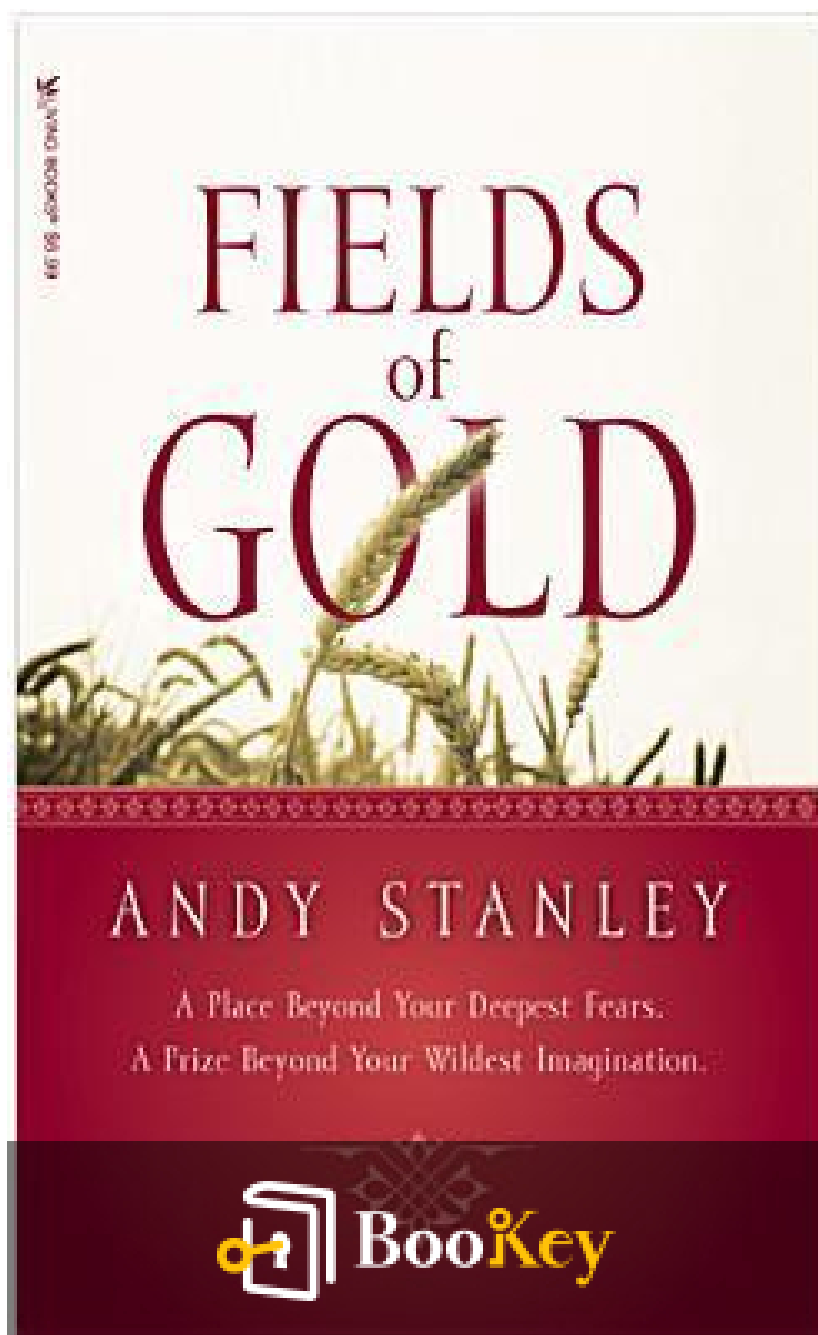


Fields Of Gold PDF (Limited Copy)

Andy Stanley



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Fields Of Gold Summary

Transforming Fear into Generosity for a Bountiful Life.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In "Fields of Gold," Andy Stanley delves into the biblical principle of sowing and reaping, using it as a framework to encourage readers to reflect on the consequences of their decisions. The book poses compelling questions that invite introspection, particularly highlighting the contrasts between sowing fear—such as anxiety and insecurity—and sowing faith—characterized by trust and generosity.

Stanley elaborates on how our irrational fears surrounding money often inhibit our ability to give freely. He emphasizes that generous giving should not be viewed merely as a moral obligation, but rather as an invitation to engage with God in a meaningful way regarding our financial resources. By understanding giving in this context, readers are encouraged to overcome their fears and release their anxieties about financial scarcity.

As the narrative progresses, Stanley guides individuals towards a mindset of confidence, security, and ultimately, joy in their giving. He illustrates that when we view giving as an opportunity to partner with our heavenly Father, we open ourselves up to abundant blessings that allow us to continue this cycle of generosity. Through this lens, Stanley inspires readers to embrace a life of faith-filled giving, recognizing it as a pathway to both spiritual and material richness.

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About the author

Sure! To create a smooth and logical summary, we'll focus on the core themes and developments of the chapters you're referring to, while integrating any necessary background information. Unfortunately, I don't have direct access to specific chapters or details in the book you're referring to. However, I can develop a generic summary based on common themes associated with Andy Stanley's teachings, particularly in regards to spiritual growth and community engagement.

****Summary of Chapters**:**

In these chapters, Andy Stanley delves into the foundational aspects of spiritual growth and community involvement, guided by his mission to help individuals connect deeply with their faith and each other. Drawing from his experience as the senior pastor of North Point Community Church and other congregations, he emphasizes the importance of being part of a supportive faith community.

Stanley first introduces the concept of personal faith development, stressing that true spiritual growth stems from an individual's commitment to understanding and living out their beliefs. He encourages readers to cultivate

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a genuine relationship with God, which is not merely about attending services but involves active participation in prayer, reflection, and the quest for spiritual maturity.

Next, he highlights the significance of community within the church. Stanley argues that a strong faith community enables individuals to grow together, providing a space for accountability, support, and shared experiences. He shares practical strategies for individuals to engage with their church, including joining small groups and participating in service projects, which not only enhance personal faith but also foster deeper relationships among members.

Throughout the chapters, Stanley intertwines personal anecdotes from his pastoral journey, illustrating how he has witnessed transformative changes in both individuals and congregations when they embrace these principles. He also addresses common barriers that people face in their spiritual journey, such as doubts and life challenges, offering reassurance that these experiences can lead to greater faith if approached with the right mindset.

To wrap up, Stanley reiterates that the journey of faith is both personal and communal. He invites readers to take proactive steps towards their spiritual growth while engaging meaningfully with their community, reinforcing the idea that a thriving church environment can significantly impact one's

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spiritual journey.

In summary, these chapters serve as both a guide and an invitation. They encourage readers to explore their faith in-depth while recognizing the invaluable role of community support in one's spiritual life.

If you have specific chapters or more detail from the text you'd like me to summarize, please provide that information, and I'll happily tailor the summary further!

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Chapter 1 Summary: Dust in the Wind

CHAPTER 1: DUST IN THE WIND

The story unfolds in the Oklahoma panhandle, besieged by relentless dust storms. Jeremiah Clary is at the forefront of a desperate battle, struggling to shield his home from the encroaching clouds of dust that have transformed a once-promising agricultural landscape into a desolate wasteland known as the Dust Bowl. This catastrophe is the result of a deadly combination of over-farming, severe drought, and unyielding winds, a plight shared by many farmers in the region.

As Jeremiah contemplates the precarious state of his farm, he confronts a critical dilemma: should he gamble on planting what few seeds he has left or risk losing everything to another unforgiving storm? This internal conflict underscores the psychological toll on farmers, where fear paralyzes decision-making and cultivates an aversion to sowing crops. Their uncertainty mirrors a broader contemporary issue; many individuals today are similarly gripped by anxieties surrounding financial stability.

The author draws a parallel between the farmer's fear and the hesitation many Christians experience regarding their financial contributions to the church and missions. This connection emphasizes that while there is often a

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strong desire for generosity, the fear of financial insecurity can stifle proactive giving. Recognizing this pattern, Christians may find themselves withdrawing from opportunities to support God's kingdom work, trapped in a cycle of fear that diminishes their faith.

The chapter highlights how fear can serve as a significant barrier to spiritual growth and generous living. The author contends that many believers are not lacking the motivation to give, but are instead overwhelmed by their anxieties. To counter this, readers are encouraged to trust in God's provision, drawing on biblical assurance from Matthew 6:33, which promises that prioritizing God's kingdom results in having one's daily needs met.

Ultimately, the message is a clarion call to overcome fear and embrace generosity as a vital aspect of faith. Individuals are urged to focus on sowing abundantly rather than worrying about the potential losses, suggesting that a mindset of trust in divine provision will lead to richer spiritual and communal rewards.

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Chapter 2 Summary: A Growing Ambition

A Growing Ambition

As the pastor of North Point Community Church, I aim to nurture believers' relationships with Jesus Christ while promoting the importance of financial stewardship. However, many individuals show reluctance when it comes to discussing monetary contributions. I want to clarify that this book is not merely about church tithing; rather, it urges readers to transcend a percentage mentality and embrace a life characterized by fearless giving, which leads to deeper fulfillment.

Born to Give

The life story of Milton Scott exemplifies the essence of fearless giving. Living from 1895 to 2001, Scott amassed wealth yet chose to live modestly, prioritizing the funding of Bible distribution over personal extravagances. His substantial contributions to ministries worldwide illustrate the joys of generous giving and the fulfillment that comes from prioritizing others before oneself.

Finding Your Giving Threshold

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Scott's example invites us to reflect on our own giving habits. Do we feel uneasy at the thought of increasing our contributions? Many individuals grapple with personal thresholds rooted in fear, often rationalizing their reluctance as a practical decision. This mindset contradicts Christ's teachings, which encourage believers to focus on the needs of others and trust in God's provision.

Dismantling Fear

Givers generally fall into two categories: those who give from their leftovers and those who prioritize giving first. The latter view all possessions as belonging to God, enabling them to give generously. When fear takes hold, though, individuals often hesitate to part with their resources for divine purposes. Yet, by trusting God with our finances, we align ourselves with rational behavior and enhance our faith.

The Moment of Truth

God often presents us with opportunities to test our willingness to be generous, encouraging us to step outside our comfort zones. Such challenges

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can stir fear, but overcoming these hurdles strengthens our faith. A pivotal moment in my high school years exemplifies this: I was moved to give a significant portion of my earnings to support a nursing student, and this act of obedience became a transformative experience in my faith journey.

Fear Factor

As we experiment with generosity, fear inevitably surfaces. God provides us with financial resources to invest in His kingdom, and if we recognize that everything ultimately belongs to Him, the fear of giving diminishes. The crucial question becomes whether we trust God enough to merge Him into our financial lives, releasing control and embracing the joy of generous giving.

Concluding Thoughts

Trusting God with our finances leads to peace and fulfillment, whereas reliance on personal savings often breeds anxiety. By overcoming the fear of generosity, we invite God into our financial decisions, deepening our relationship with Him. Take time to reflect on your comfort zone, assess your fears, and seek the joy found in giving generously as an integral part of your faith journey.

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Chapter 3 Summary: Trading Places

Chapter 3: Trading Places

In Chapter 3 of his work, Andy Stanley draws upon the character Billy Ray Valentine from the classic film "Trading Places" to explore themes of stewardship and generosity within the Christian faith. The chapter underscores how a shift in perspective on wealth can transform one's understanding of their role in God's kingdom.

Billy Ray's Journey

Billy Ray Valentine starts as a street beggar but unexpectedly finds himself thrust into a life of luxury and wealth. Yet, as he navigates this new lifestyle, he struggles to understand what it means to be a steward of that wealth. Initially, he remains focused on fear and scarcity, but as he learns to trust the Duke brothers—his wealthy benefactors—his perspective begins to change. This transition highlights the journey from self-preservation to realizing the responsibilities that come with newfound resources.

Christian Stewardship

Andy Stanley draws a parallel between Billy Ray's experience and that of

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many Christians today. Like Billy Ray, many recognize the abundance of God's wealth but act out of fear, hoarding what they have instead of sharing it. The chapter teaches that God intends for us to be stewards of His riches, using them to further His kingdom rather than keeping them solely for personal gain.

The Law of the Harvest

Stanley introduces three essential principles that form the foundation of a generous and stewardship-oriented mindset:

1. **Generosity Leads to Abundance:** The Apostle Paul teaches that generous givers receive generously; this reciprocity is a guiding principle for managing financial resources in faith.
2. **Aligning with God's Agenda:** When we give, we not only satisfy our own desires but also participate in God's overarching mission to support the needy and spread His message.
3. **Faithfulness Results in Blessings:** God offers blessings to those who practice generosity, creating a perpetual cycle of giving and receiving.

Personal Testimony

Stanley shares a personal story where he opted not to take a salary during a fundraising campaign for his church. This decision opened unexpected avenues of financial blessings through speaking engagements and surprising

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tax refunds. It illustrates his belief that true wealth is found in aligning one's life with God's purposes and trusting Him as the ultimate provider.

Invitation to Generosity

The chapter encourages readers to confront the fears that dictate their attitudes toward money. It challenges the traditional notion of financial security rooted in hoarding, instead promoting the idea that true freedom and security come from trusting God and inviting Him into our financial decisions.

Conclusion

Ultimately, Stanley calls on Christians to embrace their roles as stewards of God's resources, engaging in fearless generosity. By relying on God rather than clinging to material wealth, believers can experience the fullness of life and the joys of contributing to His kingdom.

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Chapter 4: The New Deal

CHAPTER 4: THE NEW DEAL

Inviting God into Our Finances

This chapter opens with a profound exploration of the significance of involving God in our financial decisions. It establishes that God can either observe our financial journeys from a distance or engage as an active partner, but it is our willingness to include Him that is essential. The narrative cautions against waiting for moments of financial crisis to seek divine help; rather, it advocates for a proactive approach where we invite God into our financial lives, creating a foundation of trust and guidance.

Balancing Rationality and Emotion

The discussion then shifts to the often tumultuous interplay between emotion and rationality in financial decision-making. The author warns against making choices based solely on gut feelings, noting that emotions can cloud our judgment and lead to irrational actions. By encouraging readers to ground their financial strategies in truth rather than fear, the author emphasizes the importance of overcoming emotional barriers in order to fully integrate God into their financial planning.

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Seeking Guidance from Jesus

Referencing the Sermon on the Mount, the text highlights Jesus' teachings on prioritizing God's kingdom and trusting that our physical needs will be met. This perspective challenges conventional thinking, suggesting that by focusing on generosity and aligning with God's purposes, individuals can experience greater financial stability. This bold statement asserts that when we invest in God's mission, our own needs may be thoughtfully provided for in return.

The Concept of a New Deal

The chapter introduces a transformative idea: a "new deal" that redefines our financial interactions. This pact operates on the premise that by prioritizing the needs of God's kingdom, we invite God's attention and care into our lives. It encourages readers to reflect on their willingness to give, positing that this mutual relationship can yield profound benefits not only for God's work but for our own well-being.

Confronting Financial Fears

The author then challenges readers to actively confront their financial fears. While financial anxieties can be pervasive, it suggests that stepping towards

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generosity can be a powerful antidote. Although trusting God may, at first, seem counterintuitive, the text affirms that embracing this trust is vital for achieving a sense of financial peace.

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Chapter 5 Summary: Sowing Lessons

CHAPTER 5: SOWING LESSONS

In this chapter, the author delves into the significance of integrating faith into financial decisions, emphasizing the role of generosity in "sowing seeds of faith." It opens with important questions: how much should one give, where, and when? This sets the stage for a thoughtful exploration of giving as an essential part of a believer's financial stewardship.

A key biblical principle guiding this exploration comes from 2 Corinthians 9:7, which advocates for giving what one has determined in their heart, cheerfully and without compulsion. The chapter stresses that giving should arise from an understanding of one's role as a steward—someone responsible for managing resources rather than as an owner. This perspective fosters a genuine partnership with God in financial matters.

To make the act of giving more intentional, the author suggests creating a structured giving plan. This plan is built around the "Three P's of Giving":

1. Priority Giving: The first emphasis is on making giving a top budgetary priority. Just as a host serves guests before themselves, believers are encouraged to give God the first portion of their income. This act not



only honors God but also establishes a foundation for managing financial resources thoughtfully.

2. Percentage Giving: Setting a fixed percentage removes subjective fear from the equation and makes giving more systematic. Tithing, or giving 10% of one's income, is suggested as a benchmark to foster consistent generosity. The author reinforces the understanding that since God is the ultimate owner of all resources, asking for a tenth is a small request, potentially yielding significant returns for faithful stewards.

3. Progressive Giving: Over time, increasing the percentage of giving reflects personal growth in faith and commitment. The chapter encourages readers to regularly assess and challenge their giving levels, which can lead to spiritual excitement and deeper connections with God.

The chapter further introduces a fourth concept: **Prompted Giving**. This idea embraces the spontaneity of generosity, encouraging readers to act beyond their scheduled donations when unique opportunities arise.

Illustrative examples from real life demonstrate the joy and positive impact of such prompted generosity.

The influence of God—the "God Factor"—is highlighted as crucial in financial decisions, especially during tough times. Testimonials from individuals who have trusted God with their finances serve as powerful



examples of how faithful giving can transform lives. The notion that trusting God leads to unexpected blessings is reiterated, underpinning the idea that “perfect love casts out fear.”

In conclusion, the chapter offers a comprehensive framework for giving that encompasses priority, percentage, and progressive giving while also embracing prompted opportunities to foster a richer, relational experience in financial stewardship. This multifaceted approach encourages believers to engage with their finances in a way that honors God and reflects their faith.

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Chapter 6 Summary: Fear This

CHAPTER 6: FEAR THIS

In this chapter, the author explores the complex nature of fear and its influence on human behavior, particularly in the realm of personal finance. The narrative begins by acknowledging that humanity often misplaces its fears, leading to misguided choices throughout history. From ancient superstitions about evil spirits to modern anxieties that hinder personal progress, fear appears to be an inevitable and universal experience. However, while fear can be paralyzing, it can also serve as a guiding force, helping individuals prioritize their actions in beneficial ways.

The author argues that fear should not be shunned but instead managed with wisdom. This involves recognizing legitimate fears—such as fear of failure or insecurity—that can redirect our focus to more fruitful endeavors. For instance, the fear of missing divine guidance in financial matters should take precedence over the fear of experiencing financial hardship, emphasizing the spiritual importance of inviting God into our financial decision-making processes.

As the chapter progresses, the discussion turns to personal finance and the critical need to discern which fears should influence our choices.

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Significantly, the fear of economic downturns might lead one into a mindset of hoarding, while a deeper concern about losing God's support should encourage a spirit of generosity. Reflecting on past financial struggles reveals that prioritizing giving can yield profound spiritual and emotional rewards, ultimately alleviating some of those fears.

A poignant illustration used in the chapter is the story of Oskar Schindler from "Schindler's List." His heroic efforts to save lives during the Holocaust highlight the vital importance of seizing opportunities to give. Despite his courageous actions, Schindler's regret for not saving more lives serves as a reminder that fear of poverty should never inhibit our potential for generosity.

Moreover, the narrative incorporates examples from Mike Kendrick, demonstrating that leveraging resources to benefit others can bring forth lasting rewards, even in economically uncertain times. Investing in the greater good, or God's kingdom, offers a sense of peace and assurance, especially amid crises.

The chapter concludes by emphasizing the profound significance of generosity. Encouraging others to overcome their fears associated with giving can lead to enriching outcomes for both the giver and the recipient. An inspiring account of an eighty-three-year-old millionaire reinforces this idea, illustrating how past fears can shape current behaviors, yet ultimately,



a deeper understanding of generosity fosters a sense of greater contentment and leaves a meaningful legacy.

In summary, this chapter highlights the power of prioritizing generosity over fear in financial matters, inviting readers to integrate spiritual considerations into their financial decisions. By doing so, one can transform fear into an opportunity for lasting impact, allowing wealth to contribute to something far greater than oneself.

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Chapter 7 Summary: The Joy of Giving

The Joy of Giving

The essence of fearless giving goes beyond simple financial calculations; it is rooted in nurturing a joyful spirit. The real triumph lies in overcoming the fear associated with giving—not just to fulfill an obligation, but to embrace the sheer joy of sharing. This shift from a sense of duty ("have to") to genuine enthusiasm ("want to") is crucial. Reflecting on whether giving brings joy can reveal significant insights into one's personal journey from fear to fulfillment.

The Accidental Philanthropist

Donald Rauer's life took a transformative turn when he inherited a substantial fortune and became the trustee of a foundation created by his late uncle. Initially reluctant and overwhelmed by the responsibilities that came with this role, Donald grappled with his feelings about wealth and philanthropy. As he began to distribute funds to various causes, he experienced the profound impact of his generosity, which gradually softened his previous indifference.

Through his evolving relationship with giving, Donald discovered that when

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acts of kindness are free from fear and obligation, they can profoundly change both the giver and the recipient. This journey allowed him to find true joy in philanthropy, as he redirected his uncle's legacy toward positive change. Donald's experience illustrates that by embracing the thoughtful management of our resources, we unlock the immense joy that comes from generosity, demonstrating that everyone possesses the ability to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

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