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GOD IS AN INVESTOR



To capitalize on our ability to produce, God continually invests in us. According to 2 Peter 1:3, He has given us “*all things that pertain to life and godliness.*” God has invested His attributes in us so that we may have the ability to prosper. When He deposits His nature, character, and ability into us, He expects the return to be people who have been transformed into His image and likeness.

Investing is the action of redirecting resources from being consumed in order to create benefits in the future. The word *create* means to generate, produce, fashion, or construct. Each of these references suggests that if anyone takes the time to create something, he seeks to benefit from its existence, and the best way to maximize the existence of a creation is to invest in and protect it.

As our lives bear fruit, God creates more and more opportunities for us to increase, resulting in the growth of His investment. His plan for us is that we continually produce abundant fruit in our lives. He gives us gifts and talents in order to enhance His ability to gain a greater return, and His ultimate desire is for you to increase in such a way that the fruit of your life draws others to Himself.

In Matthew 25:14–29, Jesus told a wonderful story about a farmer who was a respectable businessman. He said, “*For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them*” (verse 14). Before the businessman left the country, he gathered his chief financial officers and instructed them to invest his money. To one, he gave five talents; to another, he gave two talents; and to a third man,

he gave one talent. Each man received no more than what corresponded to his ability or potential to produce. The man who received the five talents invested them and doubled his assets. Likewise, the man who received two talents invested them, yielding a return of two additional talents. But the man who received one talent hid it.

After a long time, the businessman returned and reconciled the increase with each servant. The first man joyfully reported to his master that the five talents had doubled to ten. His master applauded his employee's faithfulness and gave him a promotion.

The second man told his master that he, too, had received a double return on his investment, and he received a promotion, as well. The businessman said to his employees, "Great job! I appreciate your diligence in getting the job done. Because you have been faithful over these few things, I will make you rulers over many things. Let's celebrate!" (See verses 21, 23.)

Then, the man who had received one talent said, "Sir, I knew you were a harsh man; your investment was yielding a return where you hadn't put it and gaining interest where you hadn't cultivated. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it. But I have it. It's all here. Here's your money back." (See verses 24–25.)

The businessman replied, "That doesn't make sense. If you knew I received a return where I didn't invest it, and that I gained interest where I didn't cultivate, and you thought you would lose the talent, why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? I could have gotten at least some interest on it." He then took the talent from the lazy man and gave it to the first man to add to his ten talents. (See verses 26–28.)


This principle does not apply to money alone. Rather, it touches every area of our lives: our gifts, talents, abilities, resources, spirits, souls, and bodies.

God, our Divine Investor, is a lot like the businessman in this story. He has delegated many gifts, talents, and abilities to us, and He expects that we will remain diligent to increase what He has entrusted to us.


A Faithful Investor

“To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.” (Matthew 25:29 NLT)

In the investment world, if an investment fails to produce, a smart investor pulls out when she sees that the price of her shares is falling. God, on the other hand, is committed to His investment. He will never pull out of your life, but He will prune, or cut back, any unproductive areas to ensure that His “stock” does not crash. Jesus said, *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit”* (John 15:1–3). He protects His investments because He is a wise and caring Investor.



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In all His glory, ability, and power, God opened Himself to man. He made us with free will, giving us the privilege to choose and refuse, and this choice includes Him. In His foreknowledge, He knew that we might potentially forsake Him, yet He still chose to make an investment in us, and that investment was the sacrifice of His own Son. Every investment comes at a price, and this one was no different, except in that it was the highest price ever paid. We were bought with the price of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (See 1 Corinthians 6:20.)

God sent His only Son in exchange for our redemption. As an Investor, God chose to “lend” Jesus (the original good) in exchange for you and me (the yields on His investment). He made an investment of one Son, and that investment split many times over, bringing Him many sons. Hebrews 2:10 says, *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”* And among these “sons”—God’s children—we women are extremely valuable.


The Value of a Woman

The value of an object is usually determined by what it's made of. For example, I have various jewelry pieces composed of cubic zirconia (CZ) and others of diamond. I treat my diamonds much differently than I do my CZ. My diamonds are kept in a special place, but I may put my CZ on the bathroom counter, in my coat pocket, or at the bottom of my purse. If I lose my CZ, I won't shed a tear; if I lose my diamonds, however, my response will be different. To God, we are more valuable than many diamonds. If we fail to recognize the value God places on us, we will never appreciate our worth as women.

My husband and I built our home, and I was privileged to have the opportunity to customize many of the features. When it came to fabrics, I fell in love with certain textures, colors, and patterns from some of the most exclusive designers in the business. Most of my favorite fabrics were



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natural, many of them mentioned in the Bible, and I discovered that the finer fabrics were those spun by the designer himself. They had been handcrafted to the designer's specifications. In the same way, God has handcrafted each of us into a unique, vibrant fabric. We were fearfully and wonderfully made, and we bear His image, for He was not ashamed to call us His own. "I will be their God, and they shall be My people... I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters" (2 Corinthians 6:16, 18).

Created a Woman

God made us into women. He never makes mistakes; He had no doubts or regrets when He made you and me in His image and likeness. Let's return to the Genesis account for a few highlights. In the first chapter of Genesis, we read that both male and female were created: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27). In the second chapter, we learn the details of how God made both genders. The male was made, or formed,

from the dust of the ground (see Genesis 2:7), and the female was made from a rib that was taken from man.

The LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Genesis 2:21–23)

A creation is something unique that would not naturally occur on its own; rather, it depends on the initiative and action of a creator.

It was the breath of God that created man and woman in the beginning. But their bodies were made from what already existed in the earth. God's purpose for creating Eve is found in Genesis 2:18: "And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'"



Until God formed Eve's body and brought her to life, there was no suitable companion for Adam in the earth. Every animal of the field, fish in the sea, and bird in the air had a companion, but there was none for man. God, the Great Physician, is naturally an unparalleled anesthesiologist. He caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam, and then, as Adam slept, He accurately and precisely removed one of his ribs, using it to form woman.

Created for a Unique Purpose

While man was formed from the dust of the ground, woman was made from the rib of the man. We women are strong because we're made from strong stuff. The ribs serve several important purposes in the body: they protect vital organs, such as the heart and lungs, and they aid in breathing—when you inhale, they move up to enable your lungs to expand, and when you exhale, they move down to push the air from your lungs.

Likewise, woman serves an important purpose on the earth. She was ordained by God to be a helper, a nurturer, and an influencer. Her role on the earth is distinctly different from the role of man. As women, we possess great power and ability. Satan understood the unique power and influence

of women. For this reason, he chose to speak with Eve in the form of a serpent in the garden of Eden. (See Genesis 3:1–6.) He knew that, once tempted, she would carry her influence to tempt Adam, as well. Through the woman, Satan succeeded in getting Adam to defy God’s orders.


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God wants us to use our influence as women to further His purposes on the earth. We must not heed the voice of the enemy, who still tries to manipulate the influence of women, for to do so would contradict the plan of God and consequently disqualify us from living in God’s blessing. Women who choose to obey the voice of God will always have God’s best operating in their lives. Use your influence as a woman to bring forth life—not just in a literal sense, but in every arena in which you find yourself, because that’s what you were made to do.