

# GENEROSITY

## 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

1. What prohibits you/people from being more generous? Ask God to draw you into thinking about this question and how you are stewarding the resources you receive from him.
2. The key idea for Paul in these verses is in verse eight when he says, "with these we will be content." Are you content with food and clothing? How can you grow in contentment? What desire do you need to give up?{note}
3. Do you think verses 17-19 apply to you? Do you think you are "rich in this present age?"{note}
4. In these verses, do you think there is a positive view of money or a negative view? In other words, is money an idol or is it a tool?

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-7

We are partners with God in the use of our time, money and other resources. So we must engage that partnership with the Holy Spirit and invest more in God's eternal kingdom.

How does the Holy Spirit lead us?

- He leads us to actually give.
- He works on our hearts.
- To whom?
- How much? | Field Value = Sacrificially...

1. A clear point of verses 1-4 is that our giving affects each other. How have you been impacted by others giving (either positively or negatively)?
  
2. Read <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A42%2C+6%3A24%3B+Luke+12%3A32-34%2C+14%3A33&version=ESV>. How do these relate with what Paul is saying in verse 6?
  
3. In verse 5 and in verse 7 Paul makes sure to talk about the heart behind the act of giving. If your heart isn't in the right place, should you still give?
  
4. In the ESV, verse five ends with "not as an exaction." Other translations say "covetousness" or "greed." Paul's concern is that the gift is not done greedily. Is it possible to give in greed? How does greed affect our generosity?

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

1. What phrases in this passage have to do with the heart behind our generosity?
2. Why do we have a hard time trusting God as the supplier of seed for sowing (verse 10)? What is at the root of your lack of trust? Have there been times where it seems like God didn't provide for you or someone close to you?
3. In verses 11-13, Paul says that the result of their generosity has been people thanking God and glorifying God. Is this the motivation and goal of your generosity? Are you giving so that others will give thanks to God?
4. Should we give if our hearts aren't right?

## **MATTHEW 6:19-21**

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES: We recommend the following books on generosity and stewardship.

- Christians in an Age of Wealth: A Biblical Theology of Stewardship by Craig Blomberg
- The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn
- Generous Life Journey by Gunnar Johnson

1. Why do we want others to see our righteous acts? What are some ways that we give in order to be seen by others in our day and age?

2. How can the concept of reward steer us in the wrong direction in terms of motivation for generosity? How can it steer us in the right direction?

3. What in your life is laying up treasures on earth? What in your life is laying up treasures in heaven?