

THE BLESSED LIFE part 1

“An Open heart”

“Being Blessed means having supernatural power working for you”

6 WEEK GENEROSITY JOURNEY!

4 QUESTIONS:

QUESTION 1: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Anyone ever stressed about finances?

Money controls most of our decisions and takes up a lot of space in our mind and emotions.

March 11,2024 Fortune.com 1/3 of Americans feel financially insecure.

-when I am insecure in ANY area of my life.....

.....I'm not making healthy decisions

29% of Americans worry about money daily

Recent CNN reports: 71% identify money as a “Significant” cause of stress

76% of households live paycheck to paycheck

Sleep foundation reports Nov 2023: 77% of Americans lose sleep over money at least some of the time.

PR Newswire: Only 1 in 10 Americans report living their definition of financial freedom.

Thrivent financial says 85% of Christians feel they do not have enough to share generously.

LET'S BE REAL: THIS IS WHY MANY FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE ALREADY!

-WHY? Because it is poking the bear!!

So why does this matter to God?

Because it matters to His kids!

FOR MANY, MONEY PUTS A WEIGHT ON US THAT AFFECTS OUR HEART!

-It CONTROLS so many of us!

How important is it?

1 in every 6 verses in the New Testament are about money

16 of the 38 parables Jesus taught us with are about money & possessions

Verses about faith...about 500

-prayer—500

-money—over 2,000

THE BLESSED LIFE: Books available! (Generous donation!!)

“Being Blessed means having supernatural power working for you”

-You are not alone! You don't need to carry it on your own!

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

I OFTEN APOLOGIZE WHEN I TALK ABOUT MONEY!

MY HEART: “It’s not what I want FROM you.....It’s what I want FOR you!”

FREEDOM! TRUE FREEDOM!

SO HERE IS OUR ROAD MAP!

TODAY: AN OPEN HEART! Inviting God into the conversation!

A WILLING HEART: GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

AN UNDERSTANDING HEART: THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST FRUITS

A CONTENT HEART: FIGHTING GREED AND WANTING MORE

A CURIOUS HEART: UNDERSTANDING THE TEST! TITHING

A TRUSTING HEART: MIRACLE HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE IT AWAY

QUESTION 1: WHY DOES IT MATTER? Because it matters to us!

QUESTION 2: WHAT DOES GOD WANT?

-More than ANYTHING.....GOD WANTS OUR HEARTS!

Matthew 6: 19-21 “Don’t store up for yourselves treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For wherever your treasure is, there your heart will also be.

-MONEY CAN MAKE PEOPLE CHANGE!

-Treat & look at people differently!

-Sometimes brings out the worst! CORRUPTION!

Matthew 19:23-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. ²⁴ I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

-WHY? Because money can become our idol.....even our God!

-We put our trust in it!

-We put our hope in it!

-We give it continual attention!

GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTING OUR HEARTS!

Luke 6:36-38 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ 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.”
One of the most famous giving verses!

Let’s put it all together:

- be merciful -show kindness & forgiveness
- don't judge -form an opinion or conclusion about
- don't condemn -sentence to punishment
- forgive -stop feeling angry or resentful for an offense
- GIVE -freely transfer or hand over

THESE ARE ALL HEART ISSUES!

Not in the context of money here.....about giving mercy and forgiveness & HAVING A GENEROUS HEART!

The Lord cares about our hearts and what holds us captive!

-EVERYTHING ON THAT LIST CAN HOLD OUR HEARTS CAPTIVE!

SO BACK TO THE QUESTION: WHAT DOES GOD WANT?

God wants our hearts!

QUESTION 1: WHY DOES IT MATTER? Because it matters to us!

QUESTION 2: WHAT DOES GOD WANT? Our Hearts!

QUESTION 3: WHAT DOES GIVING DO?

Acts 20:35 “Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

God did not create generosity because he needs our money or resources.

- God owns everything already and he is the creator of the World and everything that lives in it.

If He needed more money HE could just create it!

God actually created Giving for our benefit.

- Giving more than any other activity in our lives, works selfishness and greed out of our hearts and lives!

We are born with Selfishness and it grows like a weed!

- First words out of most of our mouths were “MINE”

It is this mindset that gives us so much stress!

MY PROBLEMS vs. OUR PROBLEMS!

- MY PROBLEMS: I feel alone & overwhelmed, like I have to do it all!
- OUR PROBLEMS: I feel like I am on a team and just have to do MY part!

BIG DIFFERENCE!

GOD WANTS TO PARTNER WITH US!! Like having ZILLIONAIRE Parents!

EXAMPLE: You are going to lose your house because you got behind!

-It's a Real problem that you can't fix on your own!

BUT: If you have ZILLIONAIRE Parents!

IT IS A MINDSET THAT STARTS IN OUR HEARTS:

-Is it MINE? Or is it GODS?

MAIN CHANGE IN THINKING THAT CAN GIVE US PEACE??

Owner vs. Steward

-OWNER: To have something as one's own.....to possess something.

-STEWARD: To manage or look after someone else's property!

Luke 6:45 Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks

When you look at investments and all the possessions that you have:

-“I've worked hard and done really well for myself”

-“God has really blessed me with so much more than I deserve”

What does giving do? Keeps me dependent on God! He is our source!

QUESTION 1: WHY DOES IT MATTER? Because it matters to us!

QUESTION 2: WHAT DOES GOD WANT? Our Hearts!

QUESTION 3: WHAT DOES GIVING DO? Kills selfishness!

LAST QUESTION: WHAT DOES GOD DO?

Law of sowing and reaping:

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.

PRINCIPLE: If you plant a seed, you don't just get another seed....you get a TREE!

-GIVE MERCY.....

-GIVE FORGIVENESS.....

-GIVE FINANCES.....

“It will be given back to you in “good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over”

Our main thinking is material gain NOW.....and not living in TRUE FREEDOM FOREVER!

QUESTION 1: WHY DOES IT MATTER? Because it matters to us!

QUESTION 2: WHAT DOES GOD WANT? Our Hearts!

QUESTION 3: WHAT DOES GIVING DO? Kills selfishness!

QUESTION 4: WHAT DOES GOD DO? He Multiplies!

Martin Luther said, "There are three conversions a person needs to experience: The conversion of the head, the conversion of the heart, and the conversion of the pocketbook."

