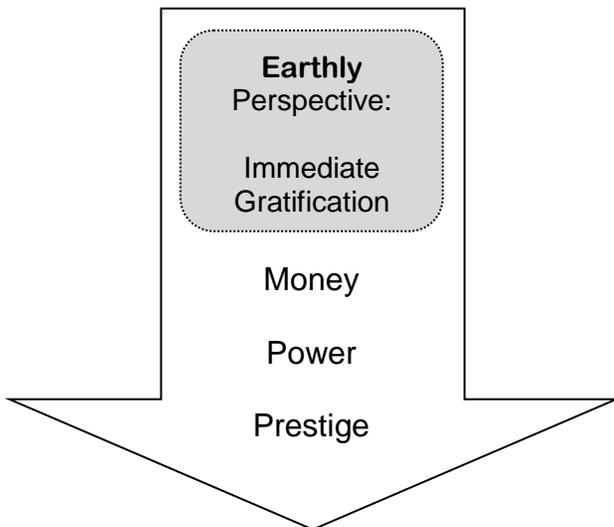


Introduction: Two paths to happiness

Path #1:
The Way of Consumption

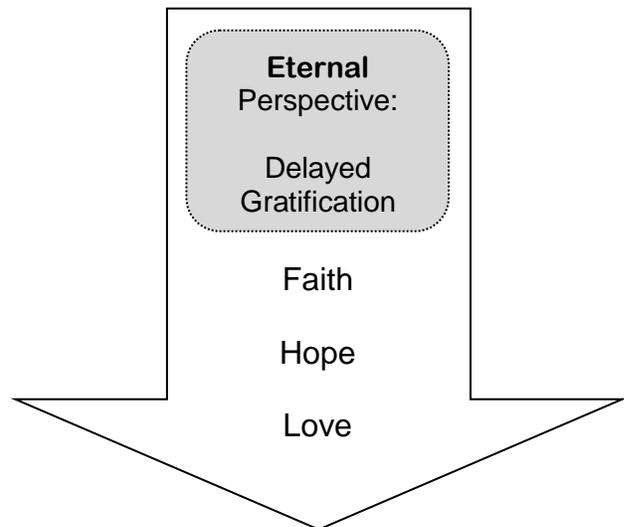
“Get...
...bigger, better, more.”



Promise = Happiness

Path #2:
The Way of Compassion

“Give...
...bigger, better, more.”



Promise = Happiness

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of _____.

Solomon, Proverbs 14:12

- A prayer to ponder...
- A question to answer...
- A problem to resolve...

The Solution:

And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

- **The Promise:** _____.
- **The Premise:** _____.
 1. It is only for those _____.
 2. It is only for those who _____.
 3. It is only for those living by _____.

The Principle: The law of the _____.

- Explained Luke 6:38
- Illustrated in nature John 12:24
- Applied to Jesus Philippians 2:8-11
- Applied to us Luke 9:24

“You never reap in the same season that you sow.”

The Process:

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

- **The Principle restated:** When you have a need, _____.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

- **The Procedure outlined:** Give with the right _____.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

- **The Promise expanded:** God will give you _____ you need in _____ area of your life.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

As it is written: "He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11(NIV)

The Practice: God's invitation / challenge to you

“Test Me!” “Try It!” “I Dare You!”

*¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. . . **Test Me** in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it! **Malachi 3:10 (NIV)***

I, _____, choose to take God up on His challenge-promise and trust Him to meet all my needs. I take this step by committing the _____ of my income to the Lord for the next 90 days.

Signed

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the relationship between experiencing happiness and contentment and trusting God's promise in Philippians 4:19?
2. Why is giving such an integral part of activating the “faith component” in our lives? How has God honored your faith in giving in the past?
3. In what area of your life do you have a great need? What would “planting a seed” look like in this area?
4. Share the specific step of faith or obedience God has directed you to take. Who can help you keep your commitment?