



---

## OPENING COMMENT

How we order the affairs of our life speaks to what we fear or do not fear. How we raise our kids, whether we let them walk to school by themselves, how we drive, where we hike, the activities we participate in can all indicate where our confidence lies. This is also true of our money. How we use, or misuse, our cash can indicate what, or who, we fear.

---

## READ THE TEXT: Psalm 112

Praise the Lord!

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,

who greatly delights in his commandments!

<sup>2</sup> His offspring will be mighty in the land;

the generation of the upright will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches are in his house,

and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;

he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

<sup>5</sup> It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;

who conducts his affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> For the righteous will never be moved;

he will be remembered forever.

<sup>7</sup> He is not afraid of bad news;

his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,

until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

<sup>9</sup> He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;

his righteousness endures forever;

his horn is exalted in honor.



<sup>10</sup> The wicked man sees it and is angry;  
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;  
the desire of the wicked will perish!

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. The first verse of the Psalm starts with “Praise the Lord” but turns its attention to the “Man who fears the Lord”. Which person is the rest of the psalm talking about?
2. What characteristics of the blessed man does the Psalm outline?
3. What are the results of his blessing?
4. What do verse seven and eight say about his disposition towards God?
5. What is the wicked man’s response?

## APPLYING THE TEXT

1. What does it look like to be a person who “fears the Lord”?
2. How should we hold the tension between the truth in verses 2 and 3 with the truth in verses 7 and 8?
3. How do fear and generosity interact?
4. How do the commandments of God (vs. 1) inform the character and actions of the man of righteousness? How do they inform us?
5. How should we understand those who oppose the Christian ethic of radical generosity? Why might they so strongly oppose it? Why do we struggle with it?

## BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Genesis 14:19-20 – The first tithe in the bible
2. Genesis 28:20-22 – Jacob offers a Tithe.
3. Leviticus 27:30-34 – Tithe Implemented in the law.
4. Proverbs 3:9 – 10 – The principle of Plenty
5. Amos 4:4-5 – The Lord requires more than a regular tithe.
6. Malachi 3:10-12 – Testing God in the tithe and looking for his blessing.
7. Acts 4:32-5:11 – A good and bad example of generosity.
8. 2 Corinthians 8 -9 – Paul encouraging the Corinthians to be generous.

## CONCLUSION

Generosity is not born out of obligation, generosity is born out of appropriate fear. When we place our confidence in God and his provision we can freely give and act justly because our cause is secure. Instead of trying to use our resources to mitigate



fear, we can use fear to manage our resources. As God's goodness and power come more into view we rely less and less on the material resources we have. As we press further into knowing and loving God the more our heart is strengthened. Knowing that God has already triumphed over our enemies should, and will, grant us open hands and peaceful hearts. The question is, who or what will you fear?

## **SHARE & PRAY**

---

### **LIFE GROUP VISION:**

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

