

“Compass Points”
Ecclesiastes 11:1-10
New Hope Community Church
March 18th, 2018

Life Group Meeting
Ecclesiastes 11:1-10

1. Generosity or Accumulation? (1,2)

- A. Casting bread on waters represents **risky** investment (1)
- A good return on such action seems **unlikely**
 - If there is a return, it will be in the **unforeseeable** future
- B. The opportunities with assets are many, yet the time is **now** (2)
- The extent of how to divide our resources is **indefinite**
 - The possibility of loss is seen as **motivation**
- C. What is clear seems to be the element of **risk**. What is not clear is what kind of risk. Two possibilities, you decide —
(1) Stewardship of money (2) Sharing with those in need
- ▶ **Compass Point: Generosity** — rooted in trusting God!
‘But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?’
(1 Jn 3:17)

2. Faith or Control? (3-6)

- A. There are many things that we do not **control** (3,5)
- B. God’s business should not **keep** us from doing our business
- Be encouraged, the Creator is **active** in His creation (5b)
 - Be diligent, trust in God to **establish** your work (6)
- ▶ **Compass Point: Faith** — rooted in trusting God!
‘Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands.’ (Ps 90:17)

3. Rejoicing or Losing Heart? (7-10)

- A. A lifetime is touched by **both** good days and bad (7,8)
- The gift of each year is something to **rejoice** in (8a)
 - The difficult challenges will be **numerous**
- B. Rejoice in the different **stages** of life (9a,b)
- Balance it all with a remembrance of God’s **judgment** (9c)
 - Put away any **negative** residue from the difficult times (10)
 - You pass through each stage only once — **enjoy!**
- ▶ **Compass Point: Rejoicing** — rooted in trusting God!
‘Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.’ (Ps 55:22)
‘Rejoice in the Lord always . . . the Lord is near’ (Phil 4:4,5)

Reflection

generosity or accumulation / faith or control / rejoicing or losing heart

QUESTIONS

1. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1,2
2. What do you think Solomon is meaning in v 1? How about v 2?
3. The element of ‘risk’ seems to exist in whatever Solomon means to say — whether risk in how we invest our money, or risk in being generous with the needy. How can we obey the command of 1 Jn 3:17 and not be ‘at risk’ — or can we? What is the key?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 11:3-6
5. Do you believe that a major issue for us as human beings is the deep desire to ‘be in control’, whether it’s control of the process or of the outcome? Can you share any examples from your life?
6. This section of Scripture seems to be exhorting us to move forward in life regardless of the fact there are so many things we cannot control. How does faith give us victory in this?
7. Does Ps 90:17 give any guidance in the application of faith?
8. Read Ecclesiastes 11:7-10
9. Solomon concludes that there will be days of light and days of darkness, but to rejoice in all your years. How can this truly be possible during the years that are more dark than light?
10. Solomon counsels young people to follow the impulses of their heart and the desires of their eyes, yet warns them that God will bring them to judgement for all things. How is a young person to walk this tightrope? How would you counsel a young person?
11. How does rejoicing safeguard us from losing heart in the midst of the dark times. Is Psalm 55:22 true all the time? Has this been your experience?