

WARM-UP

- Share something you did recently to help a friend. What happened?
- What is something you bought that took you weeks or months to save up for? Why did you want it so much?
- What is the most costly gesture you have done for someone you hardly know? What did you feel when you did this?

WORD *¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

1 TIMOTHY 6:18,19

In our desire to be financially wise, we sometimes take firm hold of our money. However, we see from these verses that in God's economy, the more you give and share, the more you store up treasure for yourself. God wants us to use our money as a tool to be rich in good works and to experience *that which is truly life*. Today we will answer three questions to help us see whether or not we are using the money God gives us the way He wants us to.

1 | How should you use money?

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share . . . **1 TIMOTHY 6:18**

We are called *to be generous* and *ready to share* the blessings God has given us. According to 2 Corinthians 9:8, God is able to bless us abundantly so that we can have more than we need. Then we *will abound in every good work*. God blesses us for a purpose that is beyond ourselves. His generosity enables us to be willing and generous to help other people—and to do it cheerfully. How did someone else's generosity make an impact in your life? How did this act of kindness encourage you to also be generous to others?

2 | What is the result of good works and generosity?

¹⁸. . . *to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future. . .*

1 TIMOTHY 6:18,19

When we choose to be generous and share our blessings, we end up storing treasure for ourselves, allowing us to build *a good foundation for the future*. Matthew 6:19,20 tells us not to lay up for ourselves treasures *on earth* that are easily destroyed or stolen, but rather to store up treasures *in heaven*, where there is security. As great as this is, our reward will not only be in heaven. What will we receive when we give generously? (Luke 6:38)

3 | Why are you storing up treasure?

. . . storing up treasure for themselves . . . so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. **1 TIMOTHY 6:19**

To use money the way God wants us to use it, we have to be willing to give. Though we end up having less financially, this verse assures us that if we do that and store up treasure for ourselves, we will *take hold of that which is truly life*. According to John 10:10, Jesus came that *we may have life and have it abundantly*. When we give, we gain an abundant life. The abundant life God wants us to have does not mean having more money, but living life in Jesus. According to Ephesians 3:20, what is God able to do for us?

APPLICATION

- How does knowing that God has given you an abundant life change the way you live and view your finances?
- Identify at least one need in your community. How can you show generosity in helping meet this need?
- What can you do this week to encourage someone to be generous?

