

November 10-13, 2016  
EST. Giving tEST



*For further reflection personally, with a friend or with your group.*

## GETTING STARTED

Giving is important because it does a supernatural work in our hearts, and that's what God is after—our hearts. God is not after our money. He doesn't need it. But our treasure is tied to our hearts. Thus, God goes through our treasure to get to our hearts. Wherever you find generosity, you will find selfishness battling for control. It was true in biblical time and it's still true today. God doesn't want us to catch the vision of getting. He wants us to catch the vision of giving. Practically everyone is a cheerful getter. God wants us to be cheerful givers. A properly focused heart is more excited about the giving part than the receiving part.

## LOOKING DEEPER

1. Satan uses fear to keep us from being financially faithful. What can you do when Satan attacks you with fear about giving? What Scripture can you memorize and bring to mind?
2. There is an old saying "if you don't know where you're going, any old road will get you there". Do you have a "giving plan"? Many people have a budget, but seldom do they have a plan to be generous.
3. The Treasure Principle (found in a popular book of the same title) says: "You can't take it with you—but you can send it on ahead." Does this resonate with you? The idea is if we give instead of keep, if we invest in the eternal instead of the temporal, we store up treasures in heaven that will never stop paying dividends.

## TAKE IT WITH YOU—personal reflection

You are being tested right now. The prize for passing the test is true riches. But, then, what are true riches? True riches are people—the privilege of seeing those you love saved, made whole and growing in God. True riches are the words of knowledge, gifts of faith, and miracles that minister to people. True riches are being able to help others who have spent their entire lives in bondage to finances to experience freedom for the first time. True riches are souls.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:13

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:** Matthew 7:24-27; Malachi 3:8-12; Proverbs 11:25