

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2017 / LOS ANGELES, CA

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A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, delicate yellow flower. The hand is positioned in the lower-left foreground, with fingers gently cupping the flower. The background is a lush field of similar yellow flowers and green foliage, slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth and natural beauty. The overall color palette is dominated by vibrant greens and bright yellows.

Open Handed

living simply. working diligently.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, delicate yellow flower. The hand is positioned in the lower-left foreground, with fingers gently cupping the flower. The background is a soft-focus field of green leaves and numerous other yellow flowers, creating a natural, outdoor setting. The lighting is bright and even, highlighting the textures of the skin and the petals.

2,350 verses on money

almost half of Jesus' stories were about money

Jesus said more about money than prayer, faith, heaven and hell combined

Why does the Bible mention this so much?

give
generously

live
simply

work
diligently



Living Simply

1. We want to live simply because God calls us stewards, not owners

- Managing the money God has given to us is different than giving our money away
- I can be open-handed with someone else's money!
- Abundance doesn't come from accumulation, but from our relationship with God
- Spending what I don't have is not the abundant life

Luke 12: ⁴² "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. ⁴³ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward.



Living Simply

1. We want to live simply because God calls us stewards, not owners
2. We want to live simply because we have God's heart for justice and equity

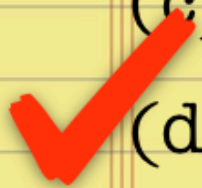
Luke 12: ⁴² "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. ⁴³ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward.

Which of the following is comparable to the size of a typical three-car garage?

- (a) a basketball court
- (b) a McDonald's restaurant
- (c) an "RV" (recreational vehicle)
- (d) the average home in the 1950s.

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The percentage of Americans calling themselves "very happy" reached its highest point in what year?

(a) 1957

(b) 1977

(c) 1997

(d) 2017

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(b) 1977

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(d) 2017

Americans carry \$1 billion in personal debt, not including real estate and mortgages.

(a) True

(b) False

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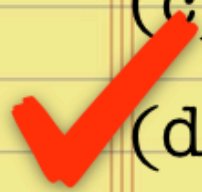


Since 1950, Americans alone have used more resources than:

- (a) everyone who ever lived before them
- (b) the combined Third World populations
- (c) the Romans at the height of the Roman Empire
- (d) all of the above

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Of the Americans who voluntarily cut back their consumption, what percent said (in 1995) that they are happier as a result?

(a) 29%

(b) 42%

(c) 67%

(d) 86%

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Living Simply

1. We want to live simply because God calls us stewards, not owners
2. We want to live simply because we have God's heart for justice and equity
3. Living Simply is understanding the Great Exchange
 - It's not just being cheap but giving
 - Fight discontent with generosity

Luke 12: ⁴² "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. ⁴³ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, delicate yellow flower. The hand is positioned in the lower-left foreground, with fingers gently cupping the stem. The background is a soft-focus field of many similar yellow flowers, creating a sense of a vast, natural setting. The overall lighting is bright and natural, suggesting an outdoor environment.

Working Diligently

We want to work diligently because

1. God has made us for work

John 5:17 - "My Father is always at work to this day, and I too am working"

Working Diligently

We want to work diligently because

1. God has made us for work

- The Bible mentions work 800 times - more than worship, music, praise and singing combined
- God made us to be co-workers with Him in bringing His purposes, order and Kingdom to earth
- St. Augustine (4th c) taught that the “spiritual” was more important than the “earthly”
- The Reformers clarified that we are all priests and we serve God in our regular life:

John 5:17 - “My Father is always at work to this day, and I too am working”



Working Diligently

We want to work diligently because

1. God has made us for work
2. This pleases the God who made us for good work (Eph 2.8-10)
 - We work for the Lord, not for ourselves, for stuff or for others
 - Steward your heart and attitude

Colossians 3.23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Working Diligently

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2. This pleases the God who made us for good work (Eph 2.8-10)
3. Hard work is God's provision for us

Phil 4.19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Prov 28:19 - Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty.

Live Simply

I am living beyond my means. God, help me restructure my finances.

Father, I don't trust you with my finances

I will live out the Great Exchange

God, I repent for spending for my wants instead of my needs

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Work Diligently

I need a change of heart where I am working. I serve you!

I need a job!

Help me to be a diligent worker in all 4 realms

God, help me to grow in diligence