

Be Rich - Part 3

Why Comes Before How

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

SUMMARY

Today, we explored how our approach to wealth and giving reflects our relationship with God. Pastor Ryan emphasized that honoring God with our wealth involves understanding that everything belongs to Him, comes from Him, and is distributed by Him. We learned about the principles of tithing, the joy of offerings, and the spiritual gift of giving, and how these aspects can impact our spiritual journey and our community.

DISCUSS

1. Understanding God's Provision: *1 Chronicles 29:14 (NIV) "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."* How does recognizing that everything we have comes from God change the way we view our finances and resources? How does this understanding impact our sense of responsibility and generosity?

2. The Principle of Tithing: *Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."* What are some practical ways to prioritize tithing in our budget? How can committing to the principle of tithing strengthen our faith and trust in God's provision?

3. Joy in Offerings: *Luke 6:38 (NIV) "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* Can you share a personal experience where giving an offering brought you joy or had a significant impact on you or others? How does the promise in this verse shape your perspective on giving?

4. The Gift of Giving: *Romans 12:8 (NIV) "If it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously."* How can we identify if we have the spiritual gift of giving, and how might this gift influence our contributions to the church or community? What role does this gift play in supporting God's work?

5. Application and Action: *1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NIV) "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."* What specific steps can we take this week to apply the principles of tithing, generous giving, or discovering and using our gifts of giving in practical ways? How can these steps help us live out the command to be generous and rich in good deeds?

NEXT STEP

This week, challenge yourself to take one specific action related to giving—whether it's committing to tithe, making a special offering, or finding a new way to use your spiritual gift of giving. Reflect on how this action aligns with your trust in God and His provision, and be open to the ways He may use your generosity to bless others.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge today that everything belongs to You, comes from You, and is distributed by You. Help us to honor You with our wealth through our tithes, generous offerings, and the gifts You have placed in us. Guide our giving so that it reflects Your love and provision in our lives. We thank You for the opportunity to participate in Your work and to make a difference through our generosity. In Jesus' name, Amen.