



weekend

resource guide for the week of 27 May

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and instead pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ... 1 Timothy 6.11-14:

People can be divided into three groups: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened! Timothy, the subject of this Scripture passage, is clearly intended to be in the first group. In other words, God intends him to be a man of impact.

Today there are three main reasons why our world needs followers of Jesus Christ who will be people of impact. First, our world is changing. By next year at this time there will be about 125 million more people in the world than there are now. Who will lead them? Will our leaders develop or destroy them? Who or what will shape their understanding of truth, justice, morality, and destiny?

Second, many in leadership positions have abdicated their responsibility — either intentionally or functionally. In the United States the nation's majority no longer consider character an essential ingredient of good leadership.

Third, people fear change! Change will occur whether there is effective leadership or not. Without positive leadership change will bring deterioration and destruction rather than growth and improvement. Leadership crisis occurs because change will not wait for leadership. Society is not like a car parked in a driveway waiting for a driver. It is like an automobile careening down the freeway at 70 mph without a driver — it will surely crash. If the driver is reckless or drunken the results will be tragic. If the driver is misguided the destination which the hearts of humanity yearn for will never be reached.

Everyone who follows Jesus Christ is called to be a person of impact. The Spirit of God forbids you to remain silent or passive while the world, the flesh, and the devil plunder, blind, and confound your "Impact Zone." Your Impact Zone will include yourself, your friends and/or family, and your co-workers. While their size and scope may vary from person to person mark this: your temperament neither accredits nor disqualifies you. It is your responsiveness to God's call and your readiness to do His will that certifies you to be a Person of Impact.

People of Impact will deliberately exert special influence within their Impact Zone in order to move men, women, youth, and/or children toward a destination established by God. To accomplish this

- People of Impact realize that vision is the foundation of their leadership. Vision is a revelation of the will of God for us. Spiritual vision doesn't simply fix what is wrong or broken — it redesigns.
- People of Impact set goals of beneficial permanence that fulfill God's wishes and address people's real needs.
- People of Impact recognize their responsibility to take initiative and not remain passive. People of Impact will take deliberate action in keeping with God's call, truth, and mercy.
- People of Impact understand their need to cultivate personal discipline and purity.

Neither the world nor the Church needs a coterie of elitists who talk love and compassion while isolating themselves from real people. People are not looking for a retinue of cliché spouting, self-avowed "quick fix" magicians. The world is looking for people of impact — only those who are committed to Jesus and compassionately concerned for people will make a lasting difference.

Enjoy your LifeGroup!

Getting to know one another better..

What was the hardest thing for you to share when you were growing up? Why?

Acts 4.32-5.11: WARNING! Don't lie to God...

And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well." And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

What? (does the Bible say)

Describe the attitude believers had towards one another? Why do you think they had this attitude?

Who is Barnabas and why is he singled out?

What is the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

What did Ananias and Sapphira do with the proceeds from the sale of their property?

Now what? (how will I think based on what this passage says)

How do you react to the events of this passage?

Why do you think there was such severe judgment against Ananias and Sapphira? What could Ananias and Sapphira have done differently to avoid judgment?

How does this story demonstrate the high value that God places on generosity, truth and unity within the body of Christ?

In what areas of life are we (or are we at least tempted to be) less than honest? Do you think you portray yourself as more generous than you really are? Why or why not?

Does God call all Christians to be generous? Explain.

Generosity is not a one-off... it is an intentional and sustained lifestyle. Do you ever take time to evaluate your giving— your time? your talents? your treasure? Explain.

So what? (difference will this passage make in how I live)

When you think of a generous person, who comes to mind for you? Why do you think of this person?

What do you think you hold back from God? Financially? Materially? Emotionally? Relationally? Behaviorally? How can your LifeGroup encourage you?

Ask God to show you people or ministries that He is asking you to be generous towards. Does anyone/any ministry come to mind? How can you be generous to them?

How can your LifeGroup encourage you to be generous?

Ultimately, this passage is about the value and beauty of Christian community. How can your LifeGroup celebrate, encourage, and build community in Christ as a group and among the larger community at Faith?

My prayer requests (write in advance what you want your group to pray for...)

Praying for my group...