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## The Generous Life

# Overcoming the Desire to Acquire

**Materialism:** A tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values.

## The Myth of *More*

**More won't make me happy, important, or secure.**

*"The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers!" Ecclesiastes 5:11 (NLT)*

*"Then He [Jesus] said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'" Luke 12:15 (NIV)*

*"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment." 1 Timothy 6:17 (NLT)*

## Defeating the Disease of Materialism

### 1. Trust God to meet my needs.

*"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."*  
*Matthew 6:33 (NLT)*

- What do I do: Stop **WORRYING** and start **RESTING**.

**2. Focus on the needs of others.**

*“Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” Philippians 2:4 (NASB)*

- What do I do: Stop **COMPARING** and start **SHARING**.

**3. Become grateful for what I have.**

*“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)*

- What do I do: Stop **COMPLAINING** and start **ENJOYING**.

**4. Pursue what is eternal.**

*“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's” Exodus 20:17 (ESV)*

- What do I do: Stop **COVETING** and start focusing on **JESUS**.