

### God Owns Everything

The Bible is replete with confirmation of God's ownership of everything: starting in **Genesis 1:1** through the Old Testament, **Psalms 24:1-2**, and in the New Testament, **Colossians 1:16**.

God's ownership of everything means we manage for His purposes, everything we use. In the prayer He taught His disciples in **Matthew 6:9-13**, we see clearly a key part of the follower of Christ's stewardship role: Seeking God's will. That's why seeking Jesus' will must be the primary purpose of the believer's prayers:

- But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
- "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.... (**Matthew 6:6-11**)

### Jesus Tells Us He Will Supply Our Needs

The essence of Jesus' message to us is this:

- "Come" in a personal relationship with Me (**John 3:1-21**)
- "Come", be My disciple and be prepared to give up all for Me: surrender parents, children, money, everything (**Luke 14:25-35**)
- "Come" to Me with all your burdens (**Matthew 11:28**)
- "Go" make disciples **teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded** (**Matthew 28:18-20**)

As we "go," let's remember He will be with us always (**Matthew 28:18-20**), and He has assured us not to worry because He will supply our needs (**Matthew 6:24-33**). As well, Jesus wants us to "ask" for His best for us. And He has promised He will give us (**John 16:24**).

### We Don't Believe Jesus Will Supply Our Needs And DO The Best For Us

But do we believe Jesus will give us what we need when we need it? Does our behaviour show we believe He owns everything and we are His stewards?

God's ownership of everything means He NEVER needs to borrow. He has no debt! His word tells us to owe no one anything except love for our brothers and sisters:

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. (**Romans 13:8**)

The Bible does not forbid borrowing. It states clearly, we must repay when we borrow (**Psalms 37:21**). Today, it is difficult to own a home without borrowing. Before borrowing we must "count

the cost" and ask Jesus to show us His will and timing! This will result in buying a home with a down payment that gives an affordable mortgage, which will not cause us to neglect support for our families and giving to God's work.

Faced with a need we must take it to Jesus. But first we must define it properly: it's not a car, but transport, which might be public; it's not student loans, but education funding, which might be a grant. Second, we must be ready to accept Jesus' results, which might be different from outcomes we expect. As well, His timing might be different from ours.

So, how do we stay focused on seeking His will when bad things are happening to us and we want a solution **now**: an illness, loss of job, broken car? First, we need to understand God does not contradict His Word. Second, He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow (**Hebrews 13:8**). Third, His sheep listens to His voice (**John 10:27**). Fourth, He knows our needs before we tell Him (**Matthew 6:8**). Fifth, He will provide for our needs. (**Matthew 6:25-34**). Sixth, He loves us so much He died for us (**John 3:16-17**).

So when we pray we need to believe God has heard and will answer our prayer according to what He knows is best for us. It is like us answering our three year old child's request based on what we know is best for her. We would not give her a sharp knife she thinks she needs to cut stuff because we know it is harmful. In the same way, God who knows the future, will give us what's best for us, and what glorifies Him. In the process, He will teach us to depend on Him and draw close to Him.

Bad stuff such as illnesses, loss of job, do not surprise Jesus. We ought to leave these circumstances with Jesus and seek His peace to go through them (**Philippians 4:6-7**). We shouldn't conclude from our circumstances that God isn't at work. He never stops working for us. We need to accept our circumstances and ask Jesus to show us lessons to take from them. Difficulties we face are learning stations we can benefit from and draw closer to Christ. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us be patient and humble, as we keep our eyes riveted on Jesus. Ask, how can I glorify Christ through my difficulty?

God does not allow challenges in our life beyond what we can bear. As well, He doesn't use borrowed funds to supply our needs. If we chose to borrow without His clear confirmation, we preempt His solution. We must bear the effects of the financial debt, but He will guide us through.

### Jesus Will Remove "Burdens" From Financial Debt Today

Still, Jesus will take the "debt burden" (stress from the financial debt) today. Just ask Him. We must accept where we are, seek His forgiveness for running ahead and ask Him to show us the way out. He has promised to lead us through our challenges. Trust Him! He will!

God, the Owner of everything never needs to borrow; He owes no debts. He paid for ours in full. Let's strive to be debt free. But understand, we must bear effects of our financial debts, though Jesus will be with us on the journey to repay them!