

Everything we have belongs to **GOD**,

views of wealth

stewardship (caretaking) Lev. 25:23; Deut. 10:14; Ps. 50:10-12

↓ and he **ENTRUSTS** it to us

live, give, build 1 Timothy 6:17; 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

↑ to **STEWARD** well.

scripture gives us principles (not detailed instructions!) for giving

Our Giving Should Be...

1. Regular 1 Corinthians 16:2
2. Proportional 1 Corinthians 16:2
3. Sacrificial 2 Corinthians 8:2
4. Voluntary 2 Corinthians 9:7a
5. Joyful 2 Corinthians 9:7b

practicing the good life.

Part 1: Listen to God's Spirit...

This week we want to practice listening to God and what he has to say to us about our possessions.

Take a few deep breaths, and invite the Holy Spirit to fill your mind and heart. **Read Proverbs 3:6** and **Hebrews 3:15**. Then quietly wait after each prompt for the Spirit to bring to your mind any thoughts or feelings or desires he has for you.

- God, is there anything about my current stewardship (giving, living, or building) that you want me to change?
- Do you want me to give differently?
- Do you want me to live differently?
- Do you want me to build differently?

If you've genuinely asked the Spirit to speak over your life, and you sense peace over the way things are, enjoy your life with joy and contentment. But if you sense the Spirit moving you to change your budget or to give in a new way, move quickly to obey, and watch what happens in your heart and life.

As we follow Jesus, "surely [his] goodness and mercy will follow us."

Part 2: Enjoy something good in your life & share it with another.

In one of the Apostle Paul's passages on generosity, he commands the rich "to be generous and willing to share," **and** he reminds them that God "richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

Generosity thrives best when held in tandem with the discipline of celebration.

Here are a few ideas to spark your imagination:

- Take someone out to a nice dinner.
- Open that bottle of wine you've been saving with a good friend.
- Watch a sunset with your family and give thanks for your life.
- Take a kid from your community who doesn't have a healthy family situation out for ice cream.
- Cook a really good dinner and savor it with your family or friends.
- Throw a party to celebrate a milestone in your life or someone in your community.
- Go take in an art museum or public park with someone you love, and pay close, unhurried attention to beauty & goodness.

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



Grow.

Food for Thought

Questions & Scripture for Further Study & Reflection

What is this? – Normally this section includes questions and a study for our Life Groups. If you're not in one, you should sign up in the Commons, let us know on a Connect Card (pew rack or in the app), or contact the church office! Most groups break for the holidays, but others will continue and use this for their study time together. Instead of our normal study guide, this is a smaller study and some questions for you to reflect/journal on throughout the week. Look for sign-ups for new groups this month!

Food for Thought...

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. What emotions surface in you as you consider Jesus' parable of the faithful and wise manager: How does it encourage you? How does it challenge you?
2. In your family of origin, what were the views & emotional dispositions towards money? In what ways have those shaped your relationship to money today?
3. Share about a time when you asked God about a financial decision in your life and listened for his direction.
4. How could the truth that everything belongs to God free you to live more generously?

In practices like generosity, we must remember that spiritual habits are not religious mechanisms to twist God's favor towards us or behavioral checkboxes on a Christian scorecard. Much more profoundly, they are ways we open up our deepest selves to be transformed by the life and love of the Trinity. The habits/disciplines can ultimately transform our lives because they are channels for the Spirit to transform our hearts.

*Today let's look at **Ecclesiastes 5:10-20**, where the author invites us to take an honest journey into the movements of our inner life: moving the magnifying glass from our behaviors around wealth to our love of it. This is, perhaps, one of the most important reflections we can undertake in this practice of generosity, for in the poignant words of the Italian saint St. Clare of Assisi, "we become what we love."*

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-20, then answer the questions that follow below...






(Food for Thought continues on back panel...)

WELCOME TO WAWAWSEE

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

This is who we hope you grow to become at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

-  1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
-  2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
-  3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
-  4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
-  5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: 2 Corinthians 9:8-11 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁸ And God is **able** to **make** all **grace** **abound** to you, so that **having** all **sufficiency** in all **things** at all **times**, you may **abound** in **every good** work. ⁹ As it is written, "He has **distributed freely**, he has **given** to the **poor**; his **righteousness endures forever.**" ¹⁰ He who **supplies seed** to the **sower** and **bread** for **food** will **supply** and **multiply** your **seed** for **sowing** and **increase** the **harvest** of your **righteousness.** ¹¹ You will be **enriched** in **every** way to be **generous** in **every** way, which through us will **produce** **thanksgiving** to God.

F V T G O O D P S G R S L Y
 P T H I D T B R E A D O H H
 T H A V I N G O E B H W S A
 I I N E D S S D D O D I F R
 M N K N I S O U G U T N O V
 E G S F S U W C E N A G R E
 S S G O T F E E N D U R E S
 A M I O R F R E E L Y T V T
 U U V D I I N C R E A S E H
 N L I G B C P K O E V E R Y
 G T N P U I O S U P P L Y R
 R I G H T E O U S N E S S A
 A P T S E N R I C H E D A B
 C L E D D C F E H S S B V L
 E Y A S I Y T E K E M A K E



Food for Thought (continued)

5. In what ways have you seen the "love of money" negatively impact our world?
6. Pay attention to what the author of Ecclesiastes considers "grievous evils." How does the evil identified there differ from what might be deemed evil by our surrounding culture?
7. The line between making more money and beginning to love it can be difficult to spot. How do you think people can discern and avoid that trap?
8. Read Randy Alcorn's above summary of Eccl. 5:10-15 below (compare with your bible as you read). Which line most stands out to you and why?

Here is how Randy Alcorn summarizes the wisdom in verses 10-15:

- v10:** The more you have, the more you want.
- v10:** The more you have, the less you're satisfied.
- v11:** The more you have, the more people (including the government) will come after it.
- v11:** The more you have, the more you realize it does you no good.
- v12:** The more you have, the more you have to worry about.
- v13:** The more you have, the more you can hurt yourself by holding onto it.
- v14:** The more you have, the more you have to lose.
- v15:** The more you have, the more you'll leave behind.

Practicing the Good Life...

Review the "Practicing the Good Life" section from the Message Notes. Then reflect on the questions below...

9. Do you see generosity primarily through the lens of sacrifice or joy? Why do you think that is?
10. How was your experience beginning this week's Practice with listening prayer?
11. What did you sense the Spirit leading you towards?
12. Did you experience hesitancy or excitement in inviting God to speak directly to your generosity? Why?

This week's Food for Thought is adapted from "The Generosity Practice" (pages 59-61) published for free by Practicing the Way. Learn more at practicingtheway.org.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

2035 East 1300 North | Milford, Indiana 46542 | 574-658-9161 | wawaseebible.com

the good life.

Sunday, January 19, 2025

PART 3

God's Stuff

LUKE 12:35-48



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our App with Bulletin, Connect Card, Giving, & More...

<https://wawasee.today>