



## “How to Have An Open Handed Life”

1 Timothy 6:17-19  
January 11, 2015

*“We all come to the end of our lives as naked & empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us.” Ecclesiastes 5:15*

### The Reminder

- ✓ Don't Think too Highly of Yourself
- ✓ Don't Trust in Money
- ✓ Do Focus on the Lord
- ✓ Do Good
- ✓ Be Rich in Good Works
- ✓ Be Generous & Ready to Share

### The Result

- ✓ We Will Make Eternal Investments
- ✓ We Really Begin to Live

### Our Response

- ✓ **Depend on the Lord**
- ✓ **Determine your Priorities**
  - Create a Budget
  - Break the Bond of Materialism
  - Take the Next Step Towards Tithing
- ✓ **Decide to Get Out of Debt**
- ✓ **Discipline Yourself Financially**

Live Within Your Means

Make Wise Financial Decisions

Take Small Steps

✓ **Discover the Joy of Generosity**

✓ **Develop the Habit of Now**

### 3 Questions We Will All Have to Answer - Randy Alcorn

- ✓ Where Did It All Go?
- ✓ What Did I Spend it On?
- ✓ What Has Been Accomplished for Eternity Through My Use of All This Wealth?

### Our Responding Right Now...

1. Would you accept the greatest gift you could ever receive this Christmas, the Gift of Eternal Life? Would give Him your heart & life today? Remember it is as simple as **ABC! Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
2. Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. He was willing to humble Himself and be obedient, will you?
3. Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ! Help us tell others that the King has come and is coming again!
4. Start Praying right now about the Financial Decisions that you will need to make in the coming weeks that will honor Christ!

# UNRESTRAINED GENEROSITY

“How to Have An Open Handed Life”

*I Timothy 6:17-19*

January 11, 2015 AM Service

Don't you really want to live – live life to the fullest – to get the most out of it and to make a maximum impact, that our lives mattered, that we made a difference, and this takes us to understand it an eternal perspective for that is when we really begin to live – but how we view eternity affects how we live right here and now.

**If I were to interview some of us and ask these questions?**

Would you like to bless others?

Would you like be able to give to back to the Lord through the church?

Would you like to have financial peace?

Would you like less stress in your marriage over finances?

Would you like to be in debt?

I would say the majority of us if not all of us would say yes to the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 and no to the last. Yet, that is our desire and in fact we know that is the call of God on our lives but many of us never really do anything about it. Perhaps we don't know what to do or where to start. Most of us know it's what the Lord has called us to do – so either we ignore this call or decide to do something about it. I want to help us do just that this morning.

**Let's clearly say that our giving is directly tied to our commitment level to the Lord.** If we are truly a Christ Follower then giving of our time, talents and resources – specifically our money should not be an issue.

This morning I want to be clear **that is isn't a guilt you message**, make you feel bad so you put something in the offering basket – far from that. I really want to teach you or remind you what the Word of God says about giving and secondly that you can see the incredible opportunity that the Lord is putting in front of you to the secret of having all these things we just mentioned. Financial Peace, making a difference with our lives, receiving the blessings of giving away that which we have been entrusted with (not what we think we own)

So in order to do that – we need to clearly understand or be reminded of this simple truth found in Ecclesiastes written by King Solomon.

Ecclesiastes 5:15 “We all come to the end of our lives as naked & empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can’t take our riches with us.”

So we come into the world empty handed and leave it empty handed – then why in the world do we spend so much time and energy trying to fill our hands full of stuff and hold onto it as long as we can?

**ILLUS: Monkey & the Coconut**

Not only do we want to hold and not let go. Many of us though once we do get it we don’t hold it very long because we spend it. Why? Because we are far too often fulfilling the desires of our flesh to have “the stuff” of this world, and we have to have it now even if we can’t afford it.

**Dave Ramsey said “We buy things that we don’t need with money that we don’t have to impress people we don’t even like.”**

**So how can we live an open handed life** – one that is open to receive the blessings of God in our hands so that in turn we can then give them away. God doesn’t want us to hoard or hold on to His blessings because then we have no room for anymore!

Now some of us might say, we’ll my hands are empty because I don’t have any money to give. I’m in debt and don’t have any money – but the reality is because you spent it on stuff that you couldn’t afford or maybe didn’t need or could have waited for or make a better decision. That’s not the empty handed I’m talking about.

**Next week I want to talk about how we can get to the place of increasing your giving – it’s called the generosity ladder** and as a part of our commitment to Vision 2020 we are going to ask everyone to take the next step up the Generosity Ladder. But this morning we want to talk about living an open handed life – one that is giving away so that the Lord can bless us with more to give away and on the cycle goes.

**The Reminder - We are all rich**

✓ **Don’t Think too Highly of Yourself**

If wealth makes a person proud, then he understands neither himself nor his wealth. "But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth..." Deuteronomy 8:18. NASU We are not owners; we are stewards. If we have wealth, it is by the goodness of God and not because of any special merits on our part. It is

when we realize that we don't own it all that we begin to understand our role of that as a steward. [Luke 16:11 & Luke 12:48b](#)

The possessing of material wealth ought to humble a person and cause him to glorify God, not himself. Many times if we are not careful, money can make us think we are better than someone else, that we are above them and we feel sorry for them and they are beneath us. Riches and pride often go hand in hand – it's challenge to be wealthy and have a humble spirit – temptation is to view others as servants to fulfill your every need and want.

✓ **Don't Trust in Money**

[Proverbs 11:28. 23:4-5 & Luke 12:13-21](#)

Having it will not make you happy.

The very thing that promises to be security only brings insecurity – look at the Parable of the Rich Man – he wasn't truly trusting in the Lord to provide for his every need. Riches are uncertain, not only in their value (which changes constantly), but also in their durability. Thieves can steal wealth, investments can drop in value, and the ravages of time can ruin houses and cars. If God gives us wealth, we should trust Him, the Giver, and not the gifts.

We all know how uncertain life can be and the money that we had can be here today and gone tomorrow

It is possible to possible to be rich in this world and poor in the next, but it is also possible to be rich in this world and rich in the next. Even if we are poor in this world, we can still use our limited means on earth to glorify Him (remember it's not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice) that will bring great rewards in heaven!

✓ **Do Focus on the Lord – why – He will supply us with all things to**

[enjoy](#) – this helps us to remember that we don't think highly of ourselves to think that we got this money by ourselves and certainly that we don't trust in it because it's not ours anyway and can be gone in a moment because we know that it all comes from Him anyway. [James 1:17](#) We when we see that the Lord provided then we can be more open handed with what we are given and not holding on to it like that monkey with his hand in the coconut

- ✓ **Do Good** - Obviously implies action.  
Word appears only here in the NT it to do what is inherently, intrinsically, and qualitatively good. Doing what is noble and excellent, not just what is on the surface is good. To do what is right with those resources we are entrusted with on a daily basis. Deals with our motive.
- ✓ **Be Rich in Good Works**  
Now remember good works don't save us but they are vital evidence of saved and changed and transformed life. Be rich in these, not only with our material blessings but with the giving of our lives as well!
- ✓ **Be Generous & Ready to Share**  
Means to be liberal or bountiful – it is to beyond the minimum that is required, it is having a generous, unselfish heart. [1 Chronicles 29:1-17](#) records that liberal and generous giving of the people of Israel towards the building of the Temple. Read [2 Corinthians 8:1-5](#)  
This is derived from the word fellowship which *koinonia* the word used to describe the Church and here this means to be beneficent. We are not give in a detached or cold manner, but instead rising out of a concern and compassion to give to those who need it. Be willing so share out of the abundance which He has given to us.

### The Result

- ✓ **We Will Make Eternal Investments – Makes a Good Foundation**  
“By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven-it is the only safe investment for eternity!” TLB  
Wealth Managers Rich Young Ruler in [Luke 18:18-25](#)  
We have to really challenge ourselves to invest differently than the world will tell us too, to focus differently, to have our eyes on a different goal – the goal of eternity! We must be willing to wait on the rewards many times and that is hard to do! We give our times, talents and treasures so that we can outlive our lives!
- ✓ **We Really Begin to Live – We Take Hold of That** (Life right now and for eternity This is the secret so many miss of real life is.. the chasing of that which will not last.... “In this way they will store up for themselves a treasure which will be a solid foundation for the future. And then they will be able to win the life which is true life.” GNT “storing up for

themselves a good foundation for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real.” Holman Christian Standard Bible

John 10:10 – the Abundant Life... real life here and hereafter

Luke 16:9 “Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.” NLT

✓ to come)

### **Our Response:**

✓ **Depend on the Lord** – Take the Lord’s seriously and at face value – the Call to deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Him.

✓ **Determine your Priorities**

Create a Budget

Break the bond of materialism

Take the next step towards tithing

✓ **Decide to Get Out of Debt**

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Use of All This Wealth?

### **ILLUS: Steven King Page 40 of book**

“17 Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage — 18 to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. 19 If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19 THE MESSAGE