**“Tools for living with God’s generosity”**

**INTRODUCTION**

The bible has a lot to say about the earning, saving, and giving of wealth and resources that God provides. The passages listed below provide a biblical foundation for the kind of generous living that the Lord is calling you to.

**READ** – *Read the passages below. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it. Choose a verse to take with you for the day.*

NIV **Matthew 22:37** Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

NIV **Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

NIV **Proverbs 3:13** Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, 14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

NIV **1 Kings 3:12** I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

NIV **Luke 12:16** And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

NIV **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

NIV **Proverbs 25:28** Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. According to Matthew 22:37 what does the Lord want you to do with your heart, soul, and mind?

2. According to Jesus in Matthew 6:21 what can compete for your heart?

3. In Proverbs 3:13-16 what is more profitable than wealth? How might wisdom effect what someone does when it comes to earning, saving, and giving?

4. According to 1 Kings 3:12 where did Solomon’s wisdom come from?

5. In Luke 12:16-21 is Jesus being critical to the wealthy man for having wealth? Why or why not? What guides the man’s use of his wealth? How might the story have been different if he had asked the Lord about what he should do with his abundance?

6. According to Proverbs 25:28 what happens to those who lack self-control? According Galatians 5:22-23 who provides self-control? How might self-control impact earning, saving, and giving? What has been your experience with this?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask the Lord to enable you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live with wisdom and self-control every day.

\*If you are struggling with debt, ask the Lord to give you a plan to get out of it and then stick with it. If you are okay then pray for someone you know who is struggling with debt.

\*Ask the Lord to help you to see the things that He wants you to be generous to.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Spirit-filled life requires wisdom and self-control. When you put your faith in Jesus the Spirit of God came to live in you. Will you cooperate with the Holy Spirit this week living with wisdom and self-control this week? Will you especially apply this to earning, saving, and giving?