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Characteristics of a Generous Heart

God's Ins, Outs, Ups, and Downs of Resources

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Introduction

Mitch's Story

A generous heart begins before the first dollar comes in because a generous heart begins with a heart commitment to Jesus. This commits life's 3 resources: time, talents, and treasures.

Wisdom defined

Proverbs defined

Heart defined (Heb: *leb* or *lebab*; Gk: *kardia*)

A generous heart is a humble heart (Prov. 3:34). A greedy heart is a proud heart.

Generosity is the opposite of greed, (closed fist vs. open hand). God is generous (Matt.20:15).

Ins-Outs-Ups-Downs of resources and how it relates to a **generous heart** (10 W's)

I. In-God is my Provider, Prov. 16:3 (Yahweh Yireh)

A. Win - little by little (generous heart attitude) (Prov. 13:11; 30:8-9)

Illustration: Wal-Mart

Application: Do you have a generous heart in the process of winning money?

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Will you consider the little by little principle and trust God for the volume?

B. Work (Prov. 10:4-5)

Hard (Prov. 10:4)

Smart (Prov. 10:5)

Illustration: wheel barrows/business in general

C. Weigh Relationships > Remuneration (Prov. 11:24-26)

Illustration: Jim Kelley; Mitch's business life

II. Out—God is my Passion (Prov. 16:6) Matt. 6:19-34

A. Waive - (give) in three directions

1. To God (Prov. 3:9-10)

a. Tithe = 10 percent

b. Offering (Mal. 3:8-10)

Illustration: R. G. Laturneau; Charles Spurgeon; Stanley Tam; MK

(Widow's oil, Elisha, II Kings 4); Gal. 6:7-8. Will you try giving generously to God? Will you test Him?

Old Testament Giving: Tithe (Lev. 27:30; Deut. 14:22); Rest land every seven years (Lev.) [$14\% / 7 = 2\%$]; Cancel debt every seven years, every Jubilee (seventh

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seven) or 50th year = 2% (Deut. 15:1); 3 Great Feasts; Gleaning (Deut. 24:19) = 4%. Total giving is between 20 and 30 percent of annual increase. Source: Douglas Stewart/Dr. John Ortberg, Willow, Nov. 14, 2001. Tent: Ex. 25:2, “give as prompted;” Ex. 36:3, “too much.”

Illustration: Get to give to get vs. Give to get to give

Application: Do you believe in God’s principle of replenishment?

Application: 10-10-80 Plan

2. To the Poor (Prov. 19:17; 21:13)

3. To your Children (Prov. 13:22) Prov. 17:2; 20:21; 28:10

B. Ward-off Debt (Surety) (Prov. 22:26-27)

C. Waste not (spend < net) (Prov. 27:23-24)

Illustration: Avg. credit card debt is \$12,500 per family. Consumer debt, including mortgages, is at an all time high \$7.3 trillion.

Application: Advertisements say, “Buy me, rent me, or put me in your hair...”

D. Withhold not (Prov. 3:27)

Illustration: Me/John Wesley, “Last portion of a person to get converted is his wallet.”

Application: In every financial situation, ask, “Is it valuable (eternal) or vulnerable

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(temporal)?”

III. Up–God is my Purpose (Prov. 16:4)

A. Worthy

1. Steward (God owns it all); (Prov. 19:21; I Chron. 29:11)

2. Save (Prov. 21:20)

Illustration: 75 year-old pastor

3. Shrewd/harmless (Prov. 10:2) Prov. 10:16, 18; 22:22-23; 23:1-3

B. Worship not (greed) (Prov. 8:10-11; 18:11; 11:4, 28)

Parable of Rich Fool, Lk. 12:13-21; Greed is idolatry (Col. 3:5)

IV. Down–God is my Protector (Prov. 16:7)

Worry not (financial security never comes) (Prov. 23:4-5)

Illustration: Billionaires, Ted Turner–Rich Young Ruler becomes and old one

II Peter 3:10

Application: Is it worth your life or your children’s lives or the lives of seekers

God puts in your path for you to do one more deal for something that is going to burn up?