Welcome Your World LifeGroup

Take New Steps of Faith on Our Adventure With God

Session #2

From Pride to Gratitude: So That We See Everything as a Gift From God

Key Point: How are my finances shaping my heart? When I repent of my financially independent attitudes, I can enjoy the true riches of a deep relationship with God.

Key Scripture: Seek the Kingdom of God above all else and live righteously and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33

NOTES

Personal Application

1. Gratitude to God is a practice that can free our hearts of pride. Living with gratitude to God for what we have can enable us to have and enjoy earthly things with them "having us."

Take time now to write down 5 things you have that you may not have realized come to you from God and thank him for each one:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

This Week:

To cultivate an attitude of gratitude, take 5 minutes daily in the morning or when you go to bed to thank God for 5 material things or finances he provided for you in the day.

- Hearing the truth of God's word calls us to change. This is where real spiritual growth takes place in our lives. Take 15 minutes this week to:
- Spend time with God and repent of any sin of loving and serving money instead of God and humbly ask God's forgiveness.
- Invite God to be the Lord and wonderful master over every area of your life, especially your finances.

Memory Verse: "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else and live righteously and he will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33

Next week:

How much money is enough?

Session 2
Group discussion questions:

1. Pastor Steve quotes the True Riches book saying, "Money was a central theme in many of (Jesus') teaching and parables. This is consistent with the Bible as a whole, which contains around 2,350 verses pertaining to money, possessions and our attitude toward them... in fact, Jesus identified money as the primary competitor for the affections of the human heart..."

- Think about our culture. As the truths of scripture are meant to transform our thinking and shape our lives, what are some reasons there is so much teaching on money and possessions in the Bible?
- In what ways may money be the primary competitor for the affections of the human heart?

2. Let's look at Matthew 6:19-24 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart is also. The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (riches)."

- Based on this passage, where might someone without spiritual understanding (a bad eye) put their treasure?
- For what reasons did Jesus make the strong statement: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and riches."

3. In the True Riches book, we read "Money is a primary competitor for our hearts. Jesus taught about money to help people have a closer relationship with God... His teaching on money is not about a set of financial rules but to inspire people toward a closer relationship with God and trust in God."

How might these verses and these statements change your perspective on the church and teaching about money?

4. "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today." Deuteronomy 8:18 NIV

This is a radical concept. In what ways does this verse address our pride in what we can make and possess? In what ways can this truth move our hearts from pride and self-reliance to gratitude?

Personal Application

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Take time now to write down 5 things you have that you may not have realized come to you from God and thank him for each one:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
(Ask group members to answer #2 now on their own for personal application, not for sharing)
2. Our heart attitudes toward money have the potential to bring us closer to Jesus or to destroy us. How are your finances shaping your heart? This week, take 15 minutes to check your heart by answering these questions:
When the church teaches on money, what is your response?
When you receive a bonus or a raise or promotion, do you take time to truly thank God?