

PREPARING OUR **HEARTS** FOR THE  
**ADVENTURE**  
**AHEAD**

is able to do immeasurably more than  
his power that is at work within us..."

**Ephesians 3:20** - "Now to him who  
all we ask or imagine, according to

**INSIDEOUT**  
renewing **hope** for all

# OWNERSHIP

EVERYTHING IN ALL THE WORLD BELONGS TO GOD

**As God's people, we recognize that even our very lives are His, and that therefore He has rightful claim to all of the abundant provision that we enjoy each day.**

**1 Chronicles 29:11** – “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for ALL that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.”

**Job 41:11** – “Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.

**Psalms 24:1** – “The earth is the LORD'S and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.”

While by American law we are owners of our property—permitted to dispense with it as we please—our higher vocation has us serving as temporary managers of a portion of God's belongings. Have you ever thought about it that way? When we say “yes” to Jesus as King, we do not simply embrace His gracious forgiveness, we also embrace His reign over all things. All things. He doesn't merely assuage our guilty conscience; King Jesus awakens in us a hunger and a growing passion to see all that we are and all that we have as “unto Him.” Paul says in Romans 11:35-36, “Who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.” Is it not a very humbling experience to concede that what is mine is not mine, but His? Would it not be a life-changing perspective from which to live and move and have your being? Life becomes less about what I want to get out of it for myself, and more about what God wants to get out of my life in His hands for His glory.

Put into your own words where you are with the concept of ownership. Does God only have access to a portion of me or does He have access to ALL of me? What holds me back? Be honest, are there any fears at play here? Pray: what might it look like if I took the next step in this?

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# JOY

## GENEROUS INVESTMENT IS THE BEST LIFE EVER

**Far from being an extraction that diminishes us, cheerfully investing God’s resources is one of life’s greatest joys. God gives us the privilege of participating in His work in His world.**

- 1 Chronicles 29:9,17** – “Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord...I (King David) have seen your people...offering freely and joyously to you.”
- 2 Corinthians 8:4** – “...begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:7** – “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19** – “...charge them (the rich) not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share...so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

I love that last line—“take hold of that which is truly life.” This is the surprising coup of being a growing disciple of Jesus. The more His life is formed within us and finds expression through us, the more we find life worth living. Yes, giving generously, lavishly, even sacrificially includes a ‘losing’ of some sort, but as disciples of Jesus it is all gain in the end. Welcome to the good life! Where giving away under God’s direction and by the Spirit’s impulse is a path to even greater joy. Oh, imagine the joys we have missed out on because we convinced ourselves that generous living would diminish our happiness? To the contrary. We can’t out-give God. He delights in faithful stewards and increases their capacity to give as He increases their desire. This isn’t a get rich quick scheme—give more to get more. But when our joy is in Jesus and He moves our hearts to give, His lasting delight in us far outweighs any fleeting pleasure we might have created for ourselves. The local church is God’s primary strategy for reaching the nations—across the street and around the world. And true life is the joyful privilege of joining our generous giving with the generous giving of others at Hope Church to accomplish God’s purposes in Mason plus and around the world.

Do I long to see Hope become an equipping center for multiplying discipleship? To see the next generations encountering the Gospel and the Word of God in the context of deepening relationships? Pray: that God’s delight in my generosity would become my joy.

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# So what's NEXT?

**1 Corinthians 16:2** – “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up...”

**2 Corinthians 9:5** – “...arrange in advance for the gift you’ve promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not an exaction

- **MAKE A PLAN.** We tend to be faithful when we are intentional.
- **ASK** God to give you discernment and to lead you in the specifics.
- **COMMIT** to invest generously in Hope Church’s **InsideOut** project.
- **REMAIN** open to how that commitment might grow.
- And **DELIGHT** in glorifying God and contributing to the lasting joy of all people.



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