

## God Time Day 1: The Danger of Wealth



Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

<sup>9</sup> But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Underline the results of wanting “to be rich.”

There are many other passages in the Bible warning against the dangers of wealth and how it can pull our hearts away from God. While it is good to want the security of having “enough,” contentment only comes from God. It is not dependent on how much stuff one has.

It is no accident that the Ten Commandments start with putting God first and end with the command to “do not covet.”



Pray about the kind of wealth you are pursuing.

## God Time Day 2: WARNING: Comfort is Temporary



Read James 5:1-3 on page 46.

James gives us a hindsight view of what happens with the wealth many have stored up for themselves and its value when life on this earth comes to a close (“the last days”).



Read James 5:4-6 on page 46.

James is now addressing those who have explicitly cheated others out of what they deserve and those who have gained wealth at the deliberate expense of others.



Circle what will become of *wealth* and *clothes* in verse 2.

Underline what will become of *gold* and *silver* in verse 3.

As we know from the story of the widow’s mite (Mark 12:41-44), God looks at wealth as relative. It’s not how much we have, it’s what we do with what we have.



What have you “stored up” and what will its value be in “the last days?” Share this principle with someone today.

## God Time Day 3: Stuff and Control are Temporary



You may have heard the story of Job, a man who lived long ago and endured the complete loss of his wealth, family, and health as part of a test God allowed the enemy (Satan) to bring. Despite his loss, Job had this to say:



*Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.* Job 1:21b

Job had the wisdom to know that any possessions or power we have in life are fleeting, held only as long as God allows.

Thousands of years later, the apostle Paul writes about the temporary nature of things we can see and measure – including suffering – and how there is no comparing them to what will last forever.



Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

<sup>17</sup> For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. <sup>18</sup> So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



List the 4 activities which consume the most time and attention of your day (not counting sleep). Then, rate the activity as focused more temporarily (T) or eternally (E):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Some activities which require a large time investment (like a job) cannot be replaced by another activity, but we can still ensure that there is a WAY to spend that time, or at least some of that time, focused on eternal (E) purposes.



What can you do to adjust your T’s to E’s?

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## God Time Day 4: Learn to Invest



Read Matthew 6:20-21.

*<sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

When we truly accept the fleeting, temporary nature of comfort, wealth, and power, we can better intentionally invest in things that last and are eternal. This doesn't mean we won't pay any attention to money! Rather, we seek ways to use it for God's purposes and not just for ourselves.



Here are a few questions to help you evaluate if you are making wise investments in what God has given you:

1. **Are you giving back?** We are to be active in giving our time, talent, and/or treasure to ministry without expectation of personal reward.
2. **Are you managing your resources well?** God calls us to be intentional in the management of our finances, even to avoid penalties and unnecessary interest.
3. **Are you being generous with people?** We should never be known as stingy or heartless in business because we drive such hard bargains. This also applies to how we pay, evaluate, and compliment others.



Another way to evaluate our spiritual investments is to compare how much time we put into helping others versus making ourselves more comfortable. If someone close to you were to make a list of your positive impact on others, what would they list? (Not sure? Ask them.)

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What changes can you make today to invest more of your yourself where God's heart leads?

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## God Time Day 5: We Have More Than We Realize



Sometimes we catch ourselves grumbling about people being unworthy of charity or blame the poor for being poor. We often expect them to "lift themselves up by their bootstraps." This only reveals an underlying belief that we, and they, can achieve our own successes rather than depend on God for the blessings we have. We have greater faith in ourselves than God!

It's in these moments that we forget how greatly we have been blessed. And with these blessings we are to be the hands and feet of God to bless others.



Read James 2:15-17.

*<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.*

Realizing where our blessings truly come from reinforces the understanding that anything good comes from God and is to be shared. It keeps us from thinking, "If someone else has it good, it means I am missing my fair share." Instead, it moves us to be more generous and we never have to worry that there won't be enough to go around.



Read Psalm 37:25-26.

*<sup>25</sup> I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous abandoned or his children begging for bread. <sup>26</sup> He is always generous, always lending, and his children are a blessing.*



Plan for how you will be generous with what God has given you – even if all you can offer is a cup of water or a kind word. Be specific! To whom will you give? When?

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