



Week of May 31, 2010

A Tool to Invest Your Money



I have some good news and bad news. The bad news is that a distant relative died whom you had not seen in many years. In fact, you didn't even know that the person was ill. However, the good news is that you were this relation's favorite family member. Your relative left you \$1 million dollars!

Okay. You can wake up now! It was only a dream!! That sort of scenario only happens in the movies. But let's suppose that you suddenly came into a large, unexpected sum of money. In the spaces below write down specifically how you would spend this windfall:

It may be that you had no trouble jotting down your financial plan for your unanticipated good fortune. Or you may have thought for a long time before you were able to put something down on paper. Perhaps your plan involved some combination of paying off debts, saving for your children's education, investing money for a rainy day, or buying something outrageously extravagant. My guess is that you decided to contribute at least some of the money to your church or a charitable cause.

The reality is that a distant relative didn't leave you a fortune and it isn't likely to happen in this lifetime. However, no matter how much money you have saved or invested you are a very wealthy by global standards.

Most of the world's wealth is concentrated in the small percentage of the world's population that lives in the industrialized nations. Most of us don't feel especially wealthy as we tend to live from paycheck to paycheck. But God has been very good to even the poorest of us.

Rather than focusing on money that you don't have, or aren't likely to receive out of the blue, focus on the discretionary money that you do have available. In the box below please write down how much money per paycheck that you think you would be able to allocate to something that will bring maximum eternal return on investment.

\$ _____

Now consider your “mission” in life. What is it that God has called you to do with your one and only life? God reveals your mission over time as you build a close, intimate relationship with Him. There is no formula that can substitute for God’s revelation of your mission. But to get you started in a positive direction, consider the following:

What you do	Who benefits	What the outcome is
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is your spiritual gift? ▪ What is an ability that you excel at? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Which group of people do you identify with and care about? ▪ What social issue / problem would you like to resolve? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What need would you like to meet in their life? ▪ What change would be made in the world?

Here is an example of a mission statement

<i>My mission is to ...</i>					
teach	+	Christians	+	to live out their unique calling	= Mission
What you do		Who benefits		What the outcome is	

Now write down your mission statement in the box below:

<i>My mission is to ...</i>			
+	+		= Mission
What you do		Who benefits	What the outcome is

How will you invest your discretionary income from the first box to bring about a maximum impact toward fulfilling your mission? Write down your plan on the lines below:
