

Healthy Body
The Skeletal System: Generosity
September 4, 2016

Introduction

¹⁷Command 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. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In 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. (1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV)

“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.” (1 Timothy 6:7 NIV)

As much as we may try to store our treasures here on Earth, they will do us no good in eternity. More importantly, when we love anything more than God, it becomes an idol and separates us from Him and all of the great plans He has for us. This could mean your finances, other people, hobbies or habits. Are you ready to get real and talk about what all of this might look like in your life?

Digging Deeper

A generous life guides how we use our...

- Treasure. Read Matthew 6:19-24. This passage tells us that our earthly storehouses will be meaningless in heaven. Even so, do you struggle with the Biblical principle of tithing and the concept of sacrificial generosity? How does your perspective shift when you think of all that you have as being God’s first and foremost?
- Time. How do you spend yours? It is important to remember that God calls us to place our hope in Him above all else. If we are doing that, how do you think it would be reflected in our actions and how we go about our day?
- Talent. While spending time helping others is the right thing to do, you wouldn’t offer to operate on a patient if you aren’t a surgeon, right? (I sure hope not!) The richest deeds you can do are those that match your unique gifts. What would you say are your talents? How do you use them to bring glory to our Father in Heaven?
- Treasure. We talked about treasure in terms of finances or possessions. What about the ultimate treasure we receive when we take hold of a life that is truly life? Talk about what this type of life means to you and your family.

Conclusion

Just as our bones comprise our physical skeletal system, generosity makes up our spiritual skeletal system and gives support to the Body of Christ and our work in the world. A generous life guides us in how we use all the resources God has placed at our disposal. This can be easy if we remember that everything we have is a gift from God.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21) Spend some time this week evaluating your heart so you can honestly answer this final question: Where does your treasure lie?