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## Prayer: an investment security

By Elise L. Moore

Early in my business career, I managed to save \$1,000. I wanted to invest this nest egg wisely. But, no broker was interested in such a small investor. Failing to find a good advisor, I decided to pray about what to do.

It's not that I think God is some super-broker dispensing hot stock tips. But praying helps define our motives and lift them to something higher than just self-interest. Greed, extravagance, and pride don't contribute to sound decisions. Real value and growth spring from creativity, integrity, productivity, service, and quality. I prayed to be able to uplift my motives from simply making money to discerning and supporting a principled business venture through investing in it.

Soon I found an investment professional who took me seriously. We discussed my desire to invest in a principled company. A few days later he recommended a new firm that fit my ideal. With great confidence I invested my entire savings, such as it was. The market fluctuated, but this company slowly and steadily grew.

Several years later, the advisor called again. He felt the company had grown enough, and that it was time to sell. The proceeds from that sale were enough for the down payment on my first house.

I'd made money. But not from a market surge, greed, or investor euphoria. The company actually delivered a good product, service, and high quality in an honest manner. It is still a solid, respected corporation.

Years later, I was to learn a few more lessons that showed me you can pray about investments. My house wouldn't sell. Interest rates had skyrocketed, but I'd already moved and was now carrying two mortgage payments. Also, my new sales job wasn't working out. At one point, no commissions were coming in, and I was living off savings. I wondered how long I could hold out. Years of relying on God had taught me that He rewards sound actions. So I looked for ways to increase my productivity and service to others.

I prayed for more understanding and grace during this difficult time, confident that God had a good plan, which He was implementing. I frequently affirmed that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28) and trusted that "the Lord was my Shepherd" and "I would not want"(Ps. 23:1).

Something happened that gave me the opportunity to serve someone else. While working out of town, I met a man who was in a worse financial situation than I. He lived in Chicago, where my unsold house stood vacant. And he desperately needed a place for his wife and three small children. Although he couldn't pay rent, I had a calm feeling that God was directing me to invite them to live in this fully furnished home. The family moved in immediately and lived there almost eight months.

Even though my finances were seriously depleted, I had confidence that God was meeting my needs. I trusted that He would reward my quiet, consistent faithfulness. I continued to affirm in prayer that divine Principle was guiding and governing me, my house, the people occupying it, and the buyers-to-be.

At the end of the school year, another clear and calm intuition came to me that it was time for the family to move. They promptly agreed and left the house in perfect condition. Within a few weeks the house sold, although interest rates, which were very high at the time, hadn't changed. My resources steadily improved from that time.

I learned two lessons from this. First, that the statement in *Science and Health* that ". . . whatever blesses one blesses all . . ." is dependably true (p. 206). And, second, that we can rely on God to meet our needs, so long as we daily strive to be honest and productive ourselves.

Today, as economic uncertainty threatens to unnerve so many people, we can all trust the higher moral and spiritual values that empower us spiritually. Praying persistently and following God's guidance can lead to increased financial stability.

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