

The Gift

2 Kings 4:8-17

Main Idea: God's grace opens a door for us to use our temporal resources to gain eternal joy. Let us walk through every door the LORD opens for us!!

God's Encouragements to Those with Extra Cash

Encouragement #1: Invest your wealth in relationships.

Truth: Spiritual friendships are the greatest measure of a person's wealth.

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings." (Luke 16:9 [ESV](#))

How do we make forever friends with our money?

1. We make friends with our money when we open our home in hospitality to encourage the saints.
2. We make friends with our money when we give to our local church who uses it to spiritually and materially bless others.
3. We make friends with our money when we give to specific missionaries and ministries.
4. We make friends with our money when we directly give to help the poor.

Encouragement #2: Give to advance the ministry of the LORD.

Truth: The ministry of the LORD is the most important thing happening on the face of the earth. If we are part of it, we will rejoice now and forever.

"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18 [ESV](#)).

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," (Ephesians 4:11-12 [ESV](#))

Truth: Christian giving flows from the grace of God at work in the hearts of God's people. Our conversion produces a passion for Jesus' name. And passion for Jesus produces generosity toward to ministry of Jesus in this world.

Encouragement #3: Enjoy the reciprocity of giving.

Truth: Love opens our hearts to receive blessing from others as well as to give blessing to others. Independence is the driver that motivates us to resist blessings that others may bring to us.

Application: We are right to be willing to give when we are called by God to give. We are right to be willing to receive when we are called by God to receive!

Encouragement #4: Use your money to store up eternal riches.

Truth: God people KNOW that we never out-give the LORD. When we give, we always receive back so much more than we give.

"give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38 [ESV](#))

Application: Give with joy looking to the eternal reward! The righteous live believing that God rewards those who seek Him.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7 [ESV](#))

Encouragement #5: Rejoice in the greatest treasure of all.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9 [ESV](#))