

Uncertainty & Responsibility

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

I. **INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE** (1-2)—think ahead and prepare

A. **Cast Your Bread/Ship Your Grain** (1)

1. **Financial Investment**—invest in business, commerce/trade
2. **Benevolent Giving** (Pr 11:25; 21:13; 22:9)—invest in people
 - a. **People** will help you when you need it.
 - b. **God** will reward you for your good deeds—either in this life or in the next.
3. **General Principle:** *invest for the future*
 - a. Takes **Forethought**—quality of your life in the future
 - b. Demands **Patience**—wait a long time to receive the return
 - d. Requires **Risk**—out of your sight and out of your hands.

B. **Give Portions to Seven** (2)

1. **Diversify Financial Investment**—manage your risk
2. **Generously Help Many People** (Lk 6:31, 36; 2 Cor 8:7; Php 4:18-19)
3. **General Principle:** *prepare for unexpected disaster*
 - a. Calculate for **contingencies**. Plan for worst case scenario.
 - b. Invest in **life**. *Assume that life will go on.*

II. **NATURAL CAUSES** (3-4)—physical forces affect what we are able to do

A. **If the Clouds are Full** (3a)

1. You can't control the weather
2. An example of generous giving

B. Where the Tree Falls (3b)

1. **Laws of nature don't consider us.**
2. **Be a blessing where you are.**

C. Watching the Weather (4)—*Don't overthink it!*

1. **Don't allow potential obstacles to stop you.**
2. **Don't wait for perfect conditions.**
3. **Risk is part of life.**

III. GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS (5; Dt 29:29)—There are limits to our knowledge

A. The Path of the Wind (Jn 3:8)—where the wind will blow

B. The Formation of Life (Job 10:8-9; Ps 139:13-15;)—development of the human soul

C. The Work of God (Isa 46:9-10; 55:8-9; Rom 11:33-36)—His purpose and plans

IV. WORKING WITH UNCERTAINTY (6; Dt 29:29; Pro 31:13-27; Gal 6:9; Php 2:13)—do different kinds of work

A. Specific Advice: Increase likelihood of success by doing more than one thing.

1. **Broaden your skills.**
2. **Divide your efforts.**
3. **Be industrious.**

B. General Principles:

1. **There is work to do.** Make yourself useful.
2. **Something will succeed.** God has given you what you need to make it.
3. **Do what you know to do** and don't **worry** about what you **don't** know.

LISTEN TO "If I Stand" (Rich Mullins)
<https://youtu.be/TwVrBFuyI04>