

Presence of God

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1 Timothy 6:17-19

This last month we have looked at God's generosity; our stewardship and the faith behind it all. Today we focus on the practical question of to whom and toward what we should give. The big question deals with whether our giving priorities line up with God's.

1. GOD USES DETOURS AS PART OF HIS DESIGN FOR OUR LIVES.

- Moses is on a detour in the wilderness for forty years (Numbers 32:13).
- Abraham is on a detour for twenty-five years while He waits for God to give him an heir (Genesis 12:1-4; 21:1-8).
- The Apostle Paul goes on a three-year detour in the Arabian Desert and Damascus waiting for his ministry to resume (Galatians 1:15-18).
- Joseph spends thirteen years on a detour enduring slavery and prison before entering Pharaoh's service (Genesis 37:1-2; 41:46).
- Joseph does not blame his brothers for what they did to him because he sees God's design in the detours (Genesis 50:19-21).
- Just like these biblical figures, God takes us on detours to develop us for His purpose.

2. GOD USES DETOURS TO PREPARE US FOR OUR FUTURE.

- Often, we are simply not ready to handle our destiny because we lack maturity.
- God reveals to Joseph details of his destiny, but he is not mature enough to handle them.
- God gives Joseph two dreams about his future telling him that he would rule over his brothers, father and mother when he was only seventeen years old (Genesis 37:2, 6-7, 9).
- Joseph unwisely tells his brothers and his parents about his dreams (Genesis 37:5-11).
- Joseph's journey into slavery (Genesis 37:36) allowed for him to become acquainted with the Egyptian culture, government, and language.