

The Joy of Generosity Week 1 | More than money

Take away: Money is about more than money: it's about faith, trust, intimacy with God, purpose and joy.

ONLINE RECORDING

NOTES ARE IN APP - Not on screen - Download

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

Connect with us - Next Steps Form

- Text "Element" to 97000

EGroups

- theelement.church/egroups

Baptism

- Feb. 20th - 6:00 pm
- Capitol City Vineyard Church
- 1635 Coolidge Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823

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

The Joy of Generosity - Week 1 - Beyond the Numbers

Over the next few weeks, we're going to learn some things that we truly believe has the power to literally change our lives!

- our homes
- our marriages
- our work life

- our school life
- our spiritual life
- our kids
- future generations!!!
- It's seriously that big!!!

For the next several weeks we are going to be talking about **Personal Finances!**

- Fear: “No!!! I liked this church!
- Confrontational: “Here we go again! Churches just want yur money!”
- Failure: “I hate talking about this because it’s painful - I feel shame”

I get it, “Fear is real” “Failures are real” and the unknown can feel scary!

But I believe there is **untapped:**

- Joy!
- Trust!
- Purpose!
- Intimacy with God!
- **Available** to us!!

We don't want anything FROM you,
we simply want everything God has FOR you!

So tired of hearing stories of how:

- families in our church are **struggling** & living paycheck to paycheck
- People **dying** under the weight of financial pressure
- People **struggling** with the ramifications of unwise decisions

These waters are worth traversing through:

- We LOVE you SO MUCH
- We want everything God has for you
- We know that **God's ways** for money & LIFE **work!**

I **don't** want you to hear from **ME...**

I **want** you to **hear FROM GOD** because ultimately this series is about trusting Him and experiencing His joy & Purpose in how we deal with money.

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 (*wait thats not money?!*)
- Lay up treasure in heaven (*wait thats not dollars & cents?!*)
- **Take hold of a life that is truly life**
- **More than money = Life!**

The Joy of Generosity | Week 1 | More Than Money

Until we understand this, the Bible's instruction on finances will NEVER make sense.

We are going to start by looking at 4 concepts from the Biblical for our Finances!

1. Money is about much more than money

1 Timothy 6:17-19

- Lay up treasure in heaven (*wait that's not dollars & cents?!*)
- Take hold of a life that is **truly life**

1 Timothy 6:7-10

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.

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

ILL. Money TRANSLATES into other things

- You can spend money on... _____
- It's like way to TRANSFER VALUE
- It is AMORAL
 - Brick?
 - Throw at someone's head or break window
 - Build a hospital
 - Brick is a translator/transfer-er

ILL. 10 Dollar Bills - Tithe - One Stands straighter with greater purpose

So then money, like a brick, actually translates by what it is used for...

“When money translates into eternal purpose.”

“When a dollar becomes someone else's opportunity to meet God.”

“When they way you handle money transfers to the way you trust God.”

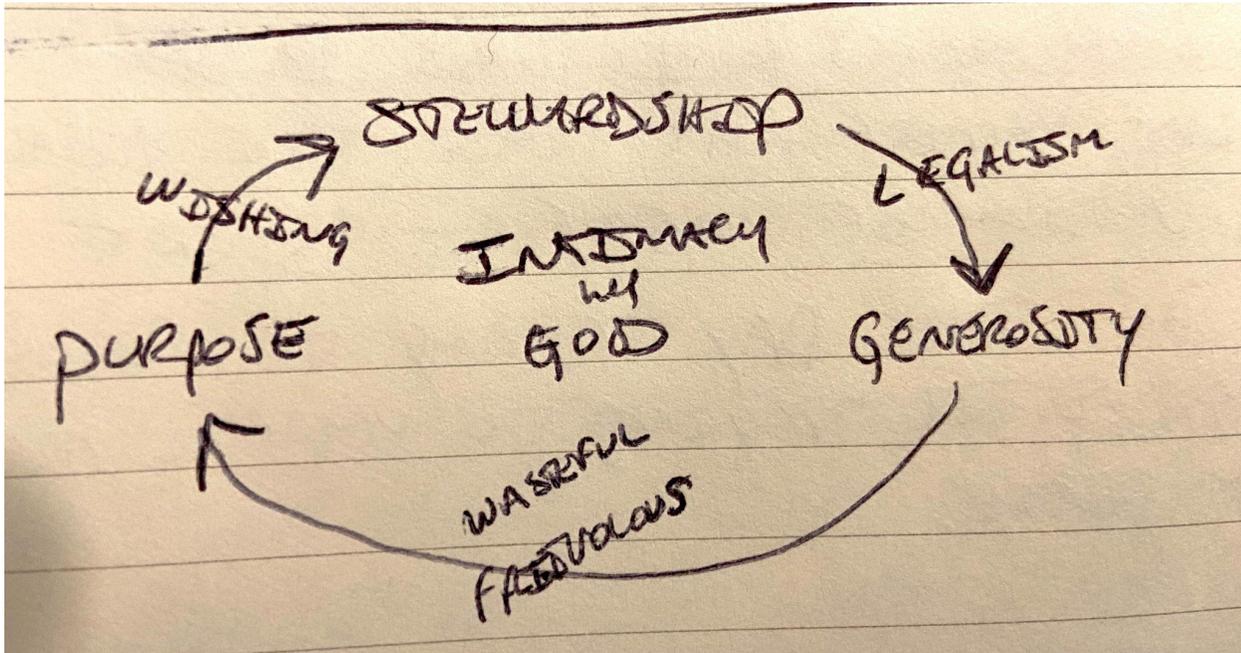
Money is about our faith, about trusting God, about intimacy with Him, about purpose and about joy. Money is about much more than money.

2. We must understand generosity & stewardship

“TWO LEGS” OF BIBLICAL FINANCES...

- Generosity
- Stewardship
- The difference between stewardship and generosity.
- The church has used the word stewardship as a synonymous word with generosity.
 - **Generosity** = giving joyfully from discretionary resources with an open hand
 - **Stewardship** = learning to spend less than you make and manage well what you've been given.
 - **Steward:** A person entrusted to manage another person's property... a person left in charge of another person's assets: entrusted with protecting, maintaining, nurturing and growing someone else's things.
 - **PURPOSE GAP (vs assignment) - MORE WHOLISTIC THAN WE THINK**
 - GENESIS 2:15 - The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
 - GENESIS 1:28 - God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
 - You cannot be generous without learning how to be a steward.
 - You cannot understand PURPOSE without learning how to be a steward.
 - People say I tried giving to the Lord but I couldn't pay my bills, tithing just doesn't work for me.

- Robert Morris talks about Generosity as redirecting discretionary spending, he says this is build on an underlying assumption - you have some.
- [The Joy of Generosity](#)



Steward: A person entrusted to manage another person's property... a person left in charge of another person's assets: entrusted with protecting, maintaining, nurturing and growing someone else's things.

Matthew 25:14-15 Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

Matthew 25:16-25 - The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who

had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

Matthew 25:26-27 - His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

A. The Master Entrusted the servants with things that were not theirs.

- It was given to them!
- They didn't earn it!
- They were accountable for it!

B. It's interesting to me that the 1st & 2nd both said:

- "Master, you **entrusted to me...**"
- But the 3rd one didn't say that... He went straight to "**I knew...**"

C. What about us?

- Do we believe that God is the one who has given us everything we have & that it is literally on loan to us from Him & 1 day we will give an account???

D. ILL. ROBERT MORRIS' DAUGHTER

- Went to college started buying everybody meals & said
- "Dad, you taught us to be generous!!!"
- He said, "That's not generosity, that's stealing!!!"
- B/C you don't own the account!!!"

E. WHO OWNS THE ACCOUNT? (Entrusted)

- The Bible makes it clear that God owns it all!!!
- We are merely Stewards!!!
- Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him."
- Psalms 50:10-11 "For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains and the wild beast of the field are Mine."
- Deuteronomy 8:18 NIV "But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."

THIS IS GREAT NEWS - His ownership, His responsibility

- If He is the owner, it is His responsibility.
- If we think we are the owner, that's a lot of responsibility.
 - We really do have to figure all this out on our own.
- HE WILL PUT WIND AT OUR BACKS WHEN WE STEP OUT TO STEWARD HIS THINGS, HIS WAY
- We just get to trust our Heavenly Father!!!

3. We have to locate ourselves before we can grow

- We have to start with Where we are!!!

1) Drowning (Hurricane - Cursed)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=166jvuXIHfrkCdG8hrfsxUIPC5MK8OZIT>

2) Struggling (Rainy/Cloudy/Bleak - A Little Blessed / A Little Cursed)

https://drive.google.com/open?id=171wduWHCSk4EZdzS_waFwhV-nc-qhhi9

3) Surviving (Average/Normal Day - Blessed)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ut-kGNQOZnUeYWW2XFaYTw5Sz5Q-4DHB>

4) Thriving (More than a sunny day = joy - Generosity, Eternal Purpose, BEYOND BLESSED!)

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IG-uU254_muMFR_jchY81sUJwgWxGgL5

- 1 Timothy - Taking hold of a life that is TRUE LIFE

ILL. “You Are Here” Map at the Mall

- We can never get where God wants us to go, until we are willing to admit where we are!
- "You can't conquer what you won't confront!" - Jimmy Rollins

Some of us don't know... we've been **pretending** like it's good & we're like, “I think it's okay.”

- **Self-awareness is the starting point.**
- **What if God wants EVERYONE of us to be living the Day at the Beach Picture???**
 - https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IG-uU254_muMFR_jchY81sUJwgWxGgL5
 - Not hyper prosperity Gospel - Not “everyone rich and famous”
 - Everyone living within our means -
 - W/ the joy of generosity leading us into **a life that is truly life**
 - It's true!!!

Q: Are you willing to admit your actual picture???

- Hurricane
- Cloudy
- Sunny

- Celebrating

4. Settle that God's ways work & start sowing faith

WE SPEND OUR LIVES TRYING TO DO IT ON OUR OWN!

The BIBLE - There IS an Instruction Manual!

- If we will take it out, work the steps & do what the book says, we can build it EXACTLY as God wants us to!!!

James 1:5 ESV

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

"IF YOU FOLLOW MY STEPS I WILL PUT TOGETHER SOMETHING AWESOME." - God

How?

ILL. Farming Analogies

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

As Christians, we know that we should give but under the growing pressures to make ends meet each month, fear often stands in the way of generosity. And when we let it, this fear has the potential to rob us of an intimate relationship with God... If we sow fear, what will be our harvest? And conversely, if we sow faith, what will we grow?

We must be willing to sow faith instead of fear.

Imagine 365 days from today, your financial picture being completely different than it is today!!!

“I don’t know where to start...”

- Understand it is more than money
- Think about generosity & stewardship
- Locate yourself
- Settle that God’s ways work & start sowing faith
 - Get serious about surrendering financially
 - Take a step toward stewardship
 - Locate where you are and that you want to change
 - Take a step if He asks you
 - Start Giving
 - Start Giving consistently
 - Start Tithing

Some of us, the devil has used our personal finances against us and our purpose and our destiny

I know some of us are:

- families in our church are **struggling** & living paycheck to paycheck
- People **dying** under the weight of financial pressure
- People **struggling** with the ramifications of unwise decisions

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Money is about more than money: it's about faith, trust, intimacy with God, purpose and joy.

Spiritual impartation

- What did you hear? & What do you need to do?
- Worship

PRAYER

SALVATION ALTAR CALL

Celebrate

WORSHIP