

## **Faithful With God's Resources Series**

*Lesson 1: From Abundance to Impact:  
Living Faithfully with God's Resources*

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church Pastor

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*BIGGER sees wealth not as the goal, but as a God-given resource to glorify Him, bless others, and advance His Kingdom!*

## Introduction

One of the most common misunderstandings in Scripture is the idea that people of faith aren't supposed to have wealth. This belief usually comes from not reading the Bible carefully—or not recognizing how many biblical figures gained and faithfully used God's resources. Others point to Scripture and often misquote 1 Timothy 6:10, saying, "Money is the root of all evil." What the text actually says is, "For the love of money is *a* root of all kinds of evil." That distinction matters. Paul makes it clear that money itself is neutral; it only becomes dangerous when it captures our hearts and becomes our main focus. He also reminds us that money isn't the only source of evil—it's simply one among many.

All of God's resources remain neutral until we elevate them above Him. When that happens, they turn into idols. Our jobs can become idols if we place our trust in them instead of God. Relationships can become idols if we allow people to define our purpose or security. Anything can become an idol when we treat it as the source rather than recognizing it as a resource given by God. When we use God's blessings as He intends, they become tools to honor Him and advance His mission. Wealth, then, is simply one mechanism God can use to point others to Jesus. In this lesson, students will explore their attitudes toward wealth and consider how money can be used to promote the Kingdom of God.

Key questions to answer by the end of this lesson include:

1. What's the difference between *having* wealth and *trusting* wealth?
2. How can financial blessing subtly compete with trusting God?
3. What practices help keep money in its proper place in your life?
4. How does generosity protect our hearts and deepen our faith?

**Main Scripture:** I Timothy 6:17-19

### **I. Wealth Is Not Condemned — Misplaced Trust Is—vs. 17**

*<sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

Paul writes to his protégé Timothy to help believers in Ephesus develop a healthy, biblical understanding of wealth. Timothy served in a thriving city known for trade, opportunity, cultural diversity, and economic influence. Because of its strategic location, Ephesus regularly traded with regions across the Mediterranean. It was the kind of place where merchants, craftsmen, and artists could build successful livelihoods. Wealth wasn't unusual or hidden—it was visible and attainable for those who recognized the opportunities the city offered.

The problem is not wealth. Paul doesn't criticize wealth or suggest that it should be avoided. Instead, he clarifies how it should be viewed. Wealth was never meant to inflate ego or produce self-importance. Wealth or better said- MONEY is a tool to be used. We are to utilize the tool of money to provide for our families, to take care of our needs, and even to plan for the future. Acquiring excessive wealth is not a problem either. The problem is when the tool becomes our god. Money should always be understood in light of the One who provides it. The focus was never supposed to be on the balance of a bank account or the size of a business. The focus has always been on God's plan to use His resources in ways that honor Him and advance His purposes. This helps us to refocus our dependence and trust in God rather than in money.

This raises an important question: What are some ways we can use our wealth to honor God without giving it all away? Think deeply about this, because God is not asking His people to abandon wealth—He is asking them to steward it well.

Remember, wealth can fluctuate, markets can fail, and businesses can change overnight, but God remains faithful and dependable. This truth applies no matter where we find ourselves financially. Financial stability never replaces God's faithfulness to His people. Put your trust in God.

### **BIGGER Thinking Questions**

- ✓ *How might God be inviting you to realign your spending, saving, or investing so that your life more clearly reflects dependence on Him?*
- ✓ *What specific changes would need to happen in your priorities or lifestyle for your wealth—however large or small—to serve God's Kingdom more visibly?*

- ✓ *What step of faith could you take this year that moves you from simply managing money to intentionally using it as a tool for ministry, generosity, or mission?*

## II. God as the True Provider-vs. 17 b

*<sup>17b</sup> but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

Paul continues his teaching by reminding believers of God’s central role in providing everything we have. One truth we must come to grips with—whether we readily admit it or not—is that God is our provider. In this part of verse 17, Paul speaks directly to Christians who were successful in their careers and businesses and reminds them that they are not their own source. It’s easy to credit our hard work, intelligence, or discipline as the driving forces behind our success. When that happens, God slowly shifts in our thinking from Provider to assistant—someone who helps us accomplish what we believe we are already doing on our own.

Pay attention to the way we talk about our lives. Phrases like “*I did this*” or “*I built that*” come naturally, while “*God blessed me to do this*” often fades into the background. Paul wants believers to recognize that success never starts with us—it starts with God.

Timothy was instructed to teach those who considered themselves wealthy that God alone is the true source of their success. We may contribute effort and obedience, but even the ability to do our part comes from God. As Deuteronomy 8:17–18 reminds us, it is God who gives us the power to create wealth. Understanding the difference between our role and God’s role requires humility. In reality, we bring far less to the equation than we often think.



The illusion of self-sufficiency is a subtle deception. It feeds the idea that we are powerful, independent, and in control—placing us closer to God than we should ever be. But when we acknowledge our weakness and limitations, something freeing happens. Our relationship with God deepens, and our understanding of ourselves becomes healthier. We were never designed to be self-made. We were designed to be dependent.

This dependence is not a flaw—it is God’s intention. We need Him; He does not need us. We rely completely on Him; He is never reliant on us. Our role is to recognize Him as God, to live as His children, and to receive—and steward—all the good He graciously provides.

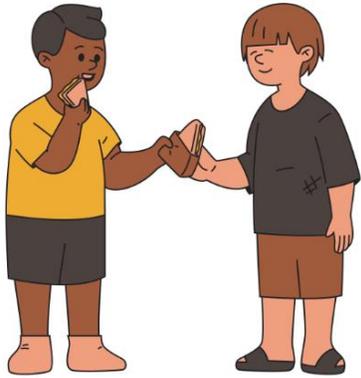
### **BIGGER Thinking Questions**

- ✓ *What intentional changes could you make in your mindset, language, or daily practices to reflect deeper dependence on God?*
- ✓ *If you fully embraced the reality that God gives you the ability to create wealth, how might that reshape your goals, your gratitude, and your obedience to Him?*

### **III. Generosity Fulfills the Purpose of Wealth**

<sup>18</sup> *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

Paul now shifts the conversation from *understanding* wealth to *using* it. Students should recognize that Scripture never assigns a specific dollar amount to define wealth. That’s intentional—and it means everyone fits somewhere in the category of “rich.” This is a helpful moment to define what *rich* actually means. At its most basic level, being rich simply means having excess or abundance.



Wherever we have excess, God calls us to share. That raises some honest questions: Where do you have abundance? Is it financial resources? Food? Time? Skills? Influence? Every one of us has an excess of something. Paul's instruction is clear—we are to use our excess riches to do good. In other words, we turn abundance into a wealth of good deeds.

Scripture consistently shows us that God expects His blessings to flow outward. We are called to use what God has given us in the same way Jesus did. So, what did Jesus do? He shared. He sacrificed. He met real needs for the benefit of others. Every one of us is a recipient of that generosity.

This misunderstanding of blessing is not new. Jesus frequently criticized the Jewish religious leaders because they failed to grasp *why* they were blessed as God's chosen people. In Matthew 23:23–24, Jesus confronts this directly: *“How terrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your mint, dill, and cummin, but have neglected the more important matters of the Law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. These are the things you should have practiced, without neglecting the others.”*

Jesus wasn't condemning their giving—He was correcting their priorities. Obedience to God was always meant to be paired with justice, mercy, and faithfulness toward others.

The same truth appears in the Old Testament. Micah 6:6–8 reminds us that God has never been impressed by offerings alone:

*6 With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?  
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Throughout Scripture, we see a consistent theme: giving to God and doing good for others are meant to go together. Riches are not only for meeting our own needs—remember, money itself is neutral—but God also expects us to care about the needs of others and respond when we are able. When we use our abundance this way, wealth becomes a powerful tool for reflecting God’s heart and advancing His purposes.

## **BIGGER Thinking Questions**

- ✓ *Where do you personally have excess or abundance, and how might God be calling you to intentionally use that surplus to do good for others?*
- ✓ *If justice, mercy, and humility are the true measures of faithful stewardship, how well does your current use of resources align with those priorities?*

## **IV. Eternal Investment Is the BIGGER Goal—vs. 19**

*<sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

Paul concludes his instruction by speaking in terms his readers clearly understood—the language of money and investing. The believers in Ephesus knew how investments worked, so Paul meets them where they are. He makes it clear that investing itself is not bad. What makes an investment *BIGGER* is not just its financial return, but its lasting impact. When believers invest in people—freely sharing from the richness God has given them—the return extends beyond this life and into eternity.

Most of us are familiar with planning for the future. We contribute to retirement accounts, purchase investment property, or set aside savings so that our resources will last as long as possible. We want strong returns, steady growth, and compounding interest that brings security over time. In a much greater way, God wants that for us too. The difference is that God’s focus is not limited to temporary security—He desires an eternal return on investment.



That eternal return only happens when we make deposits into eternal accounts. The way we use God’s blessings—our lives, our time, our abilities, our intelligence, our finances, and most importantly our testimony about Jesus—creates treasures in heaven. Jesus consistently taught that life is far more than the few years we spend on earth. We are meant to live and invest with eternity in mind, choosing ventures that carry God-sized purpose and God-directed outcomes.

This is the point of verses such as Matthew 6:19-20:

*19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

We store up treasures in heaven by honoring God with every resource He places in our hands. Our lives were never meant to follow a simple cycle of living, earning, and dying. God designed us to reflect Jesus through consistent good works that point others toward Him. When wealth exists only for accumulation, comfort, or status, it ultimately wastes the purpose of the resource itself.

Riches take on true value when they are invested in God’s purposes. When we use what God gives us to serve others, meet real needs, and advance the gospel, those investments create dividends that matter now and rewards that last into eternity. What we release in obedience today becomes eternal gain tomorrow.

### **BIGGER Thinking Questions**

- ✓ *If eternity—not comfort or security—were your primary investment goal, how would that change the way you use your time, money, and influence right now?*
- ✓ *In what ways does your current lifestyle demonstrate that you are living for more than personal success or financial accumulation?*

### **Conclusion**

This lesson challenges us to think BIGGER about wealth, resources, and purpose. Money is not the problem—our focus is. God is the true provider, and everything we have is a gift meant to be stewarded, not stored. When we shift from ownership to stewardship, our resources become tools for good, instruments of generosity, and investments in eternity. We are not called to reject wealth, but to use it faithfully. As we trust God, share our abundance, and invest in people, our lives reflect Jesus and advance His Kingdom. BIGGER faith produces BIGGER impact—now and forever.