

The Joy of Generosity

Week 4 - Joyful Generosity

NOTES ARE IN APP - Download

- <https://theelement.church/app>

Connect with us - Next Steps Form

- Text "Element" to 97000

GIVING TIME:

- **4 WAYS TO GIVE**
- ONLINE: <https://theelement.churchcenter.com/give>
- APP: Give Tile
- TEXT: Text an "amount" to 84321
- MAIL: PO Box 52 East Lansing MI 48826

Intro - The joy of generosity

- First week - More than money
- Two weeks ago - Stewardship
- Last week - Practices (including tithing)

1 Timothy 6:17-19

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.

- They had money and that was ok
- They were told to **relocate their trust**
- They were richly provided "everything" for enjoyment FROM God
- Told to be rich in good deeds & generous
- Lay up treasure in heaven
- **Take hold of a life that is truly life**
- Money that is more than money!

"Throughout the Bible there are over 2,000 verses concerning money. This is roughly twice as many as faith and prayer combined... money is the main subject of nearly

half of the parables Jesus told... Why? There is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money.” - Randy Alcorn

“TWO LEGS” OF BIBLICAL FINANCES...

1. Generosity
2. Stewardship

PART 4 - Joyful Generosity

What a series: Pastor Ericka & I are so proud of you!

- People taking steps to trust God financially

Practically: What to do next - Set up Automated / Online Giving!

- www.theelement.church/give

Let me recap where we've been & what God is up to in our Finances:

- First week - More than money
- Two weeks ago - Stewardship
- Last week - Practices (including tithing)
- This week - One Final piece:

The Sweet Spot is [Living a Life of Ongoing, Strategic, Joyful Generosity!](#)

- Let's talk about that for a few minutes today...

PRAY

1. Everybody has a “Thing”

A. IOW, our Human Nature causes us to care about what we care about, & to not care about, what we don't care about!

- Said another way: **Everybody's got a "THING!"**

Q: What's your THING???

B. GARDENING / GUNS / GRANOLA / GAMES

- \$100's on flowers / tools / bulbs / soil nutrients

- \$100's on ammo / oils & rags / targets / gun range memberships

- \$100's on Health food / cooking supplies / oils / seeds / nuts
- \$100's on Video Games / Sporting Events / Tickets / Parking

- There are literally an endless amount of "Things" we all care about & willingly spend money on!!!

EVERYBODY has a THING!... or two or three of them.

C. When our thing is our thing, then we think that the amount we spend is appropriate for our thing!

- We think it is an appropriate expense!
- But, when someone else's thing is NOT our thing, we think spending money on it is a waste or foolish or silly!

? Have you ever said, "They spent \$500 on a blender / coffee maker / power tool / fancy vase / new purse / pair of shoes???"

D. As Humans - We all have a Thing!

2. God has a Thing too

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

- For God SO LOVED...
 - gardening /
 - guns /
 - granola /
 - games???
 - "For God SO LOVED... the world."

A. According to the Bible, WE are God's Thing that He cares about Most!

I John 4:9 "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

Ephesians 2:4-5 "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

B. Specifically, there are **3 Things that God cares about Most**:

A) The Lost (Evangelism)

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 15:4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

B) Those who need help

Psalms 82:3-4

3 Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 14:21 "It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy."

Proverbs 21:13 "Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered."

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Luke 14:12-14 "Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if

you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"

C) The Church. (His Bride)

Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

C. The 1st Half is Evangelism / The 2nd half is Discipleship.

- God wants His people to be like Him so we can be a light into a dark world!!!

A Few Partner Spotlights!

- TWR (the lost)
- Chi Alpha (the lost)
- GL Youth for Christ (the lost)
- His House (the lost)
- Juvenile Justice (the lost & vulnerable)
- Blooming Abroad (the lost & vulnerable)
- One Hope (the lost & vulnerable)
- House of Promise (the lost & vulnerable)
- City Life Lansing (the lost & vulnerable)
- Next Level Relational Network (the lost & vulnerable through the church)
- ARC (the lost & vulnerable through the church)

3. God wants His "Thing" to be our "Thing"

- There's nothing wrong with
 - Gardens
 - Guns
 - Granola

- Games
- But when you & I come into relationship with Jesus, the Bible makes it clear that **God wants what He cares Most about to be what we care about Most!**
 - For the benefit of WHO?
 - The world/others
 - AND - us!

I John 4:11-12 "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

The Joy of Generosity!!

B. ILL. HEY DAD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

- If the dad is working in the garage, the child wants to as well, not b/c they know anything about cars, but b/c they want to be **close to their dad!!!**

C. Ericka & I - Have done this for 21+ years!

- Made lots of mistakes
- One thing we've gotten right is the tithing thing!
 - Given away 10% of our income + generosity on top of that!
 - **Believe it has blessed us financially but EVEN MORE, has helped us stay close to the heart of our dad!**

4. When we make His "Thing" our "Thing" it has Eternal & Joyful Ramifications

A. Unlike Gardens / Guns / Granola or Games, when we get involved in what our Father is involved in, the Bible makes it clear that we are storing up for ourselves treasures in Heaven that will last forever!!!

1 Timothy 6:17-19

"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. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 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."

Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."

- **Lends to the Lord?**
- IOW, God won't forget & He "owes us one" on the other side of eternity
- When you lend there is a + gain in interest
- I'm sure God is good for any "re-payment" when I see Him

B. God created a system where we could:

- take Earthly, Temporary Resources NOW
 - AND invest them in such a way that they will
 - Yield JOYFUL Rewards for us for ETERNITY!!!
- What?!?

Matthew 6:19-20

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

v. 21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

How? (Practical Again...)

Establish recurring giving here at Element Church - my goal is 100% participation

- not equal gifts but equal sacrifice
- **We realized that we could accomplish So Much More TOGETHER than any of us ever could accomplish alone!!!**

Rather than all of us having to try & go out there & find ministries who are making a difference in Evangelism, the poor & discipleship, we said, "Let US find them & then together we can fuel them & fund them & make a bigger impact together!"

CLOSE - Spiritual impartation:

JULEEN TESTIMONY

- Celebrate Jesus!!

Q: Element, so what do you need to do?

1. This is about more than money
2. Learn Stewardship
3. Put this into Practice - Tithe. (Build the Local Church)
4. Live in Joyful Generosity - Everybody's got a thing, when we make His thing, our thing, We have found the secret to Joyful Generosity!!!