

GENEROSITY

I have been the fortunate recipient of other people's kindness and generosity. There have been numerous times in my life when people have showered financial blessing on me, taken the time to listen in deep conversation and offer wise counsel and sound insight. I make time to seek out hurting or lonely people and spend time listening to and encouraging them. I try to share what I have, no matter how little, and work at being unselfish even in the small things. Making sure the needs of others are met before my own, or giving something up in order to provide for someone else - this brings such joy to me as a follower of Jesus!

Share: How have you experienced generosity in your life? Talk about a time you or someone else was generous and write about it below.

Generosity is the quality of being kind and generous, unselfish, putting others before yourself - giving of your time, talent and treasure. The River desires to be a generous community!

What the Bible Says About Generosity

The Bible has much to say about generosity, but let's focus on two important ideas. Read these two Scripture passages and write one thought about how you see the theme of generosity in each passage: Luke 12:34 & Mark 12:41-44.

Generosity, Money, and the Bible

Read Psalm 112:5, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, and Acts 2:44-45

These verses suggest that generosity will cure two problems that money can create. First, in our desire to accumulate wealth, generosity saves us from hurting other people. Second, the fear of losing money can be a snare to us, but generosity moves us to trusting God for ultimate life-security. In the passage in Acts 2, people began to sell their property and possessions and were sharing them with all and anyone in need. Believers were LOOKING for opportunities to be generous!

Why is Generosity Important?

Simply put, we resemble the character of God manifested in His goodness when we are generous! [Henry, M., Matthew Henry's Commentary on The Whole Bible, Hendrickson Publishers, 2009] "A charitable man has a bountiful eye, an eye that seeks out objects of charity, that at the sight of one in want and misery, affects the heart with compassion. He also has a liberal hand: He gives of his bread, the bread appointed for his own eating. God himself will bless him." Proverbs 22:9 [Henry, 2009].

"Lend, hoping for nothing again. We must lend though we have reason to suspect that what we lend we lose, lend to those who are so poor that it is not probable they will be able to pay us again. Here are two motives to this generous charity. It will rebound to our profit; for our reward shall be great. What is lent and lost on earth through a true principle of charity will be made up to us. You shall not only be repaid but rewarded, greatly rewarded; it will be said to you, 'Come, ye blessed, inherit the kingdom.' It will rebound to our honour; for herein we shall resemble God in his goodness which is the greatest glory!" Luke 6:35 [Henry, 2009].

Share: How do you feel as you look at your own life, and evaluate your spirit and practice of generosity? Is it easy for you to give or do you find it challenging? Why or why not? Which area of generosity is most challenging for you (your treasure/ your time/ your talent)?

Take Action

What is a new habit you will practice to increase your generosity in one of the above areas? Share your decision with a friend and check in next week to exchange your stories of growing generosity!
