

Ten Biblical principles about money and wealth
A survey of Scripture
Principle 7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially

1. Principle 7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially
2. The Holy Bible is our source to understand God's generous and sacrificial heart
 - i. The goal of our study is a transformed heart
3. The underlying theme of this seminar
 - i. God wants our heart
 - b. The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)
4. Principle #7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially
 - i. Outline
 - b. Part I. Cultivate a generous heart
 - i. Key Bible passages
 - ii. 12 keys for living a more generous life
 - iii. The Blessings Fund
 - iv. A secret to joyful giving
 - v. Ten blessings of generosity
 - c. Part II. Live sacrificially
 - i. The Biblical model of sacrificial living
 - ii. Biblical teaching on sacrificial living
 - iii. Sacrificial gifts are precious in the sight of God
5. Part I. Cultivate a generous heart
6. Key Bible passage
 - i. Paul's encouragement to the church at Corinth to give a generous, cheerful gift
 - b. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. 2 Corinthians 9:5
 - c. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." 2 Corinthians 9:9
 - d. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-8
7. Generous giving vs faithful giving
 - a. Generous giving may differ from regular giving. It depends on motive, timing, etc.
 - b. Regular, systematic giving is a step of obedience and a sign of our devotion. It does not depend so much on our attitude as it does our commitment. God wants us to be a faithful giver.

- c. Generosity, on the other hand, voluntarily goes above and beyond our commitments. It is a cheerful, discretionary choice--sometimes sacrificially--to invest our resources in the lives of others and for the kingdom of God.
 - d. Both types of giving, faithful and generous, are most pleasing to God when done humbly, willingly and joyfully from hearts of love and thanksgiving
8. A perspective on generosity
- a. The Greek word for the spiritual gift of giving is Metadidomi. It simply means “to impart” or “to give.” However, this word is accompanied in Romans 12:8 by another descriptive word: Haplotes. This word tells us much more about the kind of giving that is associated with this gift. The word Haplotes means “sincerely, generously and without pretense or hypocrisy.” The Holy Spirit imparts this gift to some in the church to meet the various needs of the church and its ministries, missionaries, or of people who do not have the means to provide fully for themselves.
9. A perspective on generosity (cont’d)
- a. The goal is to encourage and provide, giving all credit to God’s love and provision. Those with this gift love to share with others the overflow of blessings God has given them. They are typically very hospitable and will seek out ways and opportunities to help others. They are also excellent stewards and will often adjust their lifestyles in order to give more to the spread of the Gospel and the care of the needy. They are grateful when someone shares a need with them, and are always joyful when they can meet that need. See Romans 12:8, 13, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-15; Acts 4:32-37, Galatians 4:15, Philippians 4:10-18.
Source: spiritualgiftstest.com
10. For some, “haplotes” generosity seems to come naturally. For others, even “metadidomi” must be developed through intentionality and practice
11. 12 Keys to living a generous life Kluth, etal
- a. Study the Scriptures on finances and generosity
 - b. Realize that God himself has a generous heart
 - c. Thank God for what he has generously provided in our lives
 - d. Submit ourselves and all we have to the Lord
 - e. Keep eternity and God’s kingdom in mind
 - f. Practice a lifestyle of inner joy and contentment
 - i. Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NLT)
12. 12 Keys (cont’d)
- a. Remember it is not the amount we give but the attitude with which we give
 - b. Let your generosity be the outward expression of our love, gratitude, and devotion to God
 - c. Develop a lifestyle which allows generosity to happen
 - i. Practice a non-consumptive lifestyle
 - ii. Live below our means in order to create margin

- iii. Be deliberate and systematic in our regular giving
 - d. Believe that God can multiply any gift, no matter how small, to produce miraculous results for the kingdom
 - e. Cultivate a “haplotes” generous heart through prayer and practice
 - f. Create a “Blessings Fund” from our margin so that we will be ready to be generous as needs arise
13. Question for discussion
- i. What are some important keys you have discovered to help you be more generous?
 - b. Have something available to give
 - c. Develop a non-consumptive lifestyle
 - d. Participate in benevolence endeavors
14. A secret to practicing generosity
- i. What could that be?
15. The “Blessings Fund”
- i. A wonderful way to practice generosity
16. The “Blessings Fund”
- i. Cheerfully set aside some of our margin to bless others
17. The “Blessings Fund”
- i. Inspired by Brian Kluth
 - b. A “Blessings Fund” is a store of money or goods given in advance to the Lord, which we set aside out of our margin after our regular giving.
 - c. It is something we give joyfully, cheerfully and willingly.
 - d. It’s purpose is to be able to spontaneously respond to needs and opportunities when they arise.
 - e. Hint: set aside your blessing, no matter how small, early in the month
18. Bhutan Bible
- i. A true story about Brian Kluth
19. Pat’s lesson
- i. “God’s money”
 - b. Pat , now in her late 80's, recalls as a little girl finding \$2 in a drawer. She had been looking for money to buy some candy. When she ran to her mother and said there was money to buy candy, her mother said “No, there is no money”. “But mother, said the girl, there is \$2 in the drawer!”. “Honey, that’s God’s money. I set it aside from money I earned. That doesn’t belong to us”
20. A secret to joyful giving
- a. “Since the money in our Blessings Fund is no longer ours but God’s, we can respond to needs and opportunities spontaneously, enthusiastically, and joyfully”
Prov 13:22, Prov 28:27
21. Have you ever prayed that God would use your life in the following ways?
- a. Encourage others to be thankful to God?
 - b. Influence others to glorify God?
 - c. Be a model for others to follow the Lord?
 - d. Cause others to feel your love for them?
 - e. Experience the prayers of God’s people?

- f. Desired the love of others?
 - g. Overflow with His grace?
 - h. Build treasure in heaven?
22. There is a simple way to see these things happen, and more
23. The way? Give willingly and generously to our poor brothers and sisters in Christ
24. Ten blessings of generosity
- i. A study of 2 Cor 8:24, 9:7-15 and Luke 12:33
 - b. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.
25. Ten blessings (cont'd)
- a. "For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.
26. Ten blessings (cont'd)
- a. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words! 2 Corinthians 9:7-15(NLT)
 - b. So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified. 2 Cor 8:24 (NLT)
 - c. "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Luke 12:33 (NLT)
27. Ten blessings resulting from generously giving to our needy Christian brothers and sisters
28. 1. The needs of the poor will be met
- a. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. 2 Corinthians 9:12 (NLT)
29. 2. They will give thanks to God, *with joy*
- a. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. 2 Corinthians 9:12 (NLT)
30. 3. God will enrich you and produce great generosity in you
- a. For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the

same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. 2 Corinthians 9:10(NLT)

31. 4. The ones who are blessed will give God glory
32. 5. You will visibly demonstrate to others your obedience to God
 - a. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 2 Corinthians 9:13(NLT)
33. 6. They will experience your love for them
 - a. So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified. 2 Corinthians 8:24 (NLT)
34. 7. They will pray for you
35. 8. They will express their love for you to God
 - a. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. 2 Corinthians 9:14 (NLT)
36. 9. God's grace will overflow in your life
 - a. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. 2 Corinthians 9:14 (NLT)
37. 10. You will build treasure in heaven
 - a. "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Luke 12:33
38. Review of 10 blessings
 - i. Amazing promises from 2 Cor 8 and 9 and Luke 12
 - b. 1. The needs of the poor Christians will be met 9:12
 - c. 2. They will give joyfully give thanks to God 9:12
 - d. 3. God will enrich you and produce great generosity in you 9:10
 - e. 4. They will give God glory 9:13
 - f. 5. You will demonstrate to others your obedience to God 9:13
 - g. 6. They will experience your love for them 8:24
 - h. 7. They will pray for you 9:14
 - i. 8. They will express their love for you to God 9:14
 - j. 9. God's grace will overflow in your life 9:14
 - k. 10. You will build treasure in heaven (Luke 12:33)
39. A final thought from Brian Kluth
 - a. "If we don't set aside resources and time to give, every request for help will make us feel tight-fisted, pressured, and sometimes even angry. But when we intentionally set aside finances, time, and things for the Lord, we will actually be excited and will prayerfully look for God-given opportunities to give, share, and serve. This "set-aside" secret will truly change our lives and allow us to live open-handed in a tight-fisted world." (Kluth, 7 Keys, day 18)
40. Questions for discussion
 - a. What are your thoughts about establishing a "Blessings Fund"?
 - b. How has this study blessed your heart?
41. Quiz
 - i. Multiple choice or True/False
 - b. Create one or more quizzes that deal with this module

- c. Usually 4 or 5 choices or statements work best for each quiz
 - d. After allowing a minute or two for the students to complete the quiz, go over the answers. For false statements, ask the class what change could be made to make the statement true
42. Class exercise
- i. 5 minutes
 - b. Name at least one of your most prized possessions, proven skills and abilities, available time, or stored up resources. What are some ways you could better utilize these resources for the kingdom of God?
43. Part II. Practice sacrificial living
44. Offer ourselves to God
- a. And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Romans 12:1 (NLT)
45. The Biblical model of sacrificial living
- i. God gave His Son as a sacrifice for us
 - b. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. Ephesians 5:2 (NLT)
46. Sacrificial gifts are precious in the sight of God
- i. Two Biblical examples
 - b. The poor widow Helping those in need
47. Example 1. Helping those in need
- a. And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God. Hebrews 13:14 -16 (NLT)
 - b. Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free. Ephesians 6:8 (NLT)
48. Class discussion
- a. Give a personal example from you own life or someone you know who was a neighbor to the point of personal sacrifice?
 - b. What are the various categories of sacrifice?
 - c. In what ways are courage and commitment related to sacrifice?
49. Example 2. The poor widow
- a. Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.
50. The poor widow (cont'd)
- a. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44(NLT)
51. The poor widow
- i. Lessons
 - b. The amount we give is not as important as the degree of sacrifice

- c. The greater the sacrifice, the more commendable the gift
 - d. Some sacrificial gifts may bless others immediately and continue to bless others for a long time.
 - e. Other sacrificial gifts may not begin blessing others until after we are gone
52. Questions for discussion
- a. How have you been influenced by the story of the poor widow?
 - b. Does the idea of sacrifice apply to other areas of our lives, such as time and talent?
53. Principle #7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially
- i. Summary
 - b. Generosity is consistent with God's character.
 - c. The Bible encourages and even commands us to live sacrificially so that we might bless others that are in need.
 - d. When we give freely and generously to poor believers in need, the result is a bounty of blessings to both giver and recipient.
 - e. A "Blessings Fund" is a wonderful and practical tool for living a generous life and building heavenly treasure.
 - f. God will reward those who sacrifice their own interests for the sake of Jesus Christ.
54. Essay
- i. 15 minutes
 - b. Write an essay on the following 3 topics:
 1. How this section on generosity and sacrificial living touched your heart?
 2. List some actions you will consider in your own life in order to become a more generous person
 3. List some ways you can encourage the people in your church to become more generous.
55. Ten Biblical principles about money and wealth
- i. A survey of Scripture