



# Resourcefulness

vs. Wastefulness

**Resourcefulness is increasing assets by seeing value in what others overlook or discard.**

## Definition

A resource is an asset that is available for anticipated needs. The Biblical concept of resourcefulness is “to gather.” “Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase” (Proverbs 13:11). In this verse, the Hebrew word for *gathereth* is *qabats*; it literally means “to grasp.” Another Hebrew word for *gathereth* is *agar*, meaning “to harvest.” “He that gathereth [*agar*] in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame” (Proverbs 10:5).

## The Importance of Resourcefulness

The result of resourcefulness is the increase of our net worth. The goal of increasing our assets must not be to heap up treasures for ourselves, but to increase the ability to give to others. “That ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (II Corinthians 9:8).

Jesus told a parable about the kingdom of Heaven; however, it also has an application that deals with the importance of resourcefulness.

“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five

talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

“Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money.

“After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

“He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

“His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

“Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard

The waste of the slothful is the wealth of the resourceful.

The ultimate example of resourcefulness is the great value God sees in each person and the loving diligence He exerts to “seek and to save” that which is lost. (See Luke 19:10.)

God provides food for the fowls of the air, but they must exercise resourcefulness to get it!



When we give away assets in times of plenty, we will have what we need in times of want.

(See II Corinthians 8:14.)

man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

“His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

“Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury” (Matthew 25:14–27).

## How Gleaning Laws Emphasize Resourcefulness

When God designed laws, statutes, and judgments for the nation of Israel, He made provisions for “social welfare.” However, resourcefulness was necessary for the program to work.

“When ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

“And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger” (Leviticus 19:9–10).

This “welfare program” kept Naomi and Ruth alive after their return from Moab and gave Boaz an opportunity to be generous.

## How Life Was Preserved Through Resourcefulness

### 1. During the flood

After God determined to judge the world with a flood, He

instructed Noah to build an ark in order to preserve his family and all the creatures that could not swim. In addition to preparing the space needed to house the animals, Noah and his family had to demonstrate resourcefulness to gather the food that was needed to survive.

“Of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. . . . And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them” (Genesis 6:19, 21).

### 2. During a famine

A second excellent example of resourcefulness was the preparation made for a famine during the days of Joseph.

Through a dream, God warned Pharaoh that there would be seven years of abundant harvest followed by seven years of famine. Joseph resourcefully designed a plan to prepare for the famine.

“Let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

“And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine” (Genesis 41:35–36).

Believers are instructed to establish personal habits of resourcefulness in order to distribute to the necessity of saints. (See Romans 12:13.)

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you



Known as one of the most difficult of all fish to catch, the **muskie** demonstrates resourcefulness by doing anything in its power to escape. It twists, jumps, dives, and even lies motionless on the bottom in order to free itself from a fisherman's lure.



**R**esourcefulness is finding the assets that God has already provided.

*“For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth.”*

—Luke 11:10



**R**esourcefulness is taking what others view as “nothing” and making it into something.

Resourceful people think in terms of percentages. Buying a can of food for eight cents, rather than ten cents, is not just saving two cents; it is saving 20 percent.

**“Take care of the minutes; the hours will take care of themselves.”** —Lord Chesterfield



**G**idle talk is the enemy of resourcefulness, because it consumes one of our most valuable assets.

*“The talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.”* —Proverbs 14:23

lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come” (I Corinthians 16:1-2).

## The Power Behind Resourcefulness

As resources are increased through wise and creative gathering, it is easy to convince ourselves that we are the ones responsible for the added wealth. Therefore, we must continually remind ourselves that it is God “that giveth thee power to get wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18).

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

## The Threefold Procedure to Gather Resources

God uses physical needs to motivate us to maintain a daily dependence upon Him. Therefore, He instructs us to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).

God has established a threefold procedure to gain resources in answer to prayer:

- 1. Ask and receive**—When we ask God for needed resources, He has promised to provide them for us. However, in order to get them, we must take the next two steps.
- 2. Seek and find**—Even though God has already given what we have asked for, we must be diligent to search out that which He has given. This will require insight, initiative, and creativity.
- 3. Knock and open**—When we believe we have found what God has given, we must make

contact with the people who are involved. By explaining to them our goals and how God has previously led us, we can then see whether God has prepared their hearts to complete the acquisition of the resource.

Many people ask God for things and are given them, but they never take the next two steps. Thus, they conclude that God did not hear or answer their prayer.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

## Personal Evaluation

### How resourceful are you?

- Do you keep accurate records of the resources God has given you?
- Would God be pleased with the way you are using the assets He has given to you?
- Have you searched out valuable resources that others are discarding?
- As you increase personal assets, is your real motive to have more to give away or to heap up these assets for your own security?
- Have you asked God for things and expected Him to give them to you without first seeking and finding them?
- Have you multiplied the value of your assets, or has their value been eaten up with depreciation, rust, and moths?