

1 Timothy 6:17-19 and The Ministry of Major Gifts Fundraising

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be high-minded or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things for enjoyment: to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Introduction: This one is different

- This is a message to the fundraiser about encouraging wealth sharing or giving “across” (**koinōnikous**).
- It differs from messages to the donor about almsgiving or giving “down” (**eleēmosynē**).

STORY ELEMENTS: CHARACTERS, SETTING, AND BACKSTORY

The people group: To those who are rich

- Biblical fundraising is a scriptural ministry to the wealth holders.
- Ordinary fundraising is just a way to get quick cash to a charity.
those who are rich in this present world
[As for those in the church who are wealth holders right now at this opportune moment]

The ministry relationship: The authorized messenger who comes alongside

- Biblical fundraising comes alongside (**para**) the wealth holders to deliver an authorized message (**angelle**) about generosity.
- Ordinary fundraising begs from below, attacks from above, or avoids the wealthy.
Instruct (parangelle)
[continually come alongside them as an authorized messenger to instruct and advise them]

Message 1: You're the kind of person who makes gifts like this!

- Biblical fundraising starts with the donor's past and continuing identity: They will give because of who they are.
- Ordinary fundraising starts with the charity's identity: They're supposed to give because of who we are.
not to be high-minded (present infinitive: an already in-progress continuing process) **or to set their hope** (perfect infinitive: the present result of a past action) **on the uncertainty of riches, but on God**
[that they are to continue in the ongoing process of being not high-minded (not above the fellowship community), that they have already in the past (with continuing effects on the present) placed their hope not on hidden, uncertain, and disappearing riches but on God]

Message 2: Let's talk about wealth!

- Biblical fundraising is about wealth conversations.
- Ordinary fundraising stays stuck in the realm of disposable income decisions.
rich ... riches ... richly ... rich ... storing up ... treasure

Message 3: People like us enjoy doing things like this!

- Biblical fundraising shows a shared social norm of generosity from others' examples.
- Ordinary fundraising asks for isolated donation decisions.

God, who richly supplies US with all things for enjoyment: to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share

Message 4: Giving is more enjoyable because everything comes from God!

- Biblical fundraising focuses on the past, present, and future of the donor's wealth story.
- Ordinary fundraising focuses only on the charity's story.

God, who richly supplies us with all things

[God, the one who has and is and will continuously and personally supply every one of us richly with each and every thing]

STORY ELEMENTS: THE CALL TO ADVENTURE

Message 5: Use your wealth to take a joy ride!

- Biblical fundraising is about advising the donor to enjoy their wealth.
- Ordinary fundraising is about asking the donor to give away money.
with all things for enjoyment: to do good, to be rich in good works ...

Message 6: Now is the time to decide what to do with your temporary wealth!

- Biblical fundraising focuses on the donor's wealth plans.
- Ordinary fundraising focuses only on the charity's plans.
[7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it, either...] rich in this present world ... on the uncertainty of riches

STORY ELEMENTS: VICTORY AND RESOLUTION

Message 7: You're doing good work!

- Biblical fundraising is about the donor's actions and impact.
- Ordinary fundraising is about the organization's actions and impact.
to do good
[to do intrinsically good work (imitating the way that God provides everyone with material blessings)]

Message 8: You're making beautiful things happen!

- Biblical fundraising is about creating many beautiful, visible, noble works.
- Ordinary fundraising is only about redistributing money.
to be rich in good works
[to be rich in many visible, inspiring, noble, beautiful, good works]

Message 9: You're being an admirable person!

- Biblical fundraising is about the donor's admirable identity.
- Ordinary fundraising is about the organization's admirable identity.
to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share

Message 10: You're ready to joyfully share abundance!

- Biblical fundraising's goal is ready, happy, abundance sharers.
- Ordinary fundraising's goal is just getting money.
to be generous and ready
[to be a person who lives the good life of a ready-willing sharer, a joyful-abounding sharer, and an abundant-rich sharer]

Message 11: You're one of us!

- Biblical fundraising connects the donor to a fellowship community [**koinōnia**] through sharing [**koinōnikous**].
- Ordinary fundraising asks to give away to outsiders.
to share [koinōnikous]
[to be a person who shares as a connected member of a reciprocal fellowship community (just as if they were closely bonded family members)]

Message 12: You're being a good partner in a great partnership!

- Biblical fundraising offers beneficial reciprocity with God and the fellowship community.
- Ordinary fundraising asks for a disconnected one-way transfer to outsiders.
God, who richly supplies us... ready to share... storing up for themselves... so that they may take hold

Message 13: You're making an investment with real permanence!

- Biblical fundraising emphasizes lasting investment results.
- Ordinary fundraising just needs cash now.
storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future
[thereby storing up for themselves the treasure of a visible, inspirational, noble, beautiful, good foundation fund for their future]

Message 14: You're grabbing the best life experience!

- Biblical fundraising offers ultimate value to the donor: the best life experience.
- Ordinary fundraising delivers value only to the charity.
so that they may take hold of that which is truly life
[All so that they may aggressively grab hold of the experience of living a life that is really and truly life indeed (both now and later)]

The Greatest Donor Story Ever Told

Classic story elements: Setting creates behavioral expectations. Backstory establishes identity from the main character's personal values, life history, and people connections. These motivate accepting an urgent challenge ("call to adventure"), often delivered by a guiding sage, which leads to a victory (climax) and enhanced identity (personal transformation confirmed at the resolution).

1 Timothy 6:17-19 donor story elements:

- **Set in the land of temporary and disappearing wealth**
- **The rich Christian is motivated by his backstory (identity)**
 - His personal values reflect that he is already in the ongoing process of being not high-minded (not above the fellowship community).
 - His life history shows that he has already in the past (with continuing effects on the present) placed his hope not on hidden, uncertain, and disappearing riches but on a richly providing God.
 - His life history shows that God is the one who has and is and will continuously and personally supply him richly with each and every thing.
 - His people connections reflect that he is one of "us" and we all use whatever God has richly supplied to pursue this same call to adventure.
- **To accept an urgent call to adventure (challenge) to use his temporary wealth for its intended purpose of ENJOYMENT**
 - Urgency: You are wealthy right now, at this opportune moment. But wealth is uncertain and subject to disappearing at any moment. You can't take it with you when you leave this world! Don't just stack it up just to bury it and die with it! (That's the painful and tragic path of the fool.)
 - An authorized messenger continuously delivers this call to adventure by coming alongside the rich Christian in an authentic relationship of ministry.
- **This call to adventure promises a personally meaningful victory**
 - He experiences enjoyment by using what he has to accomplish intrinsically good work. He responds to God by imitating the way that God provides everyone with material blessings.
 - He experiences enjoyment by being personally rich in new and lasting ways. He becomes rich in beautiful, visible, inspirational good works. He stores up the treasure of a beautiful, visible, and good foundation fund for himself.
- **And results in a transformed identity**
 - He experiences enjoyment from being a person who lives the good life of a ready-willing sharer, a joyful-abounding sharer, and an abundant-rich sharer.
 - He experiences enjoyment from being a person who shares as a connected member of a closely bonded, reciprocal, family-like fellowship community.
 - He accomplishes all this for the purpose of aggressively grabbing hold of the victorious experience of living a life that is really and truly life indeed.

Book Series

[*The Biblical Fundraiser in Ancient Words: The Historical Ministry of Major Gifts Fundraising*](#)
[*The Biblical Fundraiser in Modern Practice: Helping Christians Enjoy Their Wealth*](#)
[*Joyful Wealth Management: A Bible Study Discussion Guide*](#)