

Living Generously

God's Plan for Your Finances

Introduction

Today we conclude our series on Living Generously. Over the past few weeks we have discussed God's plan for our finances. Specifically, we discussed the importance of giving generously, saving wisely, and living appropriately.

Three truths emerge: God wants us blessed, He has blessed us, and blesses us to be a blessing to others. Paul's words in 2 Corinthians reveal these truths:

2 Corinthians 9:7-10: You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." 10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

When we position ourselves to be generous God blesses us and as He does we, in turn, bless others. Through this series we have seen people, like the poor widow with her two pennies and the poor churches of Macedonia, who positioned themselves to live generous lives in spite of their circumstances.

Today we have testimonies of those who have positioned themselves to be generous and were blessed as a result.

Testimonies of Generosity

A teenagers view of giving, saving, and living.

A government employee's view of provision through a difficult season.

A mother's view of blessings which came after blessing others.

A family's view of financial freedom as opposed to financial struggles.

God's Plan

God, the Generous One, desires to cultivate a generous spirit in and through us. After all, the source of our salvation is found in the words, “God so loved the world that He gave...!” He wants us to live a generous life that is developed out of what we have been given.

It seems at times, however, that we fail to realize that God wants us to be blessed.

- He doesn’t want us broken but wants us blessed.
- He doesn’t want us in bondage but wants us to walk in freedom.

He gave His only son so that we could be whole. He wants us to experience His shalom or His peace.

Being bound financially does not just mean being in debt, but it can also mean having or being controlled by finances. Paul’s words in 1 Timothy 6:6-10 are helpful as it discusses the influence of money and the proper perspective God wants us to have on it.

1 Timothy 6:6-9: 6 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. 7 After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. 8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. 9 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

The wholeness that Jesus wants for you does not only relate to your finances, but it also applies to every area of your life.

Luke 4:18-19: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”

Conclusion

Determine today that you are going to allow Jesus to make you whole.

Ask Jesus to be Lord over every area of your life, including your finances.

Believe by faith that He can do the impossible in and around you.

Start living generously and bless others that He places in your path.