

*“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”*

*Jim Elliot*

## Introduction - Defining our Terms

- **Genius** – root word from *genere, gignere* to produce. The personification of quality; great natural ability for a particular activity; popularly, any person with a high intelligence quotient.
  
- **Generosity** – root word from *generosus* of noble birth, excellent, generous; having qualities associated with those of noble birth, noble-minded, gracious, magnanimous, willing to give or share, unselfish.
  - Hebrew – to saturate with water, to give to overflowing, drink one’s fill - Proverbs 11:25
  
  - Greek – “ready to distribute” – 1 Timothy 6:18

So, what is so “genius” about generosity?

- Generosity is genius because \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_!

Pragmatically, generosity is the ultimate win/win proposition.

- Scripture supports this.

*“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”*

*Proverbs 11:25 NIV*

- Our observation of life confirms it.
- Our experience in life confirms it.
- The “Christmas Spirit” exemplifies it.

Summary – Becoming a generous person is the smartest way to increase the quality of your life now!

- Generosity is genius because it \_\_\_\_\_ !

Spiritually, generosity protects us from short-sighted bad investments of our time, treasure, and talent.

- Scripture supports this.

*<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

*<sup>22</sup>“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! <sup>24</sup>No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”*

Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)

**Summary** - Becoming a generous person is the smartest way to prepare for your eternal future.

## How Can You Become More Generous?

- Generosity Breakthrough Concept #1
- My heart always goes where I put
- God’s money, time, and talent.

**So . . .**

- Where is my heart right now?
- To whom or what do I want my heart more connected?

What would be the “smartest” reallocation of my resources to move my heart where I want it to be?

## Personal Inventory / Discussion Questions

1. What practical benefits does living generously provide for us?
2. What spiritual benefits does living generously provide for us?
3. How does “breakthrough concept #1” help you move toward becoming a more generous person?
4. What specific acts of generosity will you take this week with your time, treasure, and talent?