

BE GENEROUS

ONCE AGAIN, I LEARN MORE ABOUT MYSELF THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD AND IT'S APPLICATION TO MY LIFE

I WAS A JUNKY FROM 16-30, WHEN I WASN'T LOCKED UP EVERYTHING I GOT, I LOST. I WAS STOLEN FROM AND I STOLE FROM OTHERS. THIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MY "POVERTY" MENTALITY

REMEMBER LAST WEEK WHEN I SAID " EVERYTHING IN THE SPIRIT IS BACKWARDS TO THE FLESH?"

WE DIE TO LIVE AND WE GIVE TO RECEIVE

OUR WORLD IN THIS GENERATION ARE PUMPED FULL OF REASONS WHY WE SHOULD NOT BE GENEROUS

JUST TURN ON YOU T.V. OR LOOK AT A BILLBOARD

GET ALL YOU CAN, FILL UP THE CAN, AND SIT ON THE LID

EVERYONE FOR THEMSELVES, BECAUSE AFTER ALL, NOBODY'S LOOKING OUT FOR ME

I'VE BEEN BURNED SO MANY TIMES BY PEOPLE, I'LL NEVER TRUST ANYONE

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OF ANYTHING TO SHARE IT!

I UNDERSTAND THAT MENTALITY, I LIVED THAT WAY FOR MOST OF MY LIFE

I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT MONEY OR MATERIAL THINGS

WE CAN BE STINGY WITH OUR TIME, LOVE, FORGIVENESS,
GRACE, KINDNESS, AND MERCY ALSO

ITS EASY TO BE SELF ABSORBED AND SELF CENTERED

Galatians 6:7-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁷Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

WE AS CHRIST FOLLOWERS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE FAITH
IN GOD AS OUR PROVIDER OF ALL OF THESE THINGS
THEREFORE, WE ARE CALLED TO BE GENEROUS AND
JOYFULLY GIVE, TRUSTING OUR GOD AT HIS WORD NOT
ONLY TO REPLENISH, BUT GENEROUSLY GO ABOVE AND
BEYOND WHAT WE COULD EVER IMAGINE

Proverbs 11:24-25 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁴One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

²⁵A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

THIS IS NOT PROSPARITY PREACHING, I'M GIVING YOU
THE WORD OF GOD AND IT'S INFINIT POWER

THESE PRINCIPLES OF GOD SHOULD BE TREATED WITH
AS MUCH RESPECT OR MORE THAN OUR RESPECT FOR
GRAVITY

EXAMPLE OF FAITH IN GRAVITY

JESUS TELLS US THROUGH A PARABLE

Luke 12:13-21 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

LIFE, TRUE LIFE, THINGS THAT MAKE US SAY “I HAVE A GOOD LIFE” DO NOT INCLUDE THE “STUFF”

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

WORKING HARD AND HAVING MONEY AND THINGS ISNT BAD

WHEN IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR WALK WITH GOD AND WHAT GOD SAYS, IT IS

SAVING FOR THE FUTURE IS WISE, GREED IS NOT

BEING RICH TOWARDS GOD IS INVESTING EVERYTHING THAT WE ARE AND EVERYTHING WE HAVE IN HIM

COME HELL OR HIGH WATER LORD, I WILL HAVE FAITH IN YOU AND YOU ALONE....YOU MADE IT, YOU OWN IT, AND I AM A STEWARD OF WHAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME

WELL, I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CHRIS.....

JESUS SPEAKS TO THAT AS WELL

Luke 12:22-26 New International Version (NIV)

Do Not Worry

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

THE MAIN POINT JESUS IS TRYING TO MAKE IS, SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

LET YOUR FAITH BE IN HIM, NOT ON THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD

Luke 12:34 New International Version (NIV)

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

GOD IS CALLING US OUT OF THE BONDAGE THAT THIS WORLD PUTS ON US

THE BONDAGE OF SELFISHNESS, SELF-CENTEREDNESS, GREED, LACKING, AND WANTING

Psalm 24:1 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

YOU SEE, WE DON'T GIVE GOD ANYTHING, IT'S
ALREADY HIS

WE JUST GIVE IT BACK TO HIM BY BEING GENEROUS,
AND, BY DOING THIS, WE SEND OUR RICHES FORWARD

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES THIS INCLUDES US
TODAY

John 17:9-18 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of ^(a) your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by ^(b) that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by ^(c) the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING, WE ARE TO BE LIKE A BOAT ON THE WATER. WE DON'T WANT THE WATER IN THE BOAT, AND AS BELIEVERS, WE ARE IN THE WORLD, BUT WE DON'T WANT THE WORLD IN US. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE LEAKY, AND A LOT OF THE WORLD IS IN US

IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO REMIND OURSELVES OF THE TRUTH, THE WORD, ON A REGULAR BASIS BECAUSE...WE...FORGET...ALMOST INSTANTLY SOMETIMES

REAL GENUINE LIFE COMES FROM THE FREEDOM OF TOTAL SURRENDER TO GOD, FINANCIALLY, EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY

IN THIS WORLD, WE HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US

HERE IS SOME STATISTICS OF OUR AMERICAN LIFESTYLE

WE AMERICANS HAVE SET THE WORLD STANDARD FOR CONSUMERISM, CONSUMING 46% OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES AT 6% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION

IF YOUR FAMILY INCOME IS \$10,000 A YEAR, YOU ARE WEALTHIER THAN 84% OF THE WORLD

IF IT'S \$50,000 OR MORE A YEAR, YOU ARE WEALTHIER
THAN 99% OF THE REST OF THE WORLD

THERE ARE MORE THAN A BILLION PEOPLE NOW
LIVING ON LESS THAN \$1 PER DAY

HERE IS MY POINT, WE HAVE BEEN BORN AND RAISED
ON CONSUMING... BIGGER, BETTER, FASTER, AND
MORE,,MORE,,MORE

NO WONDER WE STRESS ON THE "STUFF"

We Reap What We Invest.

In nature, the harvest comes only after sowing. In football, the touchdown comes after the run or the pass. In science, the discovery comes after the experiment. The effort produces the effect. It's the same in the spiritual realm

Proverbs 11:18 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁸ A wicked person earns deceptive wages,
but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

Investments result in expectations. It's a matter of faith. We invest, and then we believe God for the return. And you can be assured that no financial statement on earth will ever reflect a greater return on investment than what we will receive from our Heavenly Father.

Our returns will not always be given in dollars.

There are more important things than monetary reward: peace, love, joy, purpose, family, talents. The list of benefits is nearly endless--but it all starts with our personal investment

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ 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.

THIS WHOLE MESSAGE IS TO REMIND AND ENCOURAGE US TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE....CONSTANTLY TAP INTO THE INVESTMENT THAT BRINGS DIVIDENDS ETERNALLY AND IN THIS LIFE

ALL OF THE STUFF WE HAVE HERE ON EARTH WILL STAY HERE ON EARTH WHEN WE GO

Matthew 6:19-21 *New International Version (NIV)*

Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

WHERE IS OUR TREASURE ?