In Proverbs 1, Solomon describes six types of people: the mockers, fools, simple, knowledgeable, wise, and discerning. Everyone falls into one of these categories. Although we all start off life being simple, we don't need to stay that way. This timely story of Kelly Nash will reveal what it takes for the simple to finally start thinking.

The remedy begins with listening. Kelly doesn't think because he doesn't listen. Even after repeated acts of foolishness, he seems unable to break free from his foolhardy ways. Consequences don't turn him around, neither does pleading or appealing. He must learn to turn, as Wisdom commands. The implication of turning is to turn oneself away from one thing and towards another. It is the act of humbling oneself, turning away from sin and towards God, asking, pleading, and often, begging for help and forgiveness.

If Kelly, or the simple-minded person, refuses to “turn,” the result is catastrophic. The Scriptures teach, “The simple are destroyed by their turning away” (Proverbs 1:32). The words “turning away” carry the idea of *backsliding* and *apostacy*. They are destroyed because they turn away from God and establish their own rules for life. Because of their thoughtless naivety, they are easily enticed by their peers and kept in the bondage of peer dependency as described in Proverbs chapter 1. Those who depend on the acceptance of peers exhibit the faulty idea that people are big and God is small. Again, the remedy is to turn to God and admit they desperately need His help and forgiveness.

Additional Resources: Kelly Nash Part 1

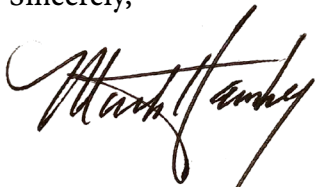
Fools who hate knowledge exist in an even greater bondage, though they are convinced that they are experiencing a greater freedom. This is a form of prideful stubbornness. They resist being told what to do or how to do it. Because fools hate knowledge, the Bible says they are destroyed by complacency (Proverbs 1:32). In Hebrew, *complacency* means *safety and prosperity*. Because the foolish are often successful in obtaining what they want, their success becomes a trap. Their false security is short lived, and when trials come into their lives, they surrender their will to whatever brings them instant relief, regardless of the cost. Their remedy is similar to that of the simple—acknowledgment of their foolish pride and a turn towards God. All remedies begin at the cross.

The mockers are the third and, sadly, the most unlikely group to turn. The Bible says they “delight in their mocking.” Why? Because it shields them from their own shame and insecurity. Those who make a habit of mocking find a sense of superiority in making others look weak. This is weakness in the guise of strength. The only remedy for mockers is to come face-to-face with their depravity and insecurity and turn to God in repentance.

Unless the simple, foolish, and mockers turn, the knowledge of God will remain inaccessible. It is through fearing the LORD that the knowledge of God becomes accessible. The fear of the LORD teaches children and adults to love what God loves and hate what God hates. When God is respected, revered, and feared, the knowledge of God becomes immeasurably precious (Proverbs 8:5-21). His rules are no longer seen as restrictions, but guardians to protect, prosper, and bring pleasure.

Join me next week when we look further into Proverbs and learn how seeking Wisdom more than silver and hidden treasure enables you to understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God so that knowledge becomes pleasant to your soul.

Sincerely,



Mark Hamby
M.S., M. Div., Th. M., D. Min.

Recommended Reading:

- [King Jack book/audio drama \(Ages 6+\)](#)
- [Palace of Deceit \(Ages 9+\)](#)
- [Come What May \(Ages 12+\)](#)

Knowledge, Wisdom, and Discernment *A Parent's Responsibility; A Child's Choice*

Reflective Reading: [Proverbs 2](#)

Welcome back for part two of [Kelly Nash: Out on a Limb](#)! Last week we talked about how everyone in life fits into one of six categories: the Simple, Fool, Mockers, Knowledgeable, Wise, or Discerning. Our young hero Kelly Nash starts off in life as a “Simple person,” but throughout the story he is challenged to set aside his foolish ways and actually start thinking! For some, like Kelly, it takes a calamitous experience to start thinking. Thankfully, a near-death experience is not always required to help children think before they act!

Thinking starts with a willingness to be corrected. Correction begins when dad and mom take on the responsibility of correcting and teaching their children. In Proverbs 1 we learn that dad is responsible as the primary corrector and mom as the primary teacher (Proverbs 1:8). This makes sense, considering that mom would be with the children more during the day as dad would be out working on the farm or busily engaged in his employment.

It has been said that if a child has not learned to obey and submit to the authority of mom and dad, neither will they obey God. I have found this to be true. It is during this time of training and correction at home that parents can train their children to practice turning their hearts toward God in genuine repentance and humility. This act of humble obedience is the catalyst for unlocking the heart and mind of a thoughtless child. For it is in this moment of humility and brokenness that grace and mercy break the chains that have bound a child's soul. Once their soul is unlocked by God's grace, thinking begins and knowledge becomes pleasant to the soul (Proverbs 2:10).

When knowledge becomes pleasant to the soul, children move from being simple to knowledgeable, then from knowledgeable to wise, and from wise to discerning. Discernment is the highest level of thinking and unlocks the greatest of all freedoms. Helping our children reach this level of intellectual excellence is one of the most essential gifts we can give. It equips them to discern between good and evil. Discernment guards children from peer pressure and ungodly activities and enables them to choose their friends wisely.

The act of “turning” redeems the mind, heart, and soul. New desires are birthed, one of which is a love for the Word of God. Once these desires start to grow, parents need to fan those flames by providing new opportunities, the most inspiring books and audio dramas, and creative new avenues to cultivate their skills. One helpful piece of advice is to pray and ask God to help you find godly and highly skilled individuals who can inspire your children to new heights.

Once these doors of desire open, however, it is essential to move forward quickly! Those who take this pursuit of knowledge lightly and neglect it will remain simple and be susceptible to foolish choices. This is why we read a father's plea in Proverbs 2:1-22:

Additional Resources: Kelly Nash Part 2

“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keeps the paths of judgment and preserves the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yes, every good path. When wisdom enters into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall guard thee.”

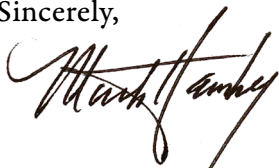
Notice Solomon’s challenge to seek Wisdom more than silver and hidden treasure. We need to show our children what is possible if we take the time, effort, and sacrifice to grow in knowledge so that we can live a life of wisdom that is attractive, beautiful, and compelling. Note also that Wisdom will enter one’s heart if we learn to fear the LORD. And if we learn to fear the LORD, then we will find the knowledge of God!!! Can you understand the immenseness of this promise? The knowledge of God... the knowledge of God....the **knowledge of God!!** Those who possess this can create, invent, discover, and discern. Children will go beyond the great artists of the Renaissance period, go beyond the discoverers and the so-called sciences of our day, and find real cures for debilitating diseases.

Where do you start? *Kelly Nash: Out on a Limb* is the perfect story to compel children to turn from their simple ways and discover what Solomon describes as a treasure that cannot be compared to anything one could desire. The goal for our children is to move from simple to knowledgeable to wise, and ultimately, to becoming a person who can discern between good and evil. Knowledge, Wisdom, and Discernment—a parent’s responsibility; a child’s choice.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and correction” (Proverbs 1:7).

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of Wisdom and **knowledge of the Holy One is discernment**” (Proverbs 9:10).

Sincerely,



Mark Hamby
M.S., M. Div., Th. M., D. Min.

Recommended Reading:

- [Jack the Conqueror \(Ages 6+\)](#)
- [Rising to the Top book/audio book \(Ages 9+\)](#)
- [Standing Strong in the Face of Opposition \(Ages 9+\)](#)
- [Ishmael and Self-Raised \(Ages 12+\)](#)

Becoming Great

Chrysostom once wrote,

“If you want to make your child rich, teach him this: He is truly rich who does not desire great possessions . . . and thinks lightly of this life’s passing glories.”

This truth was once highlighted for me in a way I will never forget. I often give our Guild students the opportunity to join a conference call with master teachers and artists. In one of these phone conferences, I interviewed European actor Peter Morton. When I asked how a young person can become a great actor like himself, his reply took my breath away. So imagine his voice sounding like an aged king from long ago...

He said:

“First, you need to give up all desires of becoming a great actor. You need to devote yourself to your craft, not to desires to become great. Then, when opportunities present themselves, your primary goal is to lift up the actors around you. Your job as an actor is to accentuate the character of others. They are to increase while you decrease. If I play a servant, for example, and I’m in the presence of a king, my role is to communicate to the audience the character of the king by my humble attitudes and actions. The king will be known through me.”

When I heard these words, I thought of Philippians 2:

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him.”

If we are going to prepare our children for the future, they need to practice this new roll; one that will make them eternally rich and presently rewarded—the art of serving those around them. And, as it is in all good stories, they may be surprised when God unexpectedly changes their role from humble servant to royal knight of the King!

See more recommended resources on the next page.

Additional Resources: Becoming Great

If you would like to see these truths lived out in dramatic and inspiring ways, you won't want to miss these three life-changing audio dramas:

[*Sir Malcolm and the Missing Prince*](#) is the captivating story of how one boy learns that the greatest of kings is the humblest of servants.

[*Charlie's Choice*](#) tells of a boy who dreams of luxury and ease - and is determined to find it. He will not be doomed to a life of toil and poverty. But will his quest for a better life doom him to far greater evils?

[*The Captive*](#) is the powerful tale of one young man kidnapped by Algerian pirates. Anselmo finds himself on the auction block in a foreign country. When offered an easy escape from life's tough circumstances, some would eagerly jump at the opportunity and flee the trials that God has laid in their path—but Anselmo is made of sterner stuff.

Additional Resources: Reading List

[Basil: Honesty and Industry](#)
[Basket of Flowers, The - book and audio drama](#)
[Boys of Grit Who Became Men of Honor](#)
[Boys of Grit Who Changed the World](#)
[Boys of Grit Who Never Gave Up](#)
[Charlies Choice](#)
[Clean Your Boots, Sir?](#)
[Come What May](#)
[Crew of the Dolphin, The](#)
[Crown of Success - book and audio drama](#)
[Fishmonger: A Story for the Young Entrepreneur, The](#)
[Giant Killer, The - book and audio drama](#)
[Grinder's Apprentice](#)
[Hand on the Bridle](#)
[Hidden Years of Nazareth](#)
[Hungering and Thirsting - book and audio drama](#)
[Inheritance, The](#)
[Ishmael and Self Raised](#)
[Jill's Red Bag](#)
[John Ploughman's Talk - Charles Spurgeon](#)
[Little Preacher](#)
[Locked Cupboard, The](#)
[Lost Clue, The](#)
[Lost Ruby, The](#)
[Mary Jones and Her Bible](#)
[Message to Garcia](#)
[Money in the Chimney](#)
[My Golden Ship - book and audio drama](#)
[Palace of Deceit](#)
[Phil Tyler's Stand](#)
[Probable Sons](#)
[Rising to the Top](#)
[Shipwrecked: But Not Lost - book and audio drama](#)
[Sir Knight of the Splendid Way](#)
[Sir Malcolm and the Missing Prince - book and audio drama](#)
[Story of Charles Oglivie, The](#)
[Struck by Lightening](#)
[That Printer of Udell's](#)
[Throw Me Overboard](#)
[Tip Lewis and His Lamp](#)
[Tomorrow](#)
[Tom Watkins Mistake](#)
[Treasure of the Secret Cove, The](#)
[Wanderer, The](#)
[White Knights, The](#)
[Wonderful Door, The](#)

Illustrated:

[Tales of the Kingdom - The Baker Who Loved Bread](#)
[Tales of the Resistance - Thespia the Most Beautiful Player of All](#)
[Three Weavers](#)
[Trusty series](#)