

A blueprint to handling divine provision - Part 2

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Sunday, Jan 20, 2013*

1 Timothy 6:17-19

In this passage, Paul encourages Timothy to settle in the church, settle in the community and do what needs to be done. Paul points out that true life is in the coming age and life in the present world is not the ultimate reason for our existence. The present life serves only the purpose of preparing for eternal life; hence those who live in abundance need not depend on their wealth but use their riches to worship God.

The three biggest dangers of living in abundance

In the same way as scarcity has challenges, abundance brings its own too. The three biggest dangers to be wary of when you are rich are:

1. Self-conceit (feeling bigger than you are),
2. Self-reliance and
3. Self-sufficiency (feeling that you do not need anyone)

Three major truths to master about abundance

1. **Wealth offers you an increased opportunity to honour God.** Divine provision or prosperity needs to give you a sense of responsibility to reflect on why God has blessed you in abundance and what you can do to advance his kingdom; not spend recklessly.
2. **Functioning in abundance offers you an opportunity to be involved in doing good works for the benefit of your community.**
Refer to Luke 4:18 and Acts 10:38;
Jesus came to proclaim good news to the poor. He came to tell them their poverty is coming to an end. When God gives you abundance, you need to take responsibility to elevate the quality of life in your community.
3. **Generosity is a non-negotiable Christian habit.** We ought to excel in the grace of giving just as much as we excel in faith. We, however, need to be generous according to our means as generosity is an act of worship and we can only worship with what we have.
Proverbs 14:31, 24-25; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15.

The ultimate goal of life in the present age is to prepare for eternity. The only thing that will cross over with us to heaven is our good work.