

## GIVING - WHY? & HOW?

HEBREWS 13:5 ERIC SIMPSON - JANUARY 29, 2017

"What are we here for in the first place? The fundamental answer...is to become genuine human beings, reflecting the God in whose image we're made, and doing so in worship on the one hand and in mission, its full and large sense, on the other; and that we do this not least by 'following Jesus.' The way this works out is that it produces, through the work of the Holy Spirit, a transformation of character. This transformation will mean that we do indeed 'keep the rules'—though not out of a sense of externally imposed duty, but out of character that has been formed within us. And it will mean that we do indeed 'follow our hearts' and live 'authentically'—but only when, with that transformed character fully operative (like an airline pilot with a lifetime's experience), the hard work up front bears fruit in spontaneous decisions and actions that reflect what has been formed deep within. And, in the wider world, the challenge we face is to grow and develop a fresh generation of leaders, in all walks of life, whose character has been formed in wisdom and public service, not in greed for money or power." – N.T. Wright

### Why is "giving" such a big deal with God?

- **The way we handle money/possessions has a great impact on the kind of person we become.**

*Hebrews 13:5*

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

Giving is like a thermostat for the soul, it helps set the climate of our interior world.

- **Giving and living everyday life with Jesus go hand-in-hand.**

*Matthew 6:3-4*

*3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

### How does God want us to give?

- **Generously**

*1 Timothy 6:17-19*

- **Joyfully**

*2 Corinthians 8:1-5,7*

- **Consistently**

*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*