



# God's Property



## Are You a Fool?

We've all heard the old adage that, "a fool and his money will soon part". Quite true as I've seen it happen and it has also happened to me in some foolish decisions I've made in the past.

My 14-month old son, Joshua, loves to sit in the driver's seat of my car and pretend like he's driving, but I would be a fool to turn the car on and let him drive. He gets upset when it's time to go and I have to put him in his car seat. Again I would be foolish to let him sit on my lap and drive to wherever I need to go and risk being in accident and injuring or losing him, just so he wouldn't be upset momentarily. Despite his disappointment, I must do the right thing and buckle him up safely and look forward to having him around for a long time.



Joshua's disappointment is much like our own when we don't get what we want. For those of us who serve God and wish to honor Him through our work, we know that God is our parent and knows what's best for us. As a parent, He may not allow us to do certain things to prevent us from going in the wrong direction. A few years ago, God had us working on a very detailed business plan for a busi-

ness model to franchise. We were seeking capital to assist us in launching this endeavor. We were introduced to some investors who loved our business plan and wanted to take us public, immediately.

We were excited to say the least but we sought the Lord's guidance in how to proceed. We had worked on this plan for a couple of years and had locked ourselves up for 4 months to complete it and believed we were ready to launch it. The investors were also Christians so we believed that this had to be a divine appointment. There was some negotiating that went on for several weeks along with talk of an initial \$2 million cash injection for us to prepare for the IPO (Initial Public Offering). This had been what we needed to take off...or so we thought. Sharon and I were differing in opinions from one week to the next. We never seemed to be in agreement; it even caused some friction in our marriage for a couple of days. We prayed harder than ever for a decision and we finally got it.

"WAIT!" God said to wait, the timing was not His. I could have died. How could God do this to us? We believed "by sight" that the timing was perfect. We had worked so hard and now we had to wait. Sharon and I agreed not to move forward. She also made a comment back then that has come to

fruition. When taking a company public, we learned quite a bit about the process. One of the things you learn as the CEO, is that you are not only managing your company, but you're also playing the role of P.R. (public relations) with your shareholders and you have to keep your eye on the stock price. That being said, Sharon's comment to me, about two years ago when we made the decision not to move forward, was, "What if the stock market crashed?" Talk about prophetic. God was keeping us from making a big mistake. I couldn't imagine trying to navigate our business through these turbulent times watching our stock prices plummet and our company going down with it.



Just as I can tell my son, Joshua, no, when I believe he may be in danger of hurting himself, God does so as well. He knows what He's doing and when

He says no, it's for a reason and not because He's a mean parent who doesn't want us to have anything. What did we learn from all this? Even though we had our business plan ready, God ultimately directs where we will go and when. So don't be foolish...make a plan and seek Him for direction. "A man's heart plans his ways, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9

God Bless,

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