

# PLANNING AND TRUST



Our 2008 theme for these stewardship columns will be “Planning.” We’re often asked, “Doesn’t it show a lack of trust for me to plan? Shouldn’t I trust God to provide everything I need and not worry?” The answer is an emphatic “No... and Yes.”

Trusting God to provide doesn’t mean we don’t have to do our part! Scripture guides us to participate with God in caring for the abundant gifts provided for us. We’re taught to be responsible stewards by spending and investing wisely, saving faithfully and giving generously. So planning ahead doesn’t mean we don’t trust God.

However, it’s important that we remain flexible so God can work on our behalf. Rigid and structured plans don’t allow room for God to work, and block the power of God’s love for us. Whether our plans are personal, for business or the Church, we must stand ready to surrender to God. Allow God’s will to be accomplished through you regardless of whether it fits into the plans you have made.

We must also learn to trust God to provide everything we need without worry. Scripture clearly demonstrates the vast wonder and provision of God’s love for us. God will never leave or forsake you and you can count on God’s promises. So trust God to provide everything you need and don’t worry.

Sometimes, because of our planning, financial stewardship looks like we’re striving for wealth. But Jesus never helped anyone get rich. In fact, He was frequently helping rich people become poor. A good steward should live with a balanced budget, financial goals, and wise money decisions – always and only to glorify God, not just to accumulate.

So go ahead and make your plans - your New Year’s Resolutions. Open your new Christmas Club and make room in your budget for that big-screen TV this year. Just remember to stand ready to bend *your* plans so *God’s* plans may be accomplished.

***Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings, like an eagle that flies toward the heavens. (Proverbs 23:4-5)***

