

Faithful With Finances-Week 3



How to use this resource: Set aside 15-30 minutes to engage the daily material. If you're married it's best to engage together. Have your Bible ready and your heart open to hear from the Lord. If you have children in your home, it's so beneficial to them when you share what the Lord is teaching you and how his teaching is transforming your attitudes and behavior.

So now...Let's Go!

Week 3 – Why we don't give generously.

Day 1 Why we don't give generously: Misplaced citizenship

*Scripture to read:

1 Peter 2

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles (in this world), to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

2 Corinthians 5

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Randy Alcorn has some helpful insight on a Christian's citizenship:

"Where we choose to store our treasure largely depends on where we think our home is.

Suppose your home is in France and you're visiting America for three months, living in a hotel.

You're told that you can't bring anything with you upon your return to France, but you can earn money and mail deposits back to your bank France while in America. Would you then fill your hotel room in America with expensive furniture, wall hangings and fixtures? Of course not.

You'd send your money where your home is, and spend only what was needed to maintain your temporary residence, knowing that the treasure you sent ahead will be waiting for you when you get home." From *The Treasure Principle*

*Questions to answer

-Does Randy's illustration of citizenship behavior resonate with you?

-One thing I (Mitch) have come to understand about my citizenship is that my heart becomes attached to the place I invest my treasure in. If I invest my treasure in this temporary world, the

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reality of my eternal home begins to fade, and I actually begin to fear leaving this temporary place! Ouch! Do you experience the same kind of anxiety?

Prayer to pray: Pray according to lessons being learned and God's leading.

Day 2 – Why we don't give generously: In a word - Greed.

*Scripture to read: 1 Timothy 6:6-10 Use your own Bible to read Paul's instruction on contentment and greed to his protege' Timothy.

*Questions to answer

-In verse 6, What character traits are described as 'great gain'? Are you in possession of these traits?

-In verse 8, what does Paul list as the basic material realities that bring contentment? How strange does this sound to someone afflicted with Afflunza? (Affluenza is the spiritual virus of wealth accumulation and hoarding)

-In verse 10, what is proposed as the 'root of all kinds of evil'? What happens to some who are 'eager for money'? Have you experienced these consequences? Are you experiencing them now?

Prayer to pray: "Lord, show me, again, that you are the source of my contentment. Show me, again, that you have *already* provided more than I will ever need. I give you permission to crucify my eagerness (greediness) for money so that I can begin a journey toward generosity and contentment. BIG prayer, BIGGER God. AMEN!"

Day 3 – Why we don't give generously: Misplaced hope.

*Scripture to read: 1 Timothy 6:17

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.

*Questions to answer

- 'Command' is a strong word! Do you see yourself in the group (...rich in this present world) that Timothy is told to command? If you don't you should, and so should I. Maybe the command is needed to wake us up!

-Paul speaks directly to the two choices for our 'hope placement'. What are they? Which of the two is the object of your hope, the 'uncertain' or the trusted provider?

Prayer to pray: Father, thank you for being the trustworthy object of my hope! AMEN.

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Day 4 – Why we don't give generously: Spiritual Poverty.

*Scripture to read: Revelation 3:14-19 Use your own Bible to read Jesus' stern, sobering, and possibly frightening rebuke to people who probably had a lot in common with us.

*Questions to answer

- In verse 15, Jesus says he knows about the deeds, or works, or behaviors of the people in this church. How does Jesus describe this behavior? What is the 'spiritual temperature' of this group?
- In verse 16, Jesus describes what he is 'about to do' in response to the spiritual condition of the group. What do you think this action means?
- In verse 17, what statements are these people saying about their material possessions and their needs? Does Jesus affirm that being wealthy is the remedy to neediness? If he doesn't affirm, what is his position? ('But you do not realize that you are...')
- in verse 18, what counsel does Jesus give as a remedy for this spiritual poverty?
- In verse 19, where can we find encouragement in the face of rebuke? What should be our active response to discipline and rebuke?

Prayer to pray: Pray according to lessons being learned and God's leading.

Day 5 – Why we don't give generously: "I'm in a prison of debt".

*Scripture to read: This is your opportunity to feed yourself! Following are propositions, from Scripture, on the consequences of personal and family debt. You can take these at face value (not recommended) or search using a concordance, online engines and these keywords (recommended).

Debt's consequences:

1. Debt is a form of slavery.
2. Debt prevents rest.
3. Debt is a procrastinator's way of 'spending' money.
4. Debt is a metaphor for sin.
5. Debt compromises your ability to provide.
6. Debt compromises your ability to be generous.
7. Debt conflicts with a hard-working mindset.
8. Debt stunts the benefits of practicing delayed gratification.

*Questions to answer

- Debt is a form of slavery. Agree? Remedy for slavery? Scriptural support?
- Debt prevents rest. Agree? Remedy for exhaustion? Scriptural support?
- Debt is a metaphor for sin (EEK!). Agree? What does repentance look like? Scriptural support?
- Discuss other provocative consequences, agreements, remedies, and Scriptural support.

Prayer to pray: Pray according to lessons being learned and God's leading.