

Heartstrings

Week 3: Heartstring of Fear

I. Introduction: Setting the Stage

- **Opening:** Congregation greeting, continuing the series on generosity.
 - **Main Goal:** Narrowing the topic of generosity into one takeaway: *Generosity frees us from the fear of trusting God with finances.*
 - Acknowledge that people may not remember everything, but emphasize this key point.
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II. Personal Struggle with Stewardship

- **Story of Motorcycles:** Personal example of unwise financial decisions.
 - Bought three motorcycles before even owning a car.
 - These decisions were not aligned with being a good steward of God's resources.
 - **Relating to the Audience:** Struggling with stewardship is common, and you are not alone in it.
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III. The Fear of Trusting God with Finances

- **Fear and Money:**
 - Many resist donating or giving time, holding tightly to "hard-earned" money.
 - Introduce the concept of FEAR:
 1. Finances
 2. Entice
 3. Active
 4. Resistance
 - Money becomes an idol, dethroning God.
 - **Fear's Impact:** It attaches itself to our hearts, making it difficult to trust God with our finances.
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IV. Biblical Example: The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:24-25)

- **The Fear of the Servant:** He buried his talent out of fear of losing it, not trusting his master.
 - **Deeper Meaning:** This parallels Christians receiving God's blessings but doing nothing with them out of fear.
 - **Inaccurate Perspective of God:** Like the servant, we may have a distorted view of God, leading to fear and inaction.
 - **Reflection:** We can't keep money anyway, so why fear losing it?
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V. What Should We Focus On?

- **Shift in Focus:** Instead of clinging to temporary wealth, we should focus on eternal investments.
 - **1 Timothy 6:18-19:** Generosity lays a foundation for eternal life.
 - **Luke 16:9:** Relationships and kingdom investment outlast worldly wealth.
 - **Call to Radical Generosity:** Not just tithing, but living a life of radical generosity by pouring into those around us.
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VI. A Challenge to Live Generously

- **Jim Elliott's Quote:** "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
 - **Core Truth of Generosity:** We are only stewards of what God gives us—nothing is truly ours to lose.
 - **Reflection Questions:**
 - Are you living the true life that God promises?
 - What would it look like to live a life of radical generosity?
 - **Conclusion:** Living generously frees us from fear and opens us to the true source of life.
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VII. Closing Prayer and Reflection

- **Prayer:** For courage to trust God with finances and live a life of radical generosity.
- **Challenge:** Encourage everyone to take steps in generosity this week, making it a priority in their lives.