

Lesson 4: Treasure in Heaven

“Giving is the only antidote to materialism” Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle

1. It's Okay to Want to be Rich!

- Matthew 6:20 *“Store up for yourselves _____ in heaven”*
- Hebrews 11:6 Faith includes believing that God *“_____ those who earnestly seek him”*
- John 14:1-4 Jesus wants us to be motivated by thinking about the palace he's preparing for us
- Revelation 21 provides elaborate details about the treasure of heaven
- Genesis 15:1 reminds us that _____ is our ultimate reward – there is none greater!

2. Broke Givers Become Rich

2 Cor 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

- God's example – Rich became poor to make us _____!

Phil 2:8-9 *He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death... therefore God exalted him...*

- God's example – The _____ became obedient to death and was exalted

John 3:16 *God so loved the world that he gave... God is the ultimate _____!*

Genesis 1:26 we were made in his image... the image of the ultimate _____!

Acts 20:35 When we give we are most like _____; We were created to be givers!

2 Cor 8:1-4 *“Extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity” Generosity overcomes Poverty*

2 Cor 9:6-11 [memory verse] 11 *You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

- Generous giving → generous reaping; personal conviction/ _____ about giving
- God supplies us with treasure [righteousness]—out of our overflow, we give
- You have been made rich so that... _____

3. Treasure your Standard of _____, not your Standard of Living

Matthew 6:19 *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...”*

- It is not about our standard of living... Americans are not happier than the poor!
- What the world considers “rich” and “famous” we know is no treasure!

Matt 6:22 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

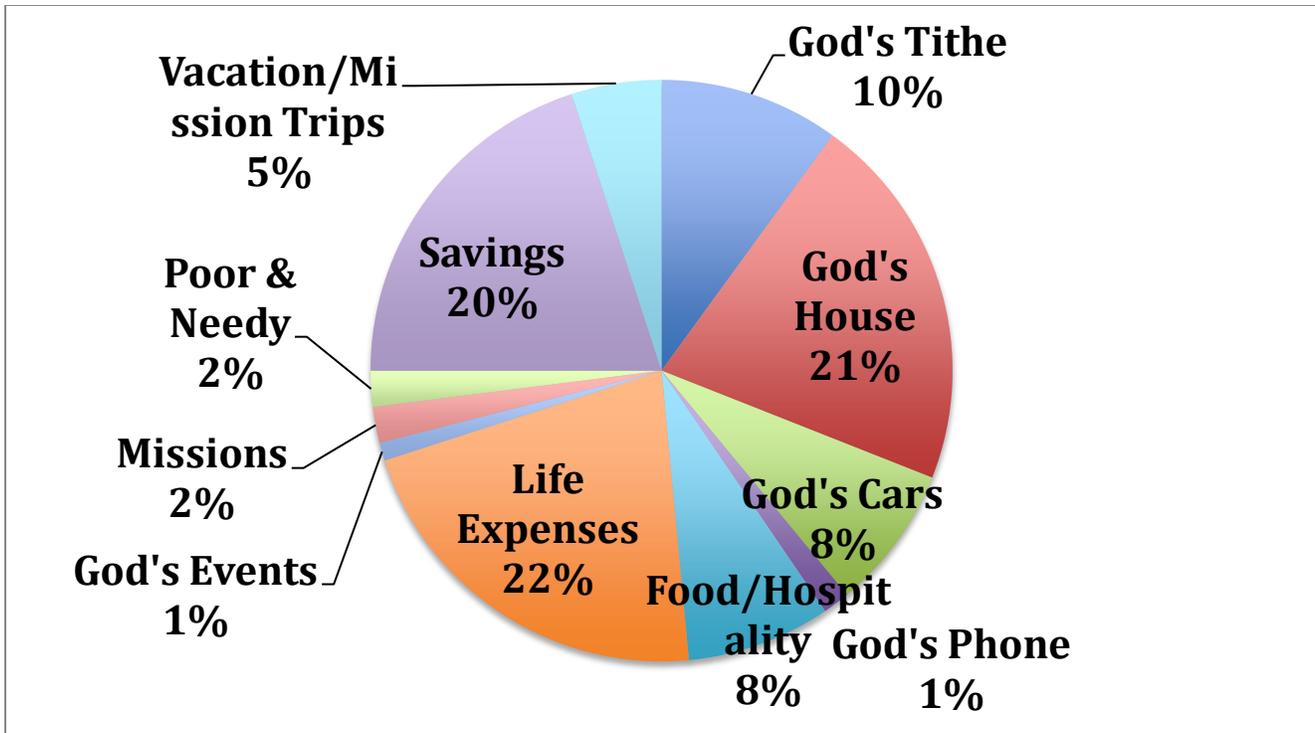
What is the secret? Your _____ follows your treasure... so does your _____.

- Giving Overcomes Materialism

Your Standard of Giving is The Transformed Life – Treasure in Heaven!

- **God entrusts you with resources;** Out of that you pay yourself a salary
 - Your job: God's Resource _____
 - You disperse God's funds to promote God's purposes
- **You give _____ back to God – your “firstfruits”**
 - You tithe (10%) to the local church
- **God's home is a hospitality center – a place people visit on their way to _____!**
 - People eat, sleep, and build relationships in your home
- **God's cars transport people toward heaven** Church, bible studies, camp...
- **God's phones and computer devices _____ you to people!**
- **You practice hospitality** out of your food budget

- **You take care of life's expenses** (healthcare, gym, recreation, personal, discretionary, etc.)
- **You invest in God's events:**
 - Married/Single/Campus/Teen Retreats; Regional, National, & World Conferences
- **You give generously to the poor, needy, and world missions contributions**
- **You save for the future:** responsible financial planning
 - 15% saved toward retirement, 5% toward college, emergency fund, and no debt!
- **Your vacation dollars include mission trips**
 - HOPE Youth Corps, HOPE Brigades, Singles Trips!
 - You encourage other churches, serve the poor, and connect on your way to heaven!



1 Tim 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. **Command** them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will **lay up treasure for themselves** as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

- **Treasure is central to Jesus' message**
- **God wants us to seek true treasure rather than being tricked into pursuing worldly treasure**
- **We were created to be like the ultimate giver... this is who we are!**
- **Giving is the secret to receiving treasure in heaven and the cure for materialism**
- **God gives in abundance... and plans a life of abundant giving for us!**
- **God's reward is eternal, indescribable, something he has been getting ready for us, and something he wants us to seek and to find... and enjoy...**
- **Our Treasure in Heaven is... HIM!**