



The goal of Heart in Focus is to help you become faithful in managing what God has given and discover the joy in living for Jesus.

## This week's FOCUS: Overcoming worry by saving wisely

God also cares for us by training us to save for the future and giving us ways to do so.

Saving wisely allows the disciple of Jesus to:

- Demonstrate discipline for daily living
- Prepare for possible emergencies
- Design a healthier financial situation
- Respond better to the needs of others

### Saving principles from God's Word

Proverbs 21:20

Proverbs 6:6-8

Proverbs 13:11

Example from Scripture of someone who demonstrated the wisdom and blessings of saving?

### Priority Saving #1 – Emergency savings

#### To prepare for the unexpected...

Start immediately saving \_\_\_\_\_ for emergencies ONLY

Work up to \_\_\_\_\_ months of basic living expenses.

*Where?* Invested in "easy to get at" funds – such as a separate money market with check-writing or savings account.

### Priority Saving #2 – Major Purchase savings

#### To replace or purchase without borrowing...

Large ticket items \_\_\_\_\_  
planned to be purchased within 5 years.

*Where?* CDs, fixed income/balanced mutual funds, high interest savings accounts.

### Priority Saving #3 – Long-term savings

#### To support personal financial goals that are at least 5 years away (especially education and retirement)

Take advantage of employer's retirement plan options, if possible

*Where?* Stocks, equity based mutual funds, qualified accounts, bonds or real estate (in today's market??)

**Save consistently...** The power of compound interest: \$300/month at 8% for 40 years =

Contribution: \$144,000

Earning on investment: \$903,302

Total: \$1,047,302

### Save now...

- Make it a priority by treating savings as an expense
- Begin with an automatic withdrawal investment plan (mutual fund, IRA, CD, etc.)
- Strive to save at least 10-15% of your earnings (depending on financial situation and age)

### Taking to the bank: How can you save now in a systematic way?

Some build off of the **10 – 10 – 80 principle**: Give 10% to God, Save 10% and live off of 80% of my income. Others have increased the percentage of saving (especially if didn't start young) and reduced their "lifestyle" to be in a better position to meet their goals. Those who have saved very little for retirement and have surpassed age 40 will want to be aggressive on the savings percentage to make up for lost time (depending on his present financial situation).

### How can I be the best manager of my savings? *Knowledge is power! Educate, educate, educate...*

- Risk tolerance, amount of money available, your age, current and future income needs...
- CD, money market, bonds, stocks, mutual funds, IRA, Roth IRA, ESA, 529 plans etc.

### What is God teaching us in his Word? Psalm 116:12

