

Truth #2: God Entrusts Us With Some Things

Ecclesiastes 5:15: "Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand."

There are only two ways to get MORE -

- **take it from others**
- **receive it from God**

Proverbs 10:22 "The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it."

All that I am, and all that I have, belongs to God and has been temporarily entrusted to me to manage according to His wishes.

Leviticus 25:23 "The land really belongs to me, so you can't sell it for all time. You are only travelers and tenants living for a while on my land."

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 "You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 "Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."

Financial Breakthrough Concept #2: Our generosity is the visible expression of

our love for God.

Proverbs 19:17 "He who is kind to the poor **lends to the LORD**, and he will reward him for what he has done."

Proverbs 3:9-10 "**Honor the LORD** with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

2 Corinthians 9:11 "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

God blesses us to raise our standard of GIVING, not just our standard of LIVING.

Truth #3: God Blesses Generous Stewards

Malachi 3: 8-10 "Will a person rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse... because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'"

Luke 6:38 "If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving – large or small – it will be used to measure what is given back to you."

Proverbs 22:9 "A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor."

Financial Breakthrough Concept #3: Generous living produces emotional happiness, spiritual holiness, and material prosperity.

Deuteronomy 24:19 "When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your **God may bless you in all the work of your hands.**"

Proverbs 11:24-25 "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others **will himself be refreshed.**"

Study Questions

Read Ephesians 4:14-21

We become generous when we believe and accept that God is generous.

- Why does generosity always begin with God? What is God's generosity a visible expression of?
- Why is it so critical to remember that God wants the very best for us as we grow in our generosity?
- Generosity is not so much a virtuous act as it is a virtuous response. Discuss why understanding the depth of God's love is the key to cheerful and generous giving.
- List 25 specific blessings from God before the end of the week and share them with a friend.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

We become generous when we believe that God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our sacrifice. Increasing levels of generosity bring increasing levels of reward and blessings.

- What is the most significant, fruitful endeavor in which you have ever participated? Why?
- What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "you reap what you sow"?
- "The more generously we give, the more abundantly God provides." How have you seen this to be true in your life?
- Is the goal of giving generously that we will get more? If not, then what?
- What keeps Christians from giving generously? Where does "reluctance" and "compulsion" come from in our giving?
- What does giving sparingly look like? Giving generously? How does God's laws of giving contrast with popular opinion about money?
- "Generous giving is personal, thoughtful, passionate, and cheerful." How would it look to put these guidelines in practice for one's giving?

Three questions wise stewards regularly ask:

Ask yourself these three questions:

1. Am I using the money entrusted to me in accordance with the Owner's wishes?

2. Am I carefully keeping account of where all the Owner's funds are going?
3. Am I becoming "best friends" with the Owner by the privilege and opportunity of managing His resources?

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your experience with the Holy Spirit:

- Begin with a time of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings in your life. Thank Him for the good and perfect gifts He has showered upon you.
- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's love to permeate the church. Pray that as we have a revelation of the immense generosity of God, our hearts will be opened to respond generously.