

# OUTCOMES OF DISCIPLESHIP

An essential part of our mission at Missio Church is to equip people to live faithful lives of worship. What does this mean? What does it look like to live a faithful life? It is very helpful for us to work from a common answer to these questions. This is why we often refer to our “Five Outcomes of Discipleship” as a description of what it means to follow Jesus.

Below you will find a simple definition for each outcome, followed by a section titled “In Focus,” where we expand upon one of the outcomes, offering some questions to consider and a resource to check out. Our hope is that this brief reminder continues to instruct and unify us around who God has made us to be and what He has called us to do.

## GOD   TRUTH   LOVE   MISSION

### PURSUIT OF GOD

In light of God reconciling us to Himself, there is a detailed knowledge and understanding of God that comes from pursuing Him as our greatest treasure.

### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The acting presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church that demonstrates the character of God and distinguishes His people from an unbelieving world.

### GRACE STORY

Embracing the fullness of the Gospel and being transformed by it in such a way that we desire to live it out and share it with others.

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Discovering who God has uniquely made us to be and surrendering ourselves to His purposes, serving both the Church and the world with the gifts He has given us.

### STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

Faithfully using everything that God has entrusted us with to reflect His glory.



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## IN FOCUS: STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

Jesus says in Matthew 6:24, “You cannot serve God and money.” While Jesus is referring to money, the principle He expresses applies to all of life: once we have moved from death to life through death and resurrection with Jesus, the new heart God implants in us is designed to put God at the center. From this posture we can begin to understand the stewardship of our lives here on Earth.

We know Jesus is right, but we have been greatly influenced and at times seduced by the culture around us to value things that will not survive eternity. Many things in and of themselves are not bad, but the impact they can have on our hearts and actions is serious. In His teaching that we are not to be anxious about material things, Jesus gives us the cure: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:33) Yes, while we live in this world, we need money and other physical things, but we can steward our finances and possessions successfully if we seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness. - from ‘Renovation’ by Dwight Smith

### REFLECTION QUESTION

*What has God entrusted to you that you will give away or share with others?*

To Give Away:

To Share:

### FEATURED RESOURCE: ‘MANAGING GOD’S MONEY’ BY RANDY ALCORN

**BOOK REVIEW BY SCOTT REZSNYAK**

Randy Alcorn's *Managing God's Money* is a no-holds-barred take on what true Biblical stewardship should look like in the lives of those who claim to believe in God and call Christ Lord. Alcorn lays out a firm foundation of what Scripture has to say about money and possessions arguing that if everything in the Universe belongs to God this includes the money we make and all of our material possessions. We are simply stewards into whose care they are given. Dispelling many commonly held money-myths ranging from “all money is evil” to the prosperity gospel he shows us that money is a tool through which God often tests our faithfulness to Him not to make us rich now, but to bless us with truer reward in Eternity. Directly challenging the “American Dream” he makes a clear claim that we should care much less about retirement plans and rainy-day funds and much more about giving to provide for the needy to honor our Heavenly Father now.

The book almost immediately challenges us to think more intentionally about money and possessions. Even the table of contents is organized in such a way, broken into different sections and clearly laying out the topics in each chapter, which makes referencing easy when coming back to the book later for further encouragement. It is clear that Randy Alcorn has thought a lot about money and its effects, and that he intends to be a helpful guide. He succeeds. Do not expect detailed explanations for getting out of debt faster, the best types of life insurance, or advice on which mutual funds to invest in. Although these are not bad in and of themselves, here there is one basic message: that by cheerfully and graciously giving away your wealth to those in need you are fulfilling God's command and storing up for yourself treasure in Heaven.

After reading *Managing God's Money*, and really even before I was through the first chapter, I was confronted with a money-worldview that I “knew” in theory, but never put into my heart and certainly not into practice. My thoughts about money immediately started to change. God owns everything. All that I have and earn are His and I have the responsibility to steward wisely what He has given to my care. I could no longer ignore the pages of teaching in the Scriptures on money and wealth, especially after realizing how much Jesus specifically taught on it. Who am I to spend or save even one cent without considering what God would have me do with it? Am I really willing to forgo storing up treasures in Heaven that will last for an eternity just so I can live a comfortable, albeit short, life on Earth now?