

Faith Works

Week #9: Faith Works Against Greed

James 5:1-6

My money motto is...

- “I earned it, so I decide how to spend it.”
- “Charge it! Borrow it! Worry about it later.”
- “Money = status...so I need Mo’ Money...”
- “Money = Happiness”

Money is often the intersection where **Faith** and **Works** collide.

Money is not **evil**, but your **heart** is.

- James 5:1-6 - *Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.*
- Genesis 8:21 - *...even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.*

Money must be **mastered** or it will become a **monster**.

- 1 Timothy 6:6-10 - *But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

Faith works **godliness**...

- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - *17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

✓ that values the treasures that **matter** most.

✓ that uses our treasures for what **matters** most.

Points to Ponder

- 1) God can tell where our hearts are because he sees what we treasure. When God looks at your heart does he see a “love” of money? Does the thought of not having it overcome you with fear? Does the desire for more of it consume your thoughts?
- 2) Faith works godliness to make money the servant not the master. What practical things do you need to put into practice so that your life reflects one that serves the maker and not money?
- 3) What earthly things do you treasure most in your life? Why? How does God want us to view these things? Why?
- 4) Faith works joy and godliness...so this week list your treasures that are “lasting”. Specifically thank God for them each day this week and celebrate that they are “real” treasures!

Homework: James 5:7-12