



## HAPPY LIFE: MONEY IS A TRADEMARK | DECEMBER 2, 2018

### INTRODUCTION

Over the last two weeks we've looked at how money is a tool God gives to advance the kingdom, and how it is a test that reveals your heart. But how you use your finances is also the Trademark of a generous God! What does God's Trademark look like?

### SCRIPTURE

*<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. <sup>9</sup>As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup>Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup>And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (MSG)

### GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What saying best describes the way you view money?
  - ☐ "Waste not, want not."
  - ☐ "Eat, drink, and be merry."
  - ☐ "You can't take it with you."
  - ☐ "A penny saved is a penny earned."
  - ☐ "Penny wise, pound foolish."
  - ☐ "The one with the most toys at the end wins."
2. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. List the principles and promises related to giving in this passage. Do any particularly stand out to you? Why?

3. What does it mean to give “*under compulsion*” (v. 7)? Have you ever done this?
4. Do you believe it is possible to have a vibrant faith and yet be ungenerous towards others? Why or why not?
5. If you are to reveal God’s Trademark of generosity, why is your motive for giving important?
6. Joe shared that the lack of generosity **conceals** God’s Trademark in three ways; what were those ways?\* Have you noticed these in your life? If so, what does that say about generosity in your life?
7. Joe also said that generosity **reveals** God’s Trademark in what three ways?\*\* How have you seen these revealed in your life?
8. If generosity is God’s Trademark to show an unbelieving world that you belong to Him, do you reveal or conceal God’s Trademark?

*\*How generosity conceals God’s Trademark:*

1. *Fear rules your heart and mind.*
2. *Distractions take priority.*
3. *Self-centeredness becomes your natural position.*

*\*\*How generosity reveals God’s Trademark:*

1. *You trade the worthless for the worthy.*
2. *You move from consumer to contributor.*
3. *Your head and heart align.*

## **APPLICATION**

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being not generous and 10 being very generous), rate your level of generosity. What is one tangible step you can take to grow in your level of generosity?

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Read Psalm 112. What does it mean to fear the Lord? To be blessed?

What are some of the specific ways that God says He will bless you? Do you feel God has already blessed you in any of those ways?

Is God promising financial wealth and security in this passage? Why or why not?

Paul quotes Psalm 112:9 in 2 Corinthians 9:9. Who is the “*they*” in this passage? What do you think it means that “*they have freely scattered their gifts to the poor*”?