



1 Timothy

6:17-19

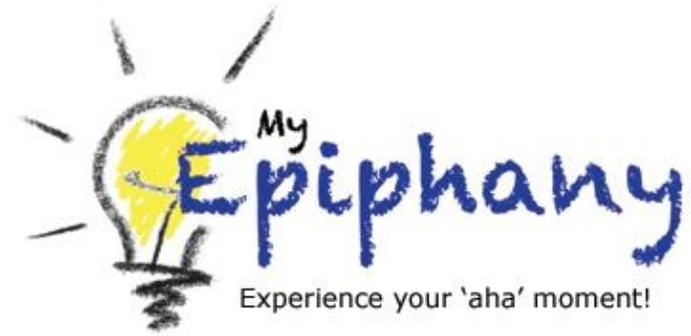
New International Version
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A Culture of Contagious Generosity

¹⁷Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ¹⁹By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

Money creates a false sense of Power, Security, Value

Tempted Trapped Trouble



✧ Money is not just **MONEY**

“Where you treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Lk 12:34

Treasure: a collection of precious things of great worth or value

Beware of the Obsession: Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 17-18

“Money without values, as useful as it is, seems to make us more powerful devils.”

✧ Money is not **EVIL**, it is a **RESOURCE**

“Pursue heaven and you will get earth thrown in, Pursue earth and you will get neither.” CS Lewis

Stewardship: Care for something that belongs to someone else **AS IF** it belongs to you.

How do we **HONOR** God, **REFLECT** our values, and **TEACH** our children with our Money?

✧ Money is like a **WILD ANIMAL**

Budget – it needs to be trained and on a leash (Pr 21:5)

Save – it needs to be well feed and cared for. (Pr 21:20)

Share –needs to be loved, enjoyed and played with Luke 6:38

CONTAGIOUS GENEROSITY

As leaders of God's church, our greatest responsibility is to create an environment in which people can give generously. When people in our churches have an encounter with the living God and are touched by his grace, we find no greater evidence of God's power than the existence of a culture of reckless generosity. Generosity like this is exceptional, unexpected, and provides a clear witness to the transforming power of God.

In the end, the primary goal when creating a generous culture is not financial gain or expansion of your budget. In fact, the real goal has very little to do with money. The real goal is spiritual formation. We believe that generous giving is one of the best external indicators for measuring transformation and spiritual growth. Paying attention to the giving habits of our faith communities gives us concrete feedback about the effectiveness of our discipleship strategies.

Generosity, or the lack thereof, is perhaps the most telling evidence of faith, character and values.

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.” Mother Teresa