

REFRESHED - - Exploring 4 Drivers of Generosity

Ted Cunningham – August 4, 2019

Part 2 - Your Source of Income

Ted stated that Tradition, Programs, Events, Buildings, Personalities or Budgets do not drive our church. **Did anything on this list upset you ... or does the list make you proud to be part of WHFC?**

Acts 4:33 "God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all." **Does this describe our fellowship, all of us working together to serve Him and each other, our family, our community, the world?**

2 Corinthians 8:2,3 "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." **How is that possible? This sounds strange. Do you know anyone who gives like that?**

Ted made five points about WORK: **Looking at these verses together will lead to good discussion about why we are to work,**

Work for food Proverbs 16:26

The appetite of laborers works for them; their hunger drives them on.

Work for family 1 Timothy 5:8

Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Work for the future Proverbs 21:20

"In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has." _

Work for the Lord Colossians 3:23

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." _

Work for generosity Ephesians 4:28

"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need."

Acts 20:33-35 (NLT) "I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Discuss that statement: Is it true for you? Is it hard for you to believe? Have you seen an example of it?

Across all incomes, a healthy relationship with money is driven by what people do with what they have. **Earn → Give → Save → Spend**

A survey of several hundred of our church members found
Surviving_Spend → Earn “I require financial assistance to get by.” 6.27%

Struggling_Earn → Spend “I barely keep up with day-to-day expenses.” 8.82%

Stable_Earn → Spend → Save/Give “I make ends meet.” 29.22%

Secure_Earn → Give → Save/Spend “I cover my expenses and have some left over.” 38.63%

Surplus_Earn → Give → Save → Spend “I have more than I need for myself and my family.” 17.06%

Discuss how you feel about these statements:

A higher income will not make you a generous person.

Decide what you believe about money before you start making it.

The more we make, the better we can live.

The more we make, the more we can give.

We can't afford a lifestyle that prevents us from helping others.