

CHAPTER TWELVE: RESTORING OUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

Jesus' disciple Peter addressed our greed by offering God's design for generosity, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). We were designed to be *generous* with our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. God desires that we *use* them to *serve*, faithfully *administering* divine grace--His undeserved love--in its various forms. We were designed to *use* our gifts received vertically to *serve* those horizontally, so that they *connect* vertically with the grace of the Generous One.

"Generous" and "generate" come from the same Latin word, *genus*, meaning "race, or kind." "Generous" means "giving." "Generate" means "multiply." Consequently, *generosity multiplies giving* in the human race. God's desire is to multiply our gifts through us to generate generosity in others. Yet many of us still believe that our grasp at *significance, contentment, control, and security* apart from the Restorer will ultimately satisfy our desires. Attempting to satisfy our desires apart from God creates the gap of pretense in each one of us. This gap misaligns our hearts, desires, and three resources of life from the outside in, leaving us dissatisfied.

Greed flows from a hard heart to a tight fist, but generosity flows from a soft heart to an open hand. God's design aligns the heart with our three resources of life. Rather than being *hardhearted* and *tightfisted* with our resources, God's desire is that we be *softhearted* and *openhanded* (Deuteronomy 15:7-11).

Navigating Restoration Road

Take a moment and pull out your calendar. What appointments have you set for the next week? Is it all about busyness or relationships?

Are you trusting in the *gift* of time for your own selfish benefit or are you trusting in the *Giver*?

How can you surrender your time to the Restorer?