

# Living Generously

## The Ownership Issue

### I. Introduction

- A. Acts 4:32-35 (NAS) <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.
1. "It's not my stuff. It's not your stuff. It's not our stuff. It's not the leader's stuff. It's God's stuff."
- B. It's all God's stuff!
- C. Psalm 24:1 (NAS) *The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.*
1. "What do I do with what I have?"
- D. Ecclesiastes 5:15 (NLT) *We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us.*
1. I can't keep my stuff, but I can use it!
- E. Acts 4:34 (NAS) *"There was not a needy person among them."*
- F. II Corinthians 9:6-8 (NAS) <sup>6</sup>Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.

### II. Four Levels of Giving

- A. "I ought to do my part."
- B. Need giving
- C. Systematic obedience

D. Spirit-directed generosity

1. "God, how should we, together, manage Your stuff?"
2. "God, what do You want me to do as far as my giving?"
3. "I sure wish I would have spent more money on me!"

**III. Conclusion**