



RIGHT ON THE MONEY

Eliminating the Fear Factor

#nprightonthemoney

Week 3

3 of 4

February 19, 2017

Bottom Line: If you have invited God into your finances, you have nothing to fear.

Icebreaker: What do you carry in your wallet besides cash, cards, and pictures? How many movie titles can you think of that relate to money or attitudes about money?

Key Verse: *Remember this: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."*

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Most everyone wants to be generous. Probably 100% of us want to reap a great harvest. The problem is, reaping a great harvest means choosing generous sowing with my resources without any tangible proof that my generosity will be repaid. When a farmer plants the seed in the spring, he has no absolute proof that his seed will produce as he hopes. That lack of proof can lead to fear. What if I spend my resources on sowing, and I don't get a good return? Maybe I should cover myself and only sow part of what I intended. But scarcity in sowing guarantees a small harvest.

That's what Paul was saying to the Corinthians. He urged them to not let fear make them reluctant or forced givers, but to count on the love and ability of God to more than meet their needs, even abundantly. He promised that sowing generously would start a cycle of blessing with God that would keep on compounding. That's still the way God works. We get to choose whether our harvest will be abundant or scarce. We choose it while we are sowing.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Think back on Dwight's message. Did anything prompt memories or fears about money that challenged you?

Paul says each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give. How do you think a person should go about making that decision?

What makes you or people you know reluctant to give?

Since no one is physically forced to give, what do you think Paul means when he says "under compulsion"?

Interesting that we aren't told that God loves a giver—he gets very specific and says God loves a **cheerful** giver. We all do—no one wants a reluctant gift. Why?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

God is able to take care of you so that "at all times you will have all that you need." That's a big ability and a big promise. Have you found it to be so? How?

God giving me all I need is not for me to just enjoy it. It is intended to enable me to "abound in every good work," and "be generous on every occasion." Nothing God gives me is meant for me alone. I am intended to be a conduit for blessing. Think about that for a moment.

What has God given me that I could share without fear because He has supplied my needs?

A giver's generosity will result in thanksgiving to God, Paul says. Share your thanksgiving for someone's generosity that has impacted you.

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Sing the doxology together. (Praise God from whom all blessings flow.) The old-timers can teach the new ones this classic of the faith. Consider making it part of your “Daily” each day.
- 2) Each member pray for the person on their right, asking God to fill them with generosity, take away their fear, and help them sow generously for a rich harvest.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: If you have invited God into your finances, you have nothing to fear.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: 2 Corinthians 9:6

Day 2: 2 Corinthians 9:7

Day 3: 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

Day 4: Philippians 4:18-19

Day 5: Proverbs 11:24-25

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)