

TALKING POINTS

JOY - HOW TO INVEST WITH GOD

LEANING IN

In the conclusion of the letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul talks about how their generosity both blessed him and was pleasing to God.

Yet, we often don't know what it means for us to be *investors in God* - to show the kind of generosity He is pleased with.

To become a joyful investor with God, we have to overcome the spirit of greed. Greed is not a matter of how much you have - it's an issue of the heart. We can have great wealth or none and still be greedy, *as greed happens when we become lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God*.

The question today is - why is our culture overcome with the spirit of greed? The answer is - because we are *empty*. We find out quickly money can't buy true happiness, yet we strive for it all the same. Here's the key, though - when a person is filled with God's presence in their heart, they will *always* be generous.

Read Philippians 4:18 -19, 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

How can emptiness drive us to greed?

LIVING IT OUT

If we want to become investors in God, we have to have a right understanding of generosity and its spiritual dimensions. Here are four principals regarding generosity which will help us become better *investors* in God and His kingdom:

My Generosity Equals Partnership - there is an emotional bond and connection formed when we are generous to others. Material goods don't bring long-term happiness, but generosity does. If we want to be spiritually rich, we give.

Read Philippians 4:14

Why does generosity bless the *giver*?

My Generosity Should Be Led By God, Not Peer Pressure - our generosity should come from the gratefulness of our hearts and not external pressure to give. God loves a cheerful giver - we should find what God is doing and invest there.

Read Philippians 4:15, 2 Corinthians 9:7

What things can we focus on to make us more personally desirous to give?

My Generosity Is An Investment With God - whatever we are investing in, we will be preoccupied with. The Philippians, by their generosity, opened an account with God.

Read Philippians 4:17. 1 Timothy 6:18-19, Philippians 4:19

How can we find out what God is doing specifically so we can invest in it?

My Generosity Is An Act Of Worship - above all else, our generosity is an expression of our worship and trust in God. When we invest in God with our possessions, we are telling Him he really is *first* in our lives and we really do trust Him to take care of us.

Read Philippians 4:18, Matthew 6:21

Why is generosity worship in God's eyes and why is He pleased with it?