



How to get clarity for a new year.



- Our disciplines today produce strength for tomorrow.

11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Hebrews 12:11 (NLT)

- Giving corrects the affections of our heart.

Affection: The Love, attachment, value and devotion of our heart.

- The #1 competitor for our heart is money.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Luke 12:34 (NIV)

- Money promises what only God can provide.

21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Mark 10:17-22 (NLT)

...he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go. Mark 10:22 (MSG)

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "It's hard for rich people to get into God's kingdom!" Mark 10:23 (CEV)

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 1 Timothy 6:9 (NIV)

#### Temptations that can come with money:

- We're tempted to serve money.

13 No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Luke 16:13 (NLT)

We don't serve money, we serve God.

- We're tempted to love money.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)

10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. Ecclesiastes 5:10

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be satisfied with what you have. God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never forget you." Hebrews 13:5 (NCV)

- We're tempted to put our trust in money.

"Trust in your money and down you go!" Proverbs 11:28

17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6:17(NLT)

#### Giving will be a challenge when:

When we look at a spiritual principle with an unspiritual perspective.

#### Spiritual Principles about money:

- Money is a blessing from God.

"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth..." Deuteronomy 8:17-18

...What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift? 1 Corinthians. 4:7 (NLT)

- God asks us to return the first 10% of what he's given to us.

10% is what the Bible calls a tithe.

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD... Leviticus 27:30

- Tithing is returning to God the first and the best so he can bless the rest.

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

- Tithing teaches me to put God first.

The purpose of tithe is to teach you to always put God first in your lives. Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

- Tithing builds my faith in God.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Malachi 3:10

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be satisfied with what you have. God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never forget you." Hebrews 13:5 (NCV)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

#### Questions for Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your own words, how does God's word bring clarity in our lives?
- How do you think money competes for our heart?
- What does the statement mean: "Money promises what only God can provide"?
- Talk through the point under the sub-heading "Temptations that can come with money". Which of these do you struggle with?
- Do you agree that people tend to struggle with giving to God because they're looking at a spiritual principle with an unspiritual perspective.?
- Do you see money as a blessing from God? How does that change how you handle money?
- Why do many find it difficult to return to God 10% of what he's given to us?
- How does tithing teach us to put God first?
- How does tithing build our faith in God?

For more Talks, visit us at:  
**fresnoquest.com**

