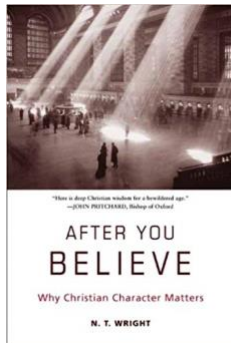


FOR...GENEROSITY

HEBREWS 13:5 | ERIC SIMPSON | JANUARY 19, 2020



“What are we here for in the first place? The fundamental answer...is to become genuine human beings, reflecting the God in whose image we’re made, and doing so in worship on the one hand and in mission, its full and large sense, on the other; and that we do this not least by ‘following Jesus.’ The way this works out is that it produces, through the work of the Holy Spirit, a transformation of character. This transformation will mean that we do indeed ‘keep the rules’ — though not out of a sense of externally imposed duty, but out of character that has been formed within us. And it will mean that we do indeed ‘follow our hearts’ and live ‘authentically’ —but only when, with that transformed character fully operative (like an airline pilot with a lifetime’s experience), the hard work up front bears fruit in spontaneous decisions and actions that reflect what has been formed deep within. And, in the wider world, the challenge we face is to grow and develop a fresh generation of leaders, in all walks of life, whose character has been formed in wisdom and public service, not in greed for money or power.” — N.T. Wright

The Why?

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

“your life/character” = “tropos” = character, inner life, environment on the inside

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

➤ **The way we handle money/possessions has a great impact on the kind of person we become.**

Matthew 6:3-4

3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Jesus sees *giving* as a way of *living* in the Kingdom of God.

The How?

➤ **Generously**

1 Timothy 6:17-19

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

➤ **Consistently**

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

1 Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

tithe = 10% = starting point

The act of faith = God can do more with the 90% than I can do with 100%.

90-day tithing challenge = test the Lord with this, see what He does