

“Live to Give”

Message 1 in the series, “Money Talks”

I Timothy 6:17-19

TODAY'S MAIN IDEA:

Money _____. Generosity _____.

A “walking definition” of Generosity:

Leveraging your time, talents and treasures for the _____ and the benefit of _____.

Generosity integrates a _____ with the _____ that God is going to meet all our needs.

- When it comes to money, there are ways for us to “_____” without ever allowing God to _____.
- Why do we NOT want God to engage our hearts?
Because when God changes our hearts, _____.
- It is *not necessarily* about what we need to _____ to what we’re already doing or giving, but what needs to be _____ into Kingdom living.

Generosity Prayer

“God, what are You calling me to do with my giving, so that in my generosity, others will come to know Your generosity?”

I Timothy 6:17-19 (NRSV)

¹⁷ As for those who **in the present age** are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, **but rather** on God who richly provides us with everything **for our enjoyment**. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, **so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.**

APPLYING GOD’S WORD TODAY

Look at your checking account, credit card statements, etc., and where, specifically, you have spent your money over the past month. If you broke it down into categories – housing (e.g., mortgage, utilities, etc.), medical, tuition, groceries, clothing, entertainment (e.g., movies, tv, going out to eat, etc.), and donations, what do you learn about where your typical monthly income goes? What do you learn about your values? Is how you spend your money consistent with your faith in Christ? How about your time? Your talents? If not, what needs to change?

FOR GROW GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. If you had to give up everything that you own except one thing, what would be the one thing that you would keep?
2. In your opinion, would you say that you are “rich”? Why or why not?
3. Review and discuss the following: Based on your annual income, would you believe that **you** may be in “the top 1% of the **globally wealthy**”?* Compared to nations around the globe today, if your income is \$32,400 a year or more, you’re in the top 1% of global wealth. Rather than being an “exclusive club,” there actually are millions of Americans who are in that 1% category. There are people today – in Africa and India, for example, that are living on about \$2.00 a day. While \$32,400 a year may not seem like a lot to you, you are wealthier than 99% of the global population! You are rich!
4. What prevents you from experiencing financial freedom?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 and Proverbs 11:24-25. What phrases or words or concepts stand out for you? In what ways do you pray about your finances? As you’ve listened to the message or as you read the Scripture passages, what is God bringing to your mind and heart? What do you want to do about it?

*Data obtained from <http://www.investopedia.com/articles/personal-finance/050615/are-you-top-one-percent-world.asp>