

POSSESSED

Courageous Generosity – Part 2 of 3

Promise: When you become courageously generous, you will GIVE more, SAVE more and CONSUME less.

Jesus's Promise about courageous generosity: You will be HAPPIER.

"It is more blessed to give than receive." Acts 20:35b (NIV)

Key Truth #1: The mindset that drives us is: If it COMES to me, it's for ME.

Key Truth #2: Our problem isn't a MONEY issue; it's a CONTENTMENT issue.

Key Truth #3: Worry is not a MONEY problem. Worry is a SPIRITUAL problem.

"Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life." 1 Timothy 6:17 (MSG)

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT MORE MONEY:

1. More money does not generate more SELF-CONTROL.
2. More money does not result in more DISCIPLINE.
3. More money does not create more CONTENTMENT.
4. More money does not eliminate WORRY.

Key Truth #4: Most financial worry is the result of WANTING what we can't get, not NEEDING what we don't have.

KEY PRINCIPLE OF COURAGEOUSLY GENEROUS PEOPLE: They do not ASSUME their money is theirs to consume. You break the mindset by thinking like a GIVER.

"16 The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.' 19 And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 This is how it will be with those who store up things for themselves but are not rich toward God."
Luke 12:16-21 (TNIV)

Key Take-A-Ways:

#1: If it can be taken away, you never really OWNED it anyway.

#2: OWNING and CONSUMING always leads to discontentment.

#3: Courageously generous people think like MANAGERS, not owners or consumers.

Bottom Line: We don't get credit for what we LEAVE. We get credit for what we GIVE. Why? Because everybody leaves the same amount -- ALL.