

Generosity - Roots and Weeds

Meanness



Generosity



No-one can serve two masters



Love of Money



Love for God

Keep your lives *free* from the love of money

and be *content* with what you have,

because God has said, "Never will I *leave* you; never will I *forsake* you."

So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be *afraid*. What can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13: 5-6)

We need to keep weeding out the *love* of money/possessions



Contentment and Generosity

Error: ... men of **corrupt** mind ...who think that **godliness** is a means to **financial gain**.

Truth: **But godliness with contentment is great gain.**
(1 Tim 6: 5-6)



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**.

Command them to **do good**, to be **rich in good deeds**, and to be **generous** and **willing to share**. (1 Tim 6: 17-18)

The Example of the Thessalonians

Out of the most 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**.

Entirely on their own, they **urgently** pleaded with us for the **privilege** of sharing in this service to the saints.

And they did not do as we expected, but they **gave themselves** first to the **Lord** and then to **us** in keeping with God's will. (2 Cor 8: 2-5)

But to another church: We have ...opened wide our hearts to you ... **open wide your hearts** also. (2 Cor 6: 11-13)

VOLUNTEER



Weeds which can corrupt generosity

- ***Deceitfulness of riches*** – possessions promise much but give little
- ***Fear*** – of not having enough if we are generous
- ***Pride*** – parading our generosity with trumpets
- ***Neglect*** – of the family we should be providing for
- ***Dishonesty*** – not paying our taxes, or not paying people what we owe them
- ***Mask to cover up greed*** – “Give to me and you will be rich”





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