

## Faithful With Finances-Week 4



**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 at 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 4 – Getting Started and Growing Further.**

#### **Day 1 – Deciding what to give, Part 1: Allowing 'sacrificial' and 'generous' to be synonyms**

\*Scripture to read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 Use your own Bible to read Paul's examples of sacrificial generosity.

\*Questions to answer

-In verses 1 & 2, What 'strange behaviors' did the Macedonian churches exhibit in the midst of severe trial and extreme poverty? How were these churches able to behave in this way? (see verse 1)

-In verses 3 & 4, What do these churches plead for? Would you describe their giving as sacrificial? Why? Why not? What helpful keywords are there in the text?

-In verse 7, what behaviors does Paul encourage the Corinthians to excel in?

-Finally, and most importantly, who does Paul hold up as the ultimate example of sacrificial generosity?

-Do you ever 'give till it hurts'? Crazier still, do you 'plead' for the privilege of sharing in the work of the Kingdom?

\*Question to ask God in prayer: "Lord, in Your Word, You make a direct connection between experiencing grace and expressing grace through giving. So does the degree of my giving suggest that I have recognized and embraced Your grace?"

#### **Day 2 Deciding what to give, Part 2: Give to God First**

\*Scripture to read:

##### Proverbs 3:9-10

**9** Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;

**10** then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

## Faithful With Finances-Week 4

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income,

\*Questions to answer

-Are you familiar with the term 'first fruits'? What do you think it means in the context of your financial giving?

-What blessings are promised for obedience to 'first fruits' giving? For additional color on this subject, read 2 Corinthians 9:10-15.

-Are you a 'first fruits' giver? If so, I'd like to hear from you so we can encourage each other with stories of God's faithfulness!

-Is 'Kingdom generosity' a line item in your household budget? Do you operate according to a budget?

-Sadly, most Christians have a habit of giving God financial leftovers, if anything. Is that your pattern?

\*Question to ask God in prayer: "Lord, I've sometimes wondered why You're not blessing me more financially. Could it be that I've been spending money on myself first rather than giving You the first fruits? Have I placed myself under Your discipline?"

### Day 3 - Generous Giving: Commit to a life of *Blessing*

\*Scripture to read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

\*Questions to answer

-In verse 6, what 'law' does Paul remind us of?

-How would you characterize your 'sowing into God's work'? Could you sow more? What does the text say is the benefit of increased 'sowing'?

-Looking again at verse 7, how do you decide what to give? Through prayer (recommended), or casually, not giving it much thought?

-Contained in verse 8 are at least 2 promises attached to God's ability to bless you abundantly. What are they?

## Faithful With Finances-Week 4

\*Question to ask God in prayer: Lord, if I were to make a list of all the assets You've entrusted to me, Lord, and ask what You want me to give away, is there anything—house, car, real estate, retirement funds, bank accounts—that I'm treating as untouchable?"

### Day 4 - Generous Giving: Commit to a *LONGER* term investment portfolio

\*Scripture to read: 1 Timothy 6:18-19

<sup>18</sup> Command them (those who are rich) to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> 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.

\*Questions to answer

-These verses are a continued conversation that began in verse 17 with a warning to trust God and not wealth. In verse 18, what are the particulars of the command to the rich (of which you are one)?

-Verse 19 contains promise language for the 'eternity-minded investor'. What are the results of investing for 'the coming age'? Where does Paul say 'true life' is lived?

-Where, and for *when*, are you currently investing-This fleeting life or for the coming age?

\*Question to ask God in prayer: "Lord, I realize that in most places around the world, I would be regarded as extremely wealthy (even if I am lower- or middle-class in this place and time). Have You put so much into my hands because You have blessed me with the gift of giving? What have I been missing out on by not exercising this gift to a greater degree?"

### Day 5 – Generous Giving: Remember to keep Jesus' promises in mind!

\*Scripture to read: Luke 6:38

<sup>38</sup> "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."

\*Questions to answer

-In light of God's promises for managing his money well, what's keeping you from excellent giving?

\*Question to ask God in prayer: "Father, please empower me to live each day here like I will wish I'd lived five minutes after I die. Help me look forward to Heaven and the New Earth and to storing up treasures there. I long to hear from You: "Well done, good and faithful servant.... Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:21). What steps can I take to make this happen?"