

GENEROUS LIVING

March 26, 2017

INTRODUCTION

“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. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 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.” 1 Tim. 6:17-19

KEY POINT: What we give has the potential to impact how others live

TEXT: 2 Cor. 8:1-12

Setting: Paul is writing to the church in Corinth to let them know that he is coming to receive the gift they've promised to give to help others

Characteristics of Generosity

- **Generosity is an active choice**

Not taken by force but freely chosen

- **Generosity is an act of dedication and devotion**

It is a heart-issue more than a pocket-book issue:

“No one can serve two masters...you cannot serve both God and Money.” (Matt. 6:24)

Our giving becomes an expression of worship and trust

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” (Pv. 3:9-10)

- **Generosity is a manifestation of God's grace in our lives**

Reflection of His character and His sovereignty

His Spirit alive in us is a generous Spirit

Recognition of God's Sovereignty over all

Ps. 24:1 “The earth is the Lord's and everything in it...”

Deut. 8:18 “But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth...”

Acts 17:26 “...He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.”

“What do you have that you did not receive?...” 1 Cor. 4:7

- **Generosity is an expression of faith**
Our giving has the ability to make a difference in someone else's life
- **Generosity begins with what I have**
We have something to give!
- **Generosity connects us with others**
- **Generosity frees us from the bonds of the temporary**
Through our giving we can impact eternity!

We give not because of what we get but because of what we can affect

Living Generous

1. Opening Our Hearts

Allowing our hearts to be moved

2. Opening Our Hands

Practicing generosity

Ps. 145:16 "You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."

An act of generosity every day this week

3. Opening Doors

Our gift makes an opportunity for another to experience the grace of God

Someone gave so you could experience God's love

CONCLUSION

KEY POINT: What we give has the potential to impact how others live

Begins with giving ourselves first to God: I give you my Heart

RESPONSE: Practice Generosity, Salvation