

From Week #1 Faith in the Midst of Financial Crisis

All Church Program Hour Discussion Themes

- ▶ *Fear* can indeed be a powerful force in our lives ... fear of not *having* enough ... fear of not *being* enough ... fear of not being able to give our children and families all that we would like to. And this *fear* can sometimes shape our decisions about giving, spending and saving.
- ▶ Many of us also struggle with jealousy or *anger* as well ... especially anger toward those who seem to have personally benefited while the nation has undergone a financial crisis. (e.g. many Wall Street executives.)
- ▶ The challenge often comes when we allow *fear* or *anger* to make our choices for us.
- ▶ Just as a sense of fear can influence our mindset and our priorities, so too can a *sense of gratitude*. Making a conscious effort *to focus on what we have* (rather than what we *want*) and *to be thankful* can shift our thinking and help bring a greater sense of peace.
- ▶ Even when we try to cultivate a sense of gratitude and place our trust in God (rather than possessions), we are often frustrated and don't know how to respond in the face of truly dire circumstances. What do we say to someone who has lost their job, their home, or more? Even more important, what can we *do* for them?
- ▶ Just as powerful as *sense of gratitude* can be an *attitude of service*. When we focus on following the example of Christ by helping our neighbors, our friends, and our community, we can lessen feelings of frustration or fear and "take back" some of the power that we lost when we gave in to fear.
- ▶ To be concerned for the status of the stock market is to be concerned about *lifestyle*. What we need to be concerning ourselves with is *life itself*: our neighbor, our community, our world.

Next: Sunday, October 11th
Wisdom and Finance
9:30 am - Sanctuary