

To Whom Much is Given Introduction

What do you do when you have more than enough?

Most people only recognize the benefits of having wealth—they focus on the ability to buy new cars and nice clothes, own multiple homes, have bigger and better “toys,” experience freedom from worrying about paying bills, saving for retirement, or sending their kids to college. They equate wealth with being able to do whatever they want, whenever they want, and wherever they want.

However, those who have spent their lives amassing assets faster than they thought was possible realize that there is another side to being wealthy. With riches comes responsibility. They are usually the only ones to realize that wealth also brings a host of very serious challenges, difficulties, and dangers. How you use your fortune can build or destroy; it can teach or it can corrupt; it can provide a sense of security or a sense of entitlement. As a wealthy Christian, there comes the realization that what you do with your money has eternal consequences.

I have never met a Christian who did not intellectually accept that all he/she has on this earth belongs to God, and that it has been given out of God’s goodness. So, with wealth also comes the increased responsibility of being a good steward (or manager) of both property and finances. We all want to someday hear, “Well done, my good and faithful servant,” when we meet Jesus because we had effectively managed the time, talents, and treasures He entrusted to us.

Having spent thousands of hours with Christian families over the past three decades, it has become obvious that they all face the same dilemmas in how to properly steward their possessions—challenges that most people will never confront. I call them “life dilemmas” because they go beyond the basic financial management issues of paying bills, staying out of debt, sticking to a budget, and giving. These dilemmas manifest themselves because of the incredible overflow that God has poured out on some people financially. They are about living with a surplus and leaving a legacy of blessing. They are about managing what God has entrusted to them to use for His purposes and for His Kingdom on the earth—both in and outside of their family.

These ten dilemmas fall into three categories: *Lifestyle Dilemmas*, *Wealth Transfer Dilemmas*, and *Giving Dilemmas*. In this book, I will describe each of these ten unique life dilemmas and offer what I hope to be wise and godly counsel to help you successfully navigate these dilemmas in your situation. I hope you find these discussions enlightening and thought-provoking. It is my sincere desire that they will bless you and your family and successfully guide you on your stewardship journey in the years to come.