

Spiritual Investment

- Opening Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21
 - let's compare a natural and a spiritual investment (savings)
- Point 1
 - typically, only those who have excess money save
 - they set aside the extra that they have
 - people don't usually save if they are struggling financially
 - spiritually, we should avoid struggling just to maintain our experience
 - then, we will be able to invest and lay aside spiritual treasures
- Point 2
 - an investment is built up over time
 - if you consistently invest into your spiritual man, you will notice growth
 - you may not know or understand everything about God at the outset
 - some spiritual things take time to learn
- Point 3
 - a savings account is supposed to be untouched
 - you should only add into your account
 - there is usually a penalty for subtracting
 - spiritually, only forward spiritual progress should be made
 - don't tolerate any backward steps in your experience
- Point 4
 - sometimes people work harder to put some extra money into their savings (particularly if they are working toward a specific goal)
 - now and then, it is good to do something extra to build up your spiritual man
 - this may be extra fasting or prayer time
- Point 5
 - I expect an increase on my money if I invest at a certain rate
 - as a result of my spiritual inputs, I can expect God to give me an increase
 - God has promised to bless me if I meet the conditions and put in the proper effort
- Point 6
 - some investments have a maturity date
 - for example, with bonds, once you reach a predetermined date, you can collect the results of your investment
 - similarly, at death, we will receive the final rewards of our spiritual investment
- Common Uses for a Savings/Investment Account

- emergencies→ I will be able to draw from my spiritual investment account in an emergency when I don't have time to suddenly get down to business with God
 - a specific purpose→ I can invest spiritually to be equipped for my mission that God has planned for my life
 - retirement→ I will be prepared spiritually when it's time to meet God
- Conclusion
 - question to ponder: Where do I have the greatest investment? my spiritual or natural life?
 - where I invest the most shows where my heart is (verse 21)
 - the spiritual is most important because it will last forever (verse 20)