

Habits

ANCIENT PRACTICES FOR TODAY'S WORLD

OPENING UP



What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the spiritual rhythm of generosity?
How have you practiced generosity in the past?

TEXT



Developing a Lifestyle of Generosity | 1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: True Life Doesn't Come from Riches

1. Guard against placing hope in temporary hope (v. 17)
2. Be generous with your God-given resources (v. 17b-18)
3. Invest in eternal treasures (v. 19)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- From the teaching today we learned that as followers of Jesus we cannot pursue greed and materialism and grow spiritually at the same time. Why do you think that is? How does that challenge the way you view your possessions?
- In 1 Timothy 6:10 Paul teaches that “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.” Why do think the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil? What are the dangers of the love of money that you experienced or witnessed? What ways do you guard yourself against placing hope in temporary wealth?
- When we think about the resources that God has blessed you with (time, treasure, talent) how does our perspective change if you see yourself as a manager or steward instead of an owner of those resources?
- Of the resources that God has blessed you with, which is easiest for you to be generous with? Which is most difficult for you to share?
- What are some of the eternal treasures you can invest in today?

CHALLENGE



As we live in a world that celebrates greed and materialism it is important to reject those worldly pursuit and instead pursue that habit of generosity. Generosity is a lifestyle that is opposite to the lifestyle of greed and materialism. Generosity is a lifestyle in which we share all that we are and all we have, “as a demonstration of God’s love and a response to God’s grace. Generosity flows from an understanding that all we have, are, or will ever become, is not ours to possess. Generosity results in practically sharing with others what we’ve been given for the advancement of the kingdom and the glory of God”.

Discuss as a Life Group in what ways you personally commit to grow in the habit of generosity with your time, treasure, or talent? Choose at least one area you will apply the spiritual habit of generosity.

PRAYER



Father thank you for being generous toward us that while we were still sinners you sent Jesus to die for us. Thank you for richly blessing us with your grace and mercy. We thank you for filling our lives with blessings of time, treasure, and talents. Help us always to remember that all we have and all that we are is a gift from you.

Lord please forgive us for the times that we held on to the gifts that you have given us with clinched hands. By your grace we pray that you will help us live as faithful stewards of these resources. May the generosity that you have shown us lead us to live our lives with open hands. May the joy that comes with living generously always fill our hearts and lives.