

**DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY**

**Generosity:** having a heart to give freely and offer help to others

“ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

**IMPACT – Diversity****STARTER QUESTIONS:**

**When you think of riches, what are the first things that come to mind? Finances? Material possessions?**

**Do you feel rich, or do you find yourselves wishing for more?**

Ecclesiastes 5:10 says, "Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless." Hank said, "The desire to feel wealthy causes us problems." Do you agree with that statement?

**Hank mentioned that if you make \$45,000 annually, you're in the top 1% of wage earners world wide. How does this affect your personal definition of "rich?"**

**KEY SCRIPTURE:****1 Timothy 6:17-19 (TLB)**

“Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone, but their pride and trust should be in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven--it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.”

Let's look at some main points from this week's message:

"You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully."  
2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

**Has anything in your life ever influenced your amount of giving, or your tendency to give?**

**What might keep you from "giving cheerfully?"**

How we are to Give:

Thoughtfully	"...make up your own mind..."
Enthusiastically	"... not reluctantly..."
Voluntarily	"... not in response to pressure..."
Cheerfully	"God loves the person who gives cheerfully"

**How can a person truly give "cheerfully?"**

The Bible says, give because it feels good. During this IMPACT series, what giving have you, & your group, participated in that felt good?

Paul spoke to Timothy about how people, "should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them." 1 Timothy 6:18-19

**Has this series influenced you to be more generous with your time & money? In what ways?**

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16*

**Can you think of additional impact projects that you, as a group, can participate in or volunteer your time towards, that will enrich not only your lives, but the lives of others?**

Quotes related to this weeks topic:

"The heart that gives, gathers." -- Marianne Moore

"It's never about the money. It's about creating meaning and impact in your life and the lives around you." -- James Altucher

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."  
-- Calvin Coolidge

### **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

As Christians, we know that we are on this earth to be the hands and feet of Jesus. What God has so generously given to us, we give to the church, and to our community. As Paul said to Timothy, let us give thoughtfully, enthusiastically, voluntarily, and cheerfully, not only of our wages, but of ourselves-- may we be generous.

Read Deuteronomy 15:10

“Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything.”

**How can our group pray for you?**

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

#### **Additional Scriptures about Giving:**

2 Corinthians 9:11-13

Matthew 6:21

James 1:17

Proverbs 22:9

Romans 12:8 (NIV)

**IMPACT**  
"Diversify"  
November 26, 2017

If you make \$45,000 per year, you're in the top one percent of wage earners worldwide.

*"Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone, but their pride and trust should be in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven--it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well."* 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (TLB)

**God gives some practical advice about giving:**

*"You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully."*  
2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

**How we are to Give:**

- Thoughtfully  
"...make up your own mind..."
- Enthusiastically  
"... not reluctantly..."
- Voluntarily  
"... not in response to pressure..."
- Cheerfully  
"God loves the person who gives cheerfully"

**But how can you really give cheerfully?**

*"They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven--it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well."*  
1 Timothy 6:18-19 (TLB)

1. Remember it all comes from God.

*“...share with others whatever God has given...” (vs.18)*

2. Remember your eternal reward.

*“...storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—  
it is the only safe investment for eternity!” (vs.19a)*

3. Remember why you're still here.

*...be living a fruitful Christian life” (vs.19b)*