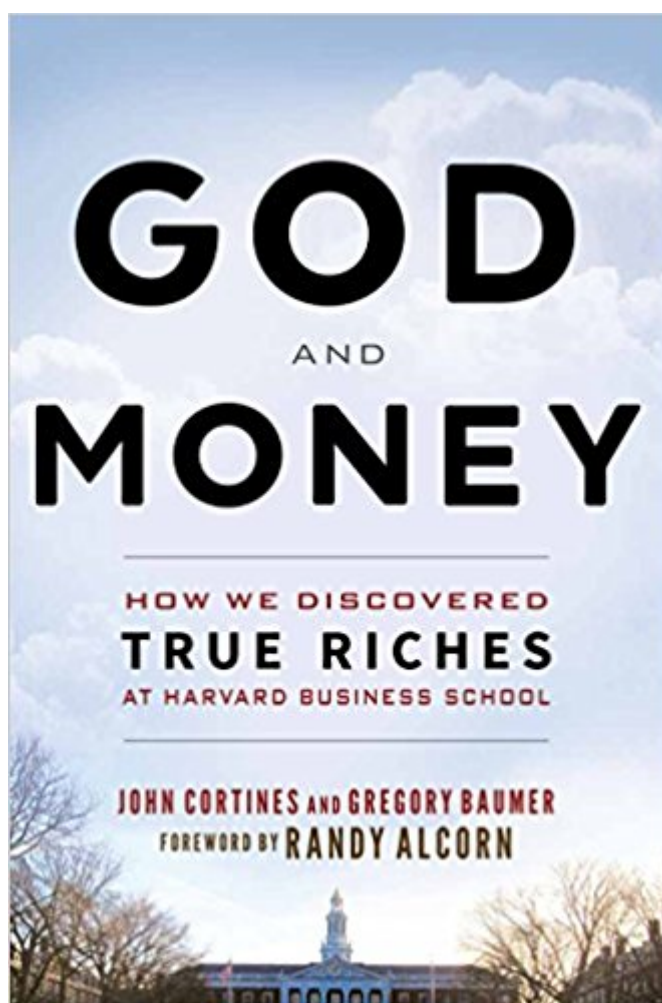


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God And Money: How We Discovered True Riches At Harvard Business School By Gregory Baumer And John Cortines - Paperback



Synopsis

Two young Harvard MBAs on the fast track to wealth and success tell their story of God's transforming power and how Scripture brought them to the startling conclusion that they should give the majority of their money away to those in need. Packed with compelling case studies, research, and practical strategies, *God and Money* offers an honest look at what the Bible says about generous giving. No matter what your salary may be, *God and Money* shows you how you can reap the rewards of radical generosity in your own life. Paperback, 224 pages. *100% of the author royalties goes toward Christian ministries focused on spreading the Gospel and providing for those in need*

"John and Greg realize what everyone should know that middle-class Americans are among the richest people in world history. It's time for Christ-followers to understand that God has bigger purposes than increasing our standard of living. He wants us to increase our standard of giving." Randy Alcorn, from the Foreword of *God and Money*

John Cortines and Gregory Baumer met as Harvard MBA candidates in a men's Bible study and stopped asking "How much should I give?" and started asking "How much do I need to keep?" With their top-notch education and rising careers, Cortines and Baumer were guaranteed comfort and security for the rest of their lives. However, when their plans for saving and spending collided with God's purposes for extravagant generosity, they were each compelled to make a life-changing decision that challenges the values held by mainstream America and many Christian commentators. Cortines and Baumer show not only how to radically give, but explain how to do so responsibly. Dive into the story and get equipped with the practical tools to:

- Easily set budgets for spending
- Wisely steward your money
- Prepare and save for your future home ownership, retirement, higher education, etc.
- Know what the Bible says about money, tithing, and faith
- Discern when to give and when not to give

Featuring lessons from the Bible, modern day case studies, and practical ways to apply biblical principles no matter what situation you're in, *God and Money* provides an incredible look into what the Bible says about:

- Tithing and Christian giving
- Wealth and stewardship
- Faith and generosity
- Love of money
- And so much more!

From the parables of the Rich Young Ruler to the Widow's Mite, the Bible shows us that how we manage our money is critical to our relationship with God. *God and Money* uses these parables and more to teach you to save, spend, and steward your money in a biblical way by planting God's purposes at the heart of your practices. Discover the 7 Core Principles of Wealth and Giving

Authors Cortines and Baumer pack 2,350 verses on money into 7 practical principles that can be applied to your life and finances on a daily basis. From shopping for groceries to your first down payment on a home, apply these reliable guidelines with ease and clarity.

Everything we "own" actually belongs to God. Giving should be voluntary, generous, cheerful, and

needs-based Giving generously breaks down the power of money over us And more!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the most thoughtful and well researched books on giving that I have had the pleasure of reading. The frameworks presented in the book can be used by people at all stages of experiencing the joy of generosity. --David Wills, President of National Christian Foundation
Baumer and Cortines challenge Christians readers to consider afresh what generosity looks like in light of the Scripture's radical teaching and the day of affluence in which we live -- "you will be challenged and inspired. --Robert L. Plummer, Ph.D., Professor of New Testament Interpretation, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
With uncommon transparency, John and Greg provide a Gospel-centered and practical perspective on wealth -- "they challenge us to wholeheartedly pursue the joy of generosity. Read this book and you will be inspired, convicted and thinking differently about using what God has given you for Kingdom impact. --Peter Greer, President & CEO of HOPE International and coauthor of Mission Drift

"Fresh, entertaining, and practical. I read it twice!" -- DAVID WILLIS President of National Christian Foundation
"Give your tithe to God. The rest is yours to save and spend." Sounds reasonable--right? Except that's not what the Bible teaches at all. Two young Harvard MBAs on the fast track to wealth and success tell their story of God's transforming power and how it changed their lives and their relationship to money. They offer an honest look at what the Bible says about radical generosity. John Cortines and Gregory Baumer, both MBA graduates from Harvard Business

School, met in a men's Bible study group where they were confronted with a topic that would change the rest of their lives. As young Christians with sky-high earnings potential, what should they plan to do with their money? This question launched a fascinating investigative journey through the worlds of faith and finance that ultimately led to a startling conclusion that challenges the values of mainstream America and even of many Christian commentators. SEVEN KEY PRINCIPLES OF RADICAL GENEROSITY--Packed with compelling case studies, research, and practical applications, *God and Money* outlines a simple framework and seven key principles for implementing radical generosity. No matter what your salary may be, Cortines and Baumer show how you can reap the rewards of radical generosity in your own life.

Although most of my 35+ years of professional experience have been in the business sector, I did spend four years as a National Director of Development for one of the country's largest faith based not-for-profits and have spent my entire life as a part of the Christian community. Thus, I went into this book with curiosity, but without significant intent that two young and rather inexperienced scholars could teach this old dog any new tricks. My how God humbles the proud! I was dead wrong! John and Greg use multiple origins of information as they share Biblical text, information from interviews, survey data, personal experience and new lessons learned to help the reader not only understand a historical context of giving, but also so that the reader can gain applicable lessons for consideration with their own life. From the earliest part of their writings in which they state, "It's not how much should we give, it's how much do we need to keep", they had my full intention and repeatedly challenged my earning, saving and philanthropic habits. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has interest in understanding God's advice for a peace filled financial life. Additionally, for those who believe that mankind is responsible and has the means to help those wanting for food, clothing, shelter, education, medical attention and other basic needs. The principles of this book might just help you recognize the powerful impact that can be made by benevolent individuals motivated by faith and/or a common goodness or responsibility to help their fellow man. If the best practices of John and Greg's writings are put into action all of us would be in a better position to help others as well as find financial peace and freedom from the potential imprisonment of the never ending quest for more.

John and Greg are humble, sharp, and thorough. They tell their story about going to a class called "God and Money" while in the MBA program at Harvard business school. The class starting them on a journey through the Bible to discover what God has to say about money. Their journey brought

them to interview some really great people whose stories pepper the book. In the Harvard style they use case studies very well. The book is very well written, comprehensive and gives some of the best practical advice about the biblical understanding of money available today.

What a refreshing read! Of all the books I have read on stewardship, this one stood out from the rest. *God and Money* offers fresh, inspiring, scripture-based ideas that will challenge even the most generous reader. Rather than asking, "How much should I give?" this book suggests asking, "How much do I need to keep?" Another unique idea that resonated with me was their suggestion to become financially transparent (the "money taboo" is so real!) and to combine efforts with others in group-giving initiatives. I love how Greg and John took these "radical" ideas and made them extremely practical by humbly sharing their own personal finances and experiences. I also truly enjoyed reading the stories of real, radically generous people; they made these lofty goals actually seem attainable. This book digs much deeper and goes beyond what the typical stewardship book teaches, not only giving real-life examples of this counter-culture generosity but also providing practical frameworks to make this type of living a reality in my life. Thanks and kudos to these two young men for being bold and thinking outside the box, all the while maintaining Biblical truth and giving all the glory to God!

A terrific contribution to the discussion of wealth and what we do with it. Cortines and Baumer were on their way to being Rich Young Rulers when they discovered a road less traveled but far more profound. The book has some uneven spots, and while I definitely appreciated their brief survey and affirmations of non-Christian movements toward generosity, they also seemed to struggle with an urge to 'compete' against those, rather than simply find common cause. The gem in the book were the real-life case studies, and their bald transparency of their own financial situations. I also appreciated their Harvard-inspired "case study method," which was a breath of fresh air. A reader could get bogged down in the first chapter, or in the underwhelming formatting of the text, but don't succumb... there's treasure to be found here--and shared!

The next generation of Stewardship voices is here, and this is a gem of a starting point. Building on biblical principles laid out by Randy Alcorn, Ron Blue, Larry Burkett and others, John Cortines and Greg Baumer lay out probably the most practical, transparent, and biblically-based book on money management from a Christian standpoint I've come across in a long time. There's a ton of books on

Christian stewardship out there, and while I'm not going to say this is the single best one I've ever read, it is easily the most practical. John and Greg are transparent, authentic, and thorough in their discussion of earning, spending, giving, and saving and do a really nice job of helping a believer craft a plan of what generosity looks like in an affluent society like we live in. This is a book I'll be handing out to clients and friends for years to come.

This book provided a great overview of Biblical models of spending, saving, and giving, as well as practical suggestions for doing so, and real life examples of people already applying those principles. A far cry from "health and wealth" gospel or rigid rules for budgeting, it has definitely inspired me to be more organized in my finances to be able to maximize my financial stewardship.

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