

False Hope vs. True Security

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WARM-UP

- What's the most enjoyable thing you did this week?
- Do you consider yourself an impulsive buyer? Why or why not?
- How do you know if someone is humble or not? Recall an instance explaining this.

WORD

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 TIMOTHY 6:17

In his letter to Timothy, Paul gave a charge to the rich. This includes us all because the temptations of money affect those who have much or little, since before and until now. With everything we have, we are to acknowledge that God is the source of it all. We are not the owners; we are the stewards, and our ability or power to get wealth comes from Him (Deuteronomy 8:18). In this lesson, we will look at three attitudes we should have about riches and wealth: humility, hope, and joy.

1 Be humble.

. . . Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." JAMES 4:6

No one is self-made. Though some of us may be rich, this worldly wealth is not the end goal of every Christian, and it shouldn't make us haughty or proud. Every good thing we have is from God and because of Him. Therefore, we are to maintain a posture of humility before Him. Why do you think God opposes the proud?

2 Hope in God.

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 1 TIMOTHY 4:10

Because riches and worldly wealth are so uncertain, putting our hope in them is futile. We must put our hope in what is completely credible and reliable—God. As His children, we are to hope, trust, and look to Him alone—not in the gifts, blessings, or tangible things of life. Recall a time when you learned to put your hope in God. How did you do it? What happened?

3 Enjoy God's provision.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 TIMOTHY 6:17

Many times, our perspective of God is more about Him restricting us and withholding things from us. However, the Bible says that God richly provides us with everything to enjoy. God's abundant provision results in joy, gratitude, and being a blessing to others. Do you believe God is able to bless us more than we could ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)? Why?

APPLICATION

- How can you practice humility this week? What is one specific thing you will do differently?
- Who or what do you put your hope in? In what situation do you have difficulty trusting God? How can you put your hope in God every day and during difficult times?
- Do you think it's okay for Christians to enjoy God's provision? Why or why not? How can you have a biblical understanding of God's abundant provision for your life?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His abundant provision—and how His greatest blessing to you is the gift of eternal life. Pray that you will always be secure in God.
- Ask God to give you an eternal and godly perspective for every situation you will face. Pray that you will be humble and hope in God no matter what.
- Ask God to bless you so that you can be a blessing to others, even this week.



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