

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (MSG)

Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. ⁷ I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

⁸ God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.

⁹ As one psalmist puts it, He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out.

¹⁰ This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, ¹¹ wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

What's your 1st Step in Honoring God with your Finances?

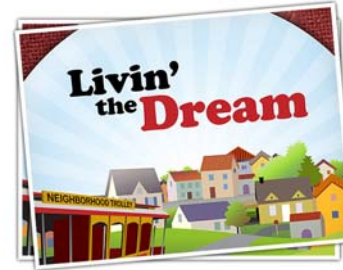
Initial Gift - Test it!

Malachi 3:10 (NCV) Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house. **Test me** in this," says the Lord All-Powerful. "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need.

Consistent Giving - Repeat it!

Lifestyle Giving - Prove it!

Extravagant Giving - Enjoy it!



PINELLAS COMMUNITY CHURCH
MESSAGE NOTES
February 7, 2010
Speaker: Mark Canfield (Lead Pastor)
Series: Livin' the Dream
Title: Entitled

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Genesis 18:18 (GW) Abraham is going to become a great and mighty nation and through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Why have I been Blessed?

Psalms 84:11 (TLB) For Jehovah God is our Light and our Protector. He gives us grace and glory. No good thing will he withhold from those who walk along his paths.

What is God's Dream – His Plan – for Your Life?



connect



grow



serve



share



honor



Digging In

Do you believe that God has a dream – a plan for your life? Do you believe that His Plan includes some level of prosperity – both now and in eternity? If we can't "see" it or imagine it to be true, we will never take the steps toward living God's plan.

Personal Reflection:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (see message outline).
2. A farmer understands that if he eats all or most of his seed, there won't have enough to plant later. No seed – no harvest. Do you ever view your money as seed?
3. If you had a farmers mentality, how might you treat your finances differently?
4. When you give, is it a delight or a chore? If it's a chore, why?
5. God doesn't want us to give out of guilt. If you do, how can you get to a place where giving is fun?
6. Read vs. 8 again and look at the attitude God wants us to have towards giving. If you took that attitude that everything comes from God, how might that help you give more freely?
7. Have you experienced the extravagance of God in your Life? Have you ever told anyone about it? It's not bragging to talk about God!!
8. Why does God bless us? Why does He give extravagantly?
9. In the end, what does our generosity produce in other people?
10. God isn't after your money; He's after your heart. Money and possessions is often the doorway to your heart, and your level of generosity reveals the level of God's grasp on your lives.

What's the next step you need to take in your finances to draw closer to God?

Initial Step - Test it!

Consistent Steps - Repeat it!

Lifestyle Steps (Tithe) - Prove it!

Extravagant Steps - Enjoy it!

Going Deeper

Books

Generosity Factor: Discover the Joy of Giving Your Time, Talent, and Treasure – Ken Blanchard

Generosity: Moving Toward Life That Is Truly Life –
Gordon MacDonald

The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness -
Third Edition: Dave Ramsey

How to Manage Your Money: An In-Depth Bible Study On Personal Finances - Larry Burkett

How You Can Experience the Adventure of Giving – Bill Bright

Heart, Soul, and Money: A Christian View of Possessions –
Craig L. Blomberg

Web Sites

www.DaveRamsey.com

www.ManagingMoneyGodsWay.com

www.GuideStoneRetirement.org

Small Groups

Financial Peace University

Start Date: February 4, 2010

Time: Thursday 7 pm

Location: Room 301

Maximizing Your Money

Start Date: February 11, 2010

Time: Thursday 7pm

Location: Preschool Room